

WILLIAM M. DAVIES, JR. CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
50 Jenckes Hill Road, Lincoln, RI 02865

Board of Trustees

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Minutes were accepted at the Dec. 9, 2009 Board meeting.

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 8:13 a.m., Dr. James Segovis, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

B. **Roll Call of the Board**

Davies' Executive Assistant called the roll of the Board.

Members Present: Richard Beaupre; Robert Boisselle; James Bone; Raymond Chartier; Lawrence Gemma; Carolyn Kyle, *Vice-Chairperson*; John Quinn; Dr. James Segovis, *Chairperson*; Robin Smith

Members Absent: Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Hebert; John Nardolillo; Paul Ouellette

Others Present: Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Cheryl Carroll, Bernie Blumenthal, Susan Paquin, Fred Slemmon, William Foley

C. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

Mr. Foley, President of the Davies Teachers' Assoc. commented that Mr. Egan, Uniserv, has dates for the TA contract negotiations. So far this school year is going well. The Extended Day Program seems to be working nicely. We will see how the open houses work. Tonight is the first one and the next one is in December all part of what was negotiated and the union and administration came together on. The Advisory Program seems to be working well with the extra time in the period. Knock on wood everything is going well, but the big stuff is coming that is out of our control with the Commissioner and the budget process.

D. **Approval of Minutes** – October 8, 2009 Regular Session Minutes

Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to accept the October 8, 2009 Regular Session Minutes. Mr. Beaupre made the motion, Mr. Chartier seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

E. **Recess to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues**

At 8:15 a.m., Ms. Smith made a motion to recess into Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues. Mr. Gemma seconded the motion and all were in favor.

F. **Return to Regular Session**

At 9:06 a.m., Ms. Smith made a motion to recess out of Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues. Mr. Quinn seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Boisselle made a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session; Mr. Quinn seconded the motion and all were in favor.

No votes were taken in Executive Session.

II. Business Agenda

A. **Finance Report** –*Cheryl Carroll, Business Office Coordinator*
Report was given in Executive Session.

B. **Human Resources Report** - *Joanne Andrews, Human Resources Coordinator*
Report was given in Executive Session

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. **Director's Report**

1) **Teachers' Association**—*William Foley, President*
Mr. Foley commented at the beginning of the meeting.

2) **Teacher Assistants' Association** — *Patricia Rose, President*
There were no representatives present.

3) **New Program Initiatives** - *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
Extended Day Program, Resource Assignment Center, E-Learning Program
(See Supplemental Material: "Davies Extended School Day Classes Policies and Procedures")

Extended Day Program:

These initiatives came out of the Director's redesign and Mr. Slemon was very instrumental in developing these programs as well as writing the grant to fund them. The handout, to be read later, explains what the Extended Day Program is and why we are doing it. We needed to find a way to stabilize our enrollment because of the number of repeaters each year. This is one of our attempts with this program. This is the first program in the state that mandates students who are failing one or more classes with a 69 or below, are to have an extended class as part of their regular schedule.

The program has already made an impact since its inception. Recently we had 258 kids who were failing one or more courses. By the time we rolled the program out and the students heard about it, that number changed to 171 kids. All of sudden they are all motivated to do well. If the students miss the extended school day, they get an extended detention from 3:30-4:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The program runs three days a week, T., W., and Th. from 2:15 – 3:45. If they have detention for other reasons, they are then escorted to the detention room. We have seen a change in the attitudes in the classroom.

Guidance has also helped coordinate this program because it is part of their whole redesign as well. They have to be more involved with the students as well, and they are monitoring the failures and the scheduling of the students into the program. Tied into this is, parents can now go on-line and view their child's grades and the assignments that they are missing. Those missing assignments are what they are doing during the extended day program. In the meantime data will be collected, progress monitoring, such as what is working and what isn't. Why are these students not doing well in the classroom during normal hours? One underlying issue is teachers now have to cover a lot more content within the same number of minutes and some students have real issues with that. We are trying to look at this in a proactive way. Academic recovery is coming down the line from RIDE very shortly. Eventually what is going to happen is they will make mandatory that academic recovery programs be in place and Davies is currently in a proactive position. RIDE will address that this is the most aggressive academic recovery program in the state.

Resource Assignment Center:

This is another intervention for the students with behavior problems. Students are no longer suspended out of school for 2-10 days. Each student will have a plan that is put together by the guidance counselor, the supervisor of student management, the social worker, the case worker, whoever is involved with that student and of course we get the parents involved. On an average we get maybe two to three kids. They do not like being isolated from the rest of the school especially during lunch time. Teachers send down daily assignments for the students to do while they are in the center. So far it has been successful.

We have a couple of intervention plans in place for those kids who are really, really off-the-wall. There are a lot of things going on with these students that never have been addressed. They think it is status quo with their behavior and we are just not going to tolerate it.

Mr. Slemon added that what he sees a lot is a large socio-maladjusted component with the student behavior. The most obvious part of this is language. The language on some of these students is outrageous, profane, obnoxious, but it is so much a part of some students' cultures that they do not recognize that they are insulting. The volume of it is quite high as well. A lot of students do not get the attention they need in other settings: home, community. We are not talking about bad kids. We are talking about kids who just don't get it yet. They are not ready for the adult world. We are getting more and more kids like this.

Mr. Beaupre was surprised by the name of the program. Mr. Slemon said that RIDE is concerned these students are not getting their education while they are in these intervention programs so the name had to reflect that they are getting their educational services. Mr. Chartier said that if we provide them with some behavior modification in the early grades that by the time they are seniors they will be ready for the adult world.

E-Learning

This hasn't started yet because we had a couple of glitches that needed to be worked out. This is the program that will further isolate the students who are really, really out of hand. We probably have two or three kids that fall into this category. This program will run only in the afternoon from 2:15 – 5:00 pm. They will not be allowed to attend the day school. We are currently purchasing computers for the room and brightening up the environment and we will have an instructor coordinating this. Everything the student will be doing is Internet-based. What they will be working on will meet the Grade Span Expectations. They will meet whatever GSE's proficiency requirements that are offered in the courses. We have money for the computers and for the instruction, but the problem is the transportation. It is very costly to have the bus companies come and pick up them up at a tune of \$85.00 per student. We are looking at creating ways that we can get them to school and make sure they get here. Hopefully by January this will all be ironed out.

Students will be transitioned back into the general population very slowly. They will be provided some nurturing but at the same time will get some structure. The message will get out that this is how we do it here.

4) **Commissioner's Review Site Visit – Dec. 8th** – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

This is a very important event that will occur because it will determine whether or not Davies gets approved to award our students the Regents' Diploma. They come in a team of 8 or 10. They will look at two themes: Personalization (ILPs, Advisory) and Assessments; what is going on in the classroom instructional-wise with curriculums; are they aligned with the grade span expectations; performance. They will talk to the staff and students. The Director will do a short presentation on where we are and what we have done, and where we are going. Then they will have the dept. coordinators come in and they will talk about what is going on in their content areas. How they are working with students with curriculum and meeting the proficiency requirements. Then another group of staff members: guidance and social workers will talk about support to students through the personalization process with the advisory program, the teaming that is going on. They will then interview students. The afternoon will be spent going over the data they collect and writing a report of their findings to be submitted to RIDE for their review.

The Director has been nervous about this whole process but since she was able to observe the process at another high school, she now feels much, much better and comfortable about the work we are doing. She feels very good about it.

IV. Adjournment:

At 9:39 a.m., Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 9th, at 5:00 pm. Hopefully, the Teacher Assistants' contract will be ready for a vote, and Dr. Segovis will work with Mrs. Kyle and Mr. Halkyard to come up with a plan on how to proceed with the strategic plan.