

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

Board of Trustees

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

January 6, 2012

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

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 8:11 am, Mrs. Carolyn Kyle, Vice- 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; Raymond Chartier; Lawrence Gemma; Carolyn Kyle, *vice-Chairperson*; Paul Ouellette

Members Absent: Robert Boisselle; Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Hebert; John Quinn; James Segovis, Ph.d., *Chairperson*; Robin Smith

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

C. **Approval of Minutes**

A quorum was not present for a vote on the approval of the December 12, 2011 Regular Session minutes. This action was deferred until the February 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**

There was no need to recess into Executive Session.

E. **Return to Regular Session**

N/A

F. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

Mr. Beaupre asked about Mr. Bone's status of his nomination approval. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick said his paperwork along with Mr. Brown's has been forwarded to the Board of Regents. It should be on their February meeting agenda.

II. Business Agenda

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

In this current year, we have been operating under the first year of the funding formula based on a fairly high rough student head count projection by RIDE. We are coming up to the point now where we will have a year of history with RIDE who will very closely track the head count in the building because of the money following the student. March will be the day of reckoning for us. In March,

RIDE will be looking at our enrollment as our budget of FY13 will be unfolding and will freeze an enrollment number for the education piece of our budget (the state portion). They will allow a 10% deviation up or down. In March our enrollment numbers are down because we lose students throughout the year. We will end up with a frozen state aid amount even if there are more children who will walk through the door in August. We are very concerned what March is going to look like. We are monitoring it like a hawk. We were able to float on a number of 900 this year. RIDE knew that could go down 10% and we would still be okay, but the day of reckoning is coming. Right up until December school break, we were calling in more students from Pawtucket and Central Falls.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick added this also affects the number of lay-offs. At the next month's board meeting she will give the board her recommendations but also keeping in mind it is a negotiating year.

B. **Human Resources Report** – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

We had three retirees: Cosmetology Teacher, Carmina Moretti; Social Worker, Cindy Placella; and Graphic Arts Teacher, Stu Crowley. We interviewed for the Cosmetology position and we will be doing a second round of interviews that Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick will be involved in. She does not think Mr. Slemmon will be replacing the social worker. He is thinking of hiring a behaviorist or a combination of both. The Graphic Arts position needs to be posted. The behaviorist position will be full time. Mr. Slemmon makes those decisions based on our IEP population. It will be under grant money.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick spoke to the Commissioner's executive assistant on the status of the letter the board sent regarding Mr. Gorry. She said it is in the hands of their attorney for his review and that we should get something back from them shortly. There will be no next steps until the attorney reviews it and gets back to us. Mr. Ouellette feels somebody has to strip the credentials whether it is the Regents or someone else. Would it just be for the State of RI? Yes. Then what is the point? The guy could then go to Massachusetts. If it is stripped in RI then other states will do a background check on him. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick's concern is how fast will they expedite this because he could be out there right now trying to get a job. She will ask Mr. Ragosta to contact Mr. Abbott.

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. **Director's Report**

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

As everyone knows, Mr. Foley sits on a Senate Commission for Funding Career and Technical Education chaired by Senator Gallo. After its last session in November, he asked if he could have meeting with the senator alone as a constituent, not as a member of the commission. She sat down with him for 45 minutes, one-on-one. He laid out what he has in the PowerPoint of which he would like to give credit to Scott Conley and Adolfo Costa who helped him put it together.

He wanted Senator Gallo to understand the global picture. We looked back at Davies budget levels since 2008. We basically have been level funded, but in addition to that, this current year we have a half million dollar cut in that quote, "level funding" because of the transportation issues. This was all brought out to

the Commission but at the last meeting RIDE did a PowerPoint presentation, Andrea Castaneda and Carolyn Dias who seemed to placate the senator, and he wanted to bring it back to her. The senator is well aware that not all of the information from RIDE is always as truthful as it could be.

He explained to her our biggest concerns and she wanted to know how we were going to fix it. Number one, the transportation cost has to be born either by the state or by the sending communities like it is for everyone else. We are not going to get a lot of support for this because the sending communities do not want to spend the money, and the state, if they do give us the money, it will mean a line-item cut. Number two, the categorical funding needs to be defined to allow for consistent, reliable funding. The problem is it is a stand-alone thing, also and like they did this year, it was easily cut out of the budget. It's not even reliable. From the get-go, he has been saying that we need to look at it like the success factor for the IEP students. Students on IEPs along with the Funding Formula's per pupil cost, there is a success factor because they know it is a hollow cost to educate that student. We should have a career and tech factor that would go with the student also. It would be embedded in the Funding Formula; it isn't coming out of the sending districts, but it is guaranteed to us. It's hard to cut it once it is embedded. The senator liked that idea.

Senator Gallo is a very, very big supporter of career and technical education, Davies in particular. She is willing to be the person for us in the Senate. Our problem is in the House. Each of the sending districts has their representatives to watch over them. Davies does not. NEARI is very supportive and will do anything they can to help us, but we have to identify one or two reps that will support Davies. If we tweak the Funding Formula this way, he thinks there is enough reps who understand the importance of career and tech; it doesn't hurt any district and the state will be doing what it is suppose to be doing, funding career and tech education which is what this school is built on.

He is not sure where Davies will be after three years time. He knows what career and technical education can do for the children in our sending communities. They are the ones he is worried about. He thinks there are enough reps who understand that. That is why he did the PowerPoint because he will meet with anyone, anywhere. He has plans to meet with NEARI after this. He wants to show how Davies meets the benchmarks every year. How we have been a high performing and improving school in the five of the last six years. The only way we missed it that sixth year is because they changed the graduation formula. It's not because we are not doing the job. We are doing the job so they are not wasting the money funding us. Even if the students do not stay in their career path when they graduate; they have job skills. You want an educated, trained workforce. We are doing that. Why are they trying to kill this and try to start something else that they don't know if it will work? This is what he explained to the senator for 45 minutes. She was gracious; she is on board, and she was forthright with her appreciation for RIDE.

What RIDE has proposed with the CTE regs and if the funding formula isn't tweaked soon, there is a tipping point when it will be beyond the fixing point. We need to stop it before it gets there. He has a hope that we can find someone in the House because based on that type of proposal, embedding it in the funding

formula, it isn't coming from one person or one community and it is something that everybody can work with.

Mrs. Kyle thought this is the most reasonable action. She thanked Mr. Foley for all the work he is doing on this. She appreciated his initiative and effort. We are all on the same team but it is wonderful that he is able to put himself out there.

(Cheryl Carroll will email the board a copy of Mr. Foley's PowerPoint.)

What are the next steps with Senator Gallo so the board can support Mr. Foley? The commission is supposed to meet one more time. He is hoping a recommendation will come out of that. What happened at the last meeting, Senator Gallo had to leave. He was then at the table with senators from the regional centers and they were more worried about themselves than Davies. We don't have that person at the table who is "Davies" person. Senator Gallo is but she had to leave so no recommendations were officially passed at that meeting. Everyone asks why is Davies all of a sudden responsible for the transportation and Carolyn Dias said all LEA's (*Local Education Agency*) are responsible for transportation. First of all Davies is not an LEA in the true sense of the word. We are not autonomous; we have no way to maintain or generate a funding source which LEA's both have. The senator understood that as well. Also other LEA's do not have to transport their kids to and from other sending districts. 74% of their students attend a career and tech center in their resident district so there is no additional transportation costs, but 100% of our students have a transportation cost that RIDE will not make an allowance for. How do you justify not making an adjustment in our budget to make up for this?

Mr. Ouellette asked Mr. Foley who he has identified from the House. He suggested Peter Petraca. He is well aware of what goes on with Davies. He is a rep for Lincoln and Smithfield. He also suggested Elaine Cordere. Mr. Gemma added that we need to get some business leaders and owners of companies to write supporting letters of career and technical education along with what a technical program needs to look like; what is required to develop skilled workers. Also get some successful Davies alumni to write Davies testimonials. We have to get out to the public that they are looking at closing Davies. Our parents and students know about us, but the general public doesn't until they see a headline. Maybe that will wake people up.

2) **Davies Teacher Assistants' Association**

No representation present.

3) **Board of Regents Meeting – 1/5/12 – CTE Regulations – Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick, Director**

Mrs. Kyle and Mr. Ouellette were gracious enough to join Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick and Ms. Carroll to the Regents' meeting last night to speak on the proposed CTE regulations. There were many people there, at least 100 or more, and had to move the meeting to the auditorium on the first floor. When they finally got to that agenda item, they cut the meeting short. They moved it to Jan. 19th at one of their Work Sessions. They are allowing people to come back to make public comments.

This gives us some time because it means they will not vote until their February Regents' meeting. After the meeting, the Regent she and Ms. Carroll met with asked her to call him because the Regents have a lot of questions and concerns. They were concerned about all of the letters they were getting from school committees, superintendents, etc. Regent Colleen Callahan stated to one of the CTE directors that she feels they have enough votes to table regulations until further study. They were led astray thinking that CTE directors were involved since we are the strong stakeholders in the creation of these regulations. This is not true. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick never saw those regulations until December. They had been working on them for over a year. What was told to us was to attend the public hearings and make your comments on any concerns you have on the regulations. They never asked us for input; they never asked any CTE teachers for input.

One thing she heard that was a little disturbing was even if there are enough votes to table the regs, it is the Chair's ultimate decision. How can that be if you have a majority vote? This was a little odd, but there are a lot of concerns over these letters.

Vanessa Cooley who presented to the Board a couple month ago on these new regs. firmly believes that CTE belongs in the comprehensive high schools. This is okay if they were held to the same accountability and met the same type of standards and performance outcomes. They are not with these two sequential courses.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick added that she thinks what Mr. Foley has been doing for Davies has been fantastic. There is a lot going on and we just have to wait and see what happens. Mrs. Kyle added that we need to cultivate a relationship with the Regents. Some came to the Partnership Breakfast; can we get them in here for a tour? We can try. Mrs. Kyle can get someone who knows the chair to contact us. Mr. Blumenthal said that the chair mentioned to him that he would be willing to come back for a tour.

4) **Strategic Planning/School Improvement Plan** —*Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick is currently meeting with the Management Team members looking at the goals for the next two years. She is finished with the Instructional Operations. Most of them are based on the BEP (*Basic Education Plan*) Secondary Regulations, some from the SurveyWorks (teachers/parents/students input), and some of the recommendations that came out of the Board retreat. This should be finished within the next couple of weeks. There are four major goals and numerous strategies. Everything has to be tied into the BEP. A lot of policies have to be developed by the districts on curriculum development, a review process on curriculum, creating an assessment system. This is what we have been working on. She has met with Mr. Manning and Mr. Blumenthal's goals about articulation agreements and partnerships. It's coming along but it is going to be a very large document. She will do an executive summary for the Board once it is completed.

5) Other

—Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick happily reported on the admissions for the upcoming school year that we tested 645 students, 590 for 9th grade alone. Out of the 590, 460 are eligible. They met the grade equivalent requirement. We gave them a different test because she needs a baseline assessment of their skills. They not only took a test on reading comprehension and mathematics, they took one on Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Vocabulary. It gives her a picture of all the six sending districts and where these students are. She will break it down by district. She will determine where their weaknesses are and then try to build a system that can service all of them.

She will have help with this. She has two interns both from Davies who are in the Providence College Administration Program. They will be graduating in May. She will be the cooperating principal for Adam Flynn, her dept chair for Science. He will help set up the school-wide assessment system based on this data. The other intern is Adolfo Costa, who is the dept chair for the Social Studies dept. He is going to be working with Ann Palmer and David Champagne. They begin January 18th. Adam Flynn has already been involved with the school and has done some great things heading up the PBIS initiative. He is a natural leader in her eyes. He just finalized a PBIS type of system for employees. We will be using the PBIS for staff as well. This is first time she has been a cooperating principal. She usually says “no,” but they are in-house folks. They are unpaid interns who can only do work after hours or during their unassigned periods.

—Mrs. Kyle thanked Mr. Beaupre for hosting the Board’s annual holiday gathering at the Kirkbrae.

V. Adjournment

At 9:22 a.m., Mrs. Kyle asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.