

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

Board of Trustees

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

December 12, 2011

Minutes were approved at the February 6, 2012 Board meeting.

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 5:16 p.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: Richard Beaupre; Robert Boisselle; Raymond Chartier; Lawrence Gemma; Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Hebert; Carolyn Kyle, *vice-Chairperson*; Paul Ouellette; James Segovis, Ph.d., *Chairperson*; Robin Smith

Members Absent: John Quinn

Others Present: Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick; Joanne Andrews; Cheryl Carroll; Bernie Blumenthal; Susan Paquin; Fred Slemon; Gerry Manning; Dave Champagne

C. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 9, October 3, and November 7, 2011 meeting minutes were approved. Mr. Chartier made the motion to accept the September 9th minutes and Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion. Mrs. Smith made a motion to accept the October 3rd minutes and Mr. Boisselle seconded the motion. Mr. Beaupre made a motion to accept the November 7th minutes and Mr. Chartier seconded the motion.

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**

Recessing into Executive Session was deferred until the end of the meeting.

E. **Return to Regular Session**

N/A

F. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

No comments from the audience.

II. Business Agenda

A. **Finance Report** – Cheryl Carroll, Business Office Coordinator

Our budget for the Fiscal 2013 year is now in the hands of the Governor. For us, the submission of the budget really just involved submission of data that lives in year two of the funding formula.

At the infamous February Board meeting, we will be going through whatever implications that may have on personnel issues.

B. **Human Resources Report** – *Joanne Andrews, H.R. Coordinator*

Mrs. Andrews gave a quick recap of this past summer's hiring process. This meeting was the first chance she had to give this report.

- Science Teacher – Kate Amsden (8/29)
- Math Teacher – Brian Lemieux (8/29)
- Auto Careers Teacher – Dave Mello (8/29)
- Machine Shop Teacher – Briar Dacier (Davies Grad- 9/11)
- Special Education Teacher – Richard Santoro (9/25)
- Graphic Arts Teacher – Jenny Smith (10/9)

We are currently doing interviews for a Cosmetology teacher because our current teacher is retiring. We will also be interviewing for an English/Social Studies teacher.

Dr. Segovis asked if we are going to go in the direction we decided on at the strategic retreat for Cosmetology. Are we going to revamp the program? We are. An applicant came in to speak with the Director who had excellent ideas. She told her there are other career pathways in that field other than hair styling such as a buyer for example. She also talked about a couple of partners. Her son is a graduate of Davies. He was a silver medalist in Cosmetology. He is doing wonderful things in the field of Cosmetology. We are looking at something different for the program.

We also have another retirement coming up, Stu Crowley in Graphic Arts.

C. **Nominating Committee Report**

Two new Board nominees were presented to the board for a vote. Mr. James Bone was a board member previously and is interested in returning. He had moved out of state but has returned. He was a very involved member at that time, was very helpful given his expertise in risk management, and he is committed to continuing that relationship. He is a gentleman and a good role model for our students.

Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to accept Mr. Bone's re-nomination; Mr. Ouellette made the motion, Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to re-approve the nomination of Mr. Andrew Brown. Mr. Brown is the vice president of Whittet-Higgins Company in Central Falls. The approval process of his nomination never happened given the schedule of the Regents. He was recently contacted to see if he was still interested in sitting on the board. He has great credentials in the manufacturing sector.

Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to accept the re-nomination of Mr. Andrew Brown; Mrs. Smith made the motion; Mrs. Kyle seconded the motion; and all were in favor.

The nominations will be forwarded to the Board of Regents for final approval.

D. **Strategic Plan and School Improvement Plan**

No report given.

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. Director's Report

1) **Davies Teachers' Association** – *William Foley, President*
No representative present.

2) **Davies Teacher Assistants' Association**
No representation present.

3) **Future Student Night for Prospective Students – 11/8/11** – *Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
This event went very well. We had 800-900 interested parties attend that evening. They rotated through the shops where our students did presentations and demonstrations. There was a little problem with the registration of the admissions testing which was a little stressful because we just didn't have the usual number of sign-ups. So we did a mass mailing and advertised in the local newspapers informing the public that the testing is in December. The first testing went well, but last Saturday a lot of students didn't show up which is a major concern, and the numbers do not look good for next Saturday either at this point in time. If the numbers are low, she is going to have a testing session in January. She understands people are busy with holiday shopping, etc. Historically after the third testing session we would have over 600 students tested, but currently we only have 400 plus.

Mr. Gemma asked Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick if she thinks the numbers are low because of the timing. She said it was the timing but also if the new CTE regs get approved, the districts are selling their own programs and the students are staying there. She isn't sure. Mr. Slemon heard from a couple of parents that the districts are telling them that the students at Davies do not go on to college. It is his impression that some of these parents in these communities are getting misinformation about Davies.

3) **Follow-up to Presentation on Funding Formula/CTE Regulations** —
Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick, Director
(See Supplemental Material: Two letters addressed to Chairman Caruolo)
After the last Board meeting when Carolyn Dias and Vanessa Cooley gave their presentations to the Board on the Funding Formula and the New CTE (Career and Technical Education) Regulations, respectively, Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick and Cheryl Carroll met with a Board of Regent member because of some of the concerns she had with some of Ms. Dias's and Ms. Cooley's responses. They reviewed those concerns with him along with some of the concerns that came out of a video of one of the Board of Regents' work sessions. Some comments were made during that work session regarding tuition costs. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick was appalled at what she heard from one of RIDE's staff members, in her response to Chairman Caruolo regarding Davies and tuition. It was very misleading. So because of that in combination of the presentations to the board at the last meeting prompted her to call this Regent member, Matt Santos. She felt as though she had to explain to him some of our concerns.

He came in and sat with Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick and Ms. Carroll for two hours. She shared with him the concerns the Board had, Ms. Dias and Ms. Cooley's presentations, and the comments made during the Board of Regents' work session. In the video, Chair Caruolo asked one of RIDE's representatives whether or not Davies was collecting tuition on top of the Funding Formula and she said, "yes." That is far from the truth. This is one of our major concerns. Chair Caruolo then asked a couple more questions about Davies and her responses were very misleading. She does not want the Regents to think that we were getting the core funding formula amount of money and adding on top of that tuition. She gave them the impression that the tuition across the state that included Davies, to be at least up to \$30,000 per student. She was beside herself because here we are trying to move forward and ask them to look at Davies a little differently in trying to fund CTE.

Two letters were distributed to the Board. Mr. Santos suggested having the Board send a letter to Chairman Caruolo regarding the concerns we have on CTE, delivery of instruction, and other concerns. He also suggested Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick send a letter to him as well. Mr. Santos read them and thought they were very good. He said he would contact Angela Texeira, the liaison to the Board of Regents, to make sure the Regents get copies of these letters prior to the Regents' meeting come January.

Dr. Segovis added that Ms. Dias has always been a Davies ally and very open, but he was very surprised at her when she said Davies is no different than any other high school with a Science lab. For those of you who have been in a Science lab, maybe he is missing something, this is news to him. Maybe a science lab at MIT, but this comment floored him. First she said she wasn't clear on the cost per student, but when we talked about the benchmarks around the nation which is around 17,000 or 18,000, she said, "Yes we looked at those numbers, but we don't believe them." One minute she said they didn't have them and then the next minute she said they did have them but disagree with them. So we have to respond quickly. They have a clear agenda about the future of career and technical education, but it isn't an open dialogue with Davies or with any of the CTE centers or the Met. It doesn't include the head of Economic Development. When Dr. Segovis gets back from vacation, he is going to call him to inform him what is going on. There is no understanding of what we do; there is no openness about where they are going; and there is a subtle shift about what is old is not good; what's new is good which is more career awareness building (exploration).

There are three components to the new CTE Regs. The preparation piece will provide more access and opportunity in the comprehensive high schools, but the biggest concern with most of the people who do CTE is the quality of the programs and the accountability for what they are looking to do in career preparation cannot be done.

Dr. Segovis asked the Board to read the letter for approval. Edits were made. Every school committee of the CTE centers are also sending letters to RIDE: Warwick, Cranston, Chariho, East Providence, including the Met.

Woonsocket has a new director so V. Gailliard-Garrick doesn't know if they are sending one.

Dr. Segovis asked for approval of the letter with the corrections, under his name, on behalf of the Board. Mr. Ouellette made the motion to accept the letter; Mr. Boisselle seconded the motion, all were in favor.

The letter from Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick is very pointed. It has an edge but it is very accurate. We are not going to win the battle right off. You have to lay the groundwork first. Dr. Segovis wants to know from them where is the direction of career and technical education? If he hears one thing from the director of economic development and he thought he heard from the Commissioner, he wants to hear what is the system and how is it going to create certifications for the students. V. Gailliard-Garrick knows it is going to be a seamless system from K-16. She hasn't heard much about it, but Mrs. Smith, who sits on the CTE Workforce Committee, said it is a work in progress.

We need to do a video about Davies and post it on the school's website with students who have gone through Davies and have gone onto college. That is how we are going to sell ourselves. This is a critical point with some of these parents that their student can't go onto a four-year school. If you have the students that have gone through Davies, gone onto college, doing great things, that is what we need to have on our site. It can also be shown to the students, teachers and guidance counselors when our counselors go out and do outreach and awareness. They need to hear it from our graduates. It will cost us some money. Mr. Ouellette said NEIT has a media program and as a project, he is sure they would love to do something like this. Dr. Segovis will check with the communication classes at Bryant as well. Mrs. Hebert said the Project Go has a video on their website and RISD did it for free.

4) **2012-2013 Admissions** – *Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

We have 469 perspective students right now that took the entrance test. V. Gailliard-Garrick would like to admit 260-270 9th graders. That eligibility pool, we haven't even looked at those numbers yet so we don't know how many out of that 469 meet the admissions criteria. She wants to see the number increase to above 600 so that we have a decent eligibility pool and a waiting list.

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 6:10 p.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 6:41 p.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. Beaupre seconded the motion; and all were in favor.

Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session; Mrs. Smith made the motion; Mr. Boisselle seconded the motion and all were in favor.

In Executive Session, there was a discussion on personnel issues. No votes were taken.

V. Adjournment

At 6:43 p.m., Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.