

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

Board of Trustees

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

October 03, 2011

(Minutes were approved at the Dec. 12, 2011 meeting.)

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 8:15 a.m., Dr. Segovis, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

B. **Roll Call of the Board**

Davies' Executive Assistant called the roll of the Board.

Members Present: Robert Boisselle; Raymond Chartier; Lawrence Gemma; Carolyn Hebert; Carolyn Kyle, *Vice-Chairperson*; Paul Ouellette; John Quinn; James Segovis, *Chairperson*; Robin Smith

Members Absent: Richard Beaupre; Robert Halkyard

Others Present: Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick; Joanne Andrews; Cheryl Carroll; Bernie Blumenthal; Susan Paquin, William Foley, Scott Conley, Gerry Manning

C. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the September 9, 2011 meeting were not available for approval. Approval of these minutes was deferred until the October meeting.

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

A motion to recess into Executive Session was deferred until later on the agenda.

E. **Return to Regular Session**

Did not recess out of Regular Session at this point on the agenda.

F. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

No comments from the audience. A parent was on the agenda to address the board on a school policy concern but she did not appear.

II. Business Agenda

A. **Finance Report** – Cheryl Carroll, Business Office Coordinator
No report given.

B. **Human Resources Report** – Joanne Andrews, H.R. Coordinator
Report was given in Executive Session.

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. Director's Report

1) **Davies Teachers' Association** – *William Foley, President*

He and V. Gailliard-Garrick have been conversing regularly since the start of the school year. So far everything is going well. They are meeting the day after this meeting to prepare for a Senate Commission on Vocational Funding. He sits on this commission, and Cheryl Carroll will be presenting.

Dr. Segovis informed Mr. Foley that he is in receipt of the letter from Mr. Egan regarding the contract. Dr. Segovis will discuss it with the board and will respond to him at a later date. The uncertainty of the budget is a concern.

2) **Davies Teacher Assistants' Association**

No representation present.

3) **Presentation on Career and Technical Education** — *Andrea Castaneda, RIDE, Chief of Accelerating School Performance*
(*Supplemental Material: Regulations of the Board of Regents Governing Career and Technical Education*)

This presentation was postponed to a later date for Ms. Castaneda did not appear.

4) **October Enrollment Numbers** – *V. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

(*Supplemental Material: Enrollment by Technical Area, October 1, 2011*)

The year started off with 873 students. That number is down to 843 as of Oct. 1st. We are still in the process of taking in 9th and 10th graders because the school's funding is dependent upon student enrollment. Enrolling more students will continue up until the end of the first quarter which is Nov. 4th.

Dr. Segovis asked why we are down. We have students that have repeated the grade and decided they can be in the correct grade at their sending school district. We have students that start out as 9th graders, come in, and after a couple of days decide to return to their sending district mostly because we are pretty strict. Also they are away from their friends who they have been with since their elementary/middle school years. They get here and find out it isn't what they want so they return. It is mostly the strictness of the school; they say it in their exit interview with the guidance counselor. They are asked is it the size of the school; is it because you are missing your friends; were you not welcomed into the school? The bulk of our students come from Pawtucket and Central Falls and when they get here, they are shocked. Mrs. Kyle added that it would be interesting to see if there is a trend of these students not being prepared academically and socially coming from those districts.

5) **2011 Senior Placement Report Update** – *B. Blumenthal, Partnerships in Education Coordinator*

(Supplemental Material: “Davies Graduates: 2011 Placement Data [as of 9/26/11]”)

Mr. Blumenthal presented the results of the initial survey last June. What the School-to-Career personnel always do in May is they meeting with all the seniors to find out what their future plans are. Are they going to college and if so are they going to a college within their particular technical area? Are they interested in going directly into the workforce hopefully in their technical area? Are they interested in going into the military or are they undecided?

The June survey is updated in August and September when the School-to-Career personnel make phone calls to reach as many seniors they can. The updated reported is just slightly different. We are seeing 60% of our students going onto college. In their college selection, 42% are going to a four-year college and 55% are going to a two-year college. Finances is the key. Many more students are going to CCRI. They are saying they need to build up credits because they are not sure what they want to major in. They are looking at General Studies to allow them some flexibility and then they will move onto a four year school. 40% of them are enrolling in courses in their technical area. It is slightly down from last year but it is certainly a trend which is a concern of Mr. Blumenthal’s, but it is basically because the students want to keep their options open. The military was the largest increase this year. You will see the recruiters in the hallways. There is a tremendous interest there. Related employment bumped up a little bit to 8% from 6% last year. We have 8 students now that are actively looking for work in their technical field. The School-to-Career Office is trying to help them. If they are successful, that number will go up to about 13%. He always worries about the undecided. He isn’t sure where they are heading. The School-to-Career Office always offers their services. Some do come back to seek their help. The technical areas that have a strong move toward their field are Auto Careers, Health Careers, Bio-manufacturing, and Electronics in Engineering.

With the new Career and Technical Education Regulations, there is a strong emphasis on accountability, and placements and program completers with certifications are a piece of that. Tracking these seniors one year and four years out; are they staying in their technical area is what the School to Career Office will work as hard as they can to do. Mr. Ouellette asked why so many are undecided. There are 21% undecided and only 8% going into related employment. Mrs. Hebert offered to provide a perspective as a parent who had two sons graduate in Graphic Arts and is undecided right now. There are so many avenues they can take in the Graphic Arts industry that they are having difficulty narrowing down which way they want to go. So at this point they are both getting their general educ. requirements out of the way and not matriculating into a major. Mr. Blumenthal added there were three students who were going to go to college but pulled back because of finances. They are taking a year off to assess where they are heading.

Mr. Gemma asked if a study is done following the students and do they ever do an income assessment years later because so many change their minds ten

years down the road and go into something else they have a passion for that they didn't know they had when they were in high school. Mr. Blumenthal said it is hard for them because they are always focusing on the next group. Our graduates are a very mobile group. Trying to track them down is a very difficult task. He might be able to do a two-year out, but he knows there has been some discussion on doing a four-year out. That will be a challenge in just trying to locate them. Right now they just do a one-year out.

Mr. Foley explained the packages the military are offering OUR students as opposed to the general population is very difficult to refuse. We had a student come back who entered the Navy National Guard. He got \$15,000 sign-on bonus; he's got his college education paid for when he eventually gets out; and his ship is sailing out to Singapore, Australia, Hawaii. Because of his technical training, he was a prime recruit for them. The Air Force recruiter loves our kids especially those in Health Careers. Mr. Foley mentioned all of this because he wanted the Board to understand, we can't look at the numbers without knowing the story behind them. The military wants our students with that basic technical training because they have the training skills and do not have to start from ground zero.

6) **Other**

—**NEASC Five-Year Focus Visit – October 3-5, 2011**

(Supplemental Material: "Visitation Memo")

This handout was a memo from the Chair of the visit, Charles Salerno listing the agenda for the 2.5 day visit. Two of the team members are arriving today at 11:00 am. They will have lunch at 12:00 with V. Gailliard-Garrick, C. Carroll, S. Paquin, and B. Blumenthal. After lunch, they will get a tour of the school. The actual visit will begin on Tuesday at 7:30 am. This agenda was generated from our discussions at the pre-meeting with him. He told us we are in good shape based on the report that was sent to him back in August. She knows we will be lacking in area of Facilities. We can't keep up with all the repairs that need to be done plus we go through such a drawn out process to get the State to approve anything. It takes three or four months to get anything done here. She also knows we will get points against us on the technology infrastructure. The system is slow. We need to upgrade technology, the teacher workstations in particular. We keep adding software systems so it is understandable that the stations are slow. It is just tough keeping up with these types of things.

The visiting team is being taken out to dinner this evening. Mrs. Smith will be attending to represent the board. The final report of the visit will take a few months.

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 8:45 a.m., Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to recess into Executive Session. Mrs. Smith made the 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; Mrs. Kyle seconded the motion; and all were in favor.

Return to Regular Session

At 8:56 a.m., Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to recess out of Execution Session. Mrs. Smith made the motion to recess back into Regular Session; Mr. Gemma seconded the motion; and all were in favor.

In Executive Session, the trustees voted on the termination of a technical program and discussed some personnel issues.

V. Adjournment

At 8:57 a.m., Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.