

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 3, 2012

Minutes were approved at the January 7, 2013 Board meeting.

I. Routine

A. Call Meeting to Order

At 5:08 p.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; Raymond Chartier; Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Kyle, *vice-Chairperson*; Paul Ouellette John Quinn; James Segovis, Ph.d., *Chairperson*; Robin Smith

Members Absent: James Bone; Andrew Brown; Lawrence Gemma

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

C. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the October 1, 2012 meeting.

Mr. Halkyard made the motion; Mrs. Smith seconded the motion; and all were in favor.

Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2012 meeting.

Mrs. Smith made the motion; Mr. Quinn seconded the motion; and all were in favor.

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 postponed to the end of the agenda.

E. Return to Regular Session

N/A

F. Opportunity for Audience to Comment

There were no audience comments.

II. Business Agenda

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

B. Human Resources Report – Joanne Andrews, Human Resources Coordinator
No report was given.

C. **Nominating Committee Report** – James Segovis, Ph. D., Chairperson

- 1) Mr. David Marquis, new Trustee (*see attached bio, resume, and article*)
Discussion took place in Executive Session.
- 2) Mrs. Carolyn Kyle, new Chairperson replacing Dr. Segovis
Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to elect Carolyn Kyle as the new chairperson. Mr. Ouellette made the motion; Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion; and all were in favor.
- 3) Mr. John Quinn, new vice-Chairperson replacing Mrs. Kyle
Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to elect John Quinn as the new vice-chairperson. Mr. Halkyard made the motion; Mrs. Smith seconded the motion; and all were in favor.

For the last four years Dr. Segovis has been prepping for this transition keeping both Mrs. Kyle and Mr. Quinn active in the decision making process with contracts, etc. It is a good system in place and he would like to see it continue. Mrs. Kyle added that it was a pleasure to work with Dr. Segovis for so many years now. She says often in public that she sees this as an assignment that she takes very seriously and all of us are tapped for volunteer opportunities but she remains very dedicated to the school, students, and people around this table. She is here for us and she knows Mr. Quinn is as well.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick thanked Dr. Segovis also. They have worked together over 8 years as the chair and the vice-chair. She is thankful for the time that he put in for her and the growth she has attained through the quality time he spent with her. She really appreciates that. She feels as though he helped her be the leader that she is. He has listened to her vent many times and he helped her get through some of the challenges she has faced here. Thank-you.

APPLAUSE

It was Dr. Segovis's pleasure. He never thought of it as work. It was a pleasure working with Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick because she is so committed to the school. He appreciates the opportunity he had working with her as well. Davies is special because we take the time making it our passion.

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. Director's Report

1) **Davies Teachers' Association**

No representation present.

2) **Davies Teacher Assistants' Association**

No representation present.

3) **2013-2014 Entrance Exam Report** – V. Gailliard-Garrick, Director

The director gave the board an update of where we are with the incoming freshman class for the 2013-2014 school-year. Initially there was a concern with the number of sign-ups, but they have since increased. To date, we have tested 336 students. This coming Saturday, we have 150 more and the numbers for Dec. 15th are pretty low at 80-100 that are signed up but the no-shows will probably show on the 15th. We will have a pool of approximately 500 plus and that is pretty standard for us. We are on target. The concern is because of the funding formula and there are a lot of guidance counselors in the sending districts that are trying to keep the students in their own district. It hasn't become a concern yet. Our concern with Goff not allowing us into their school has been taken to RIDE. There is a meeting on Dec.

10th about the C & T regulations relative to the recruitment process. It isn't only happening in the Davies region. It is happening elsewhere in the state as well. It will be addressed at the meeting. They have to allow us to go into those schools. Mr. Chartier knows they are being proactive in retaining their students. We are taking their good students and the majority of them come from Goff.

4) Student Athletic Eligibility Policy: Student Tardies – David Champagne, Supervisor of Student Management

The Director asked Mr. Champagne to take a look at our tardy policy relative to the Student Athletic Eligibility Policy with some of the changes that were recommended. There was some discussion on the tardy policy at the last Board meeting so he is going to report out his findings and his recommendations.

Over the past years, the policy that has been in place is when a student reaches a certain number of tardies throughout the course of the school year, will receive Office Detention and then the chase is on because some of the them will have an excessive amount of tardies. He looked at what other schools are doing and he found that for the most part, we are not really doing too badly to begin with. In the months of Sept. and Oct. we were approximately 95% present here at the school. For example, last Friday (Nov. 30th) we had 94% attendance for a Friday. Mount Pleasant High School had 68% present. With a lot of our sending districts, their absences and tardies are much higher than ours, but as a function of his office, we need to find ways to improve. Even though we do have the same population as some of our sending communities, they don't have the transportation issues that we have. Their students walk to school.

What some schools are doing across the country is as severe as fining the students \$5.00 per tardy incident and they are not all effectual. Actually based on the research, the most effectual way to keep students from being late to school is to suspend them outside of school which we cannot do. The least effective is assigning them office detention; it is not a deterrent at all. Then you are chasing them for not going to detention. Some schools assign them Saturday school. Some schools have a detention room that doesn't allow the students to interrupt any on-going classes. The students come in; detain the students until the period is over in one area; and then you release them so they are on time for their next class. The problem with this, Saturday School, and outside of school suspensions you have a lot of parent and student protests. Some schools recently had some walk-outs. Some schools even add the number of minutes they are late to the end of the school day. Then it becomes a supervision issue.

The suggestion Mr. Champagne has while remaining open to other suggestions, is that we look at loss of privileges for tardies. We currently have a system where the 10th tardy to school for the course of the entire year, students start receiving detention. On the 15th tardy, there is a parent meeting and by the time we are at the 20th tardy to school, there is a team meeting with the parent to try to find out what the reasons are. There are all kinds of extenuating circumstances as to why students are late. Some have responsibility for younger siblings. Some have responsibility for older family members. There are students who are transported from North Smithfield, Burrillville, and other schools systems that sometime give us a difficult time in getting our students here on time. The loss of privilege idea is a privilege loss for the day of the infraction. For example, the day of the 10th tardy and that student is on the basketball team, s/he loses the privilege to practice that day. There are some students who do not participate in any activities.

Mr. Champagne is open to any ideas that can help decrease the number of tardies. Mr. Manning suggested putting a cap on the number of tardies and if they go over that, they will lose privileges for the course of the year or a quarter. We would have to stick to it because it would include proms, dances, sporting events. Plus it needs to be consistent cross the board; if he holds a student from photography club, then he better hold the other student from basketball practice. It will involve writing a policy and presenting it to staff, the students, the parents and start implementing it by the third quarter. He doesn't think the school's present policy is effective. It certainly isn't a deterrent.

The students that are mostly tardy are those who drive themselves. They don't plan accordingly for the weather, the traffic, and they are not very good with time management. The seniors are the worse violators. There are excused tardies but they are usually accompanied by a doctor's note, a driving test, something legal, and if a bus is late, it is not held against the students. We have had contact with parents where there are hardships within the family and because of the population we have, there are times when we have to make accommodations. We want these kids to come to school. We certainly do not want to close the door to them and deter them from coming into the building. I would rather have someone here for 5 hours than none at all. Again, we average about 40 a day.

It was asked that if the offenders are those who drive to school, why not take that privilege away until their behavior changes. The problem is either they will park over at CCRI and walk over, or they just will not come to school. It's a double-edged sword. Some it will work for and some it will not. That is why Mr. Champagne likes the daily loss of privileges. There are about 50 students who have over 10 tardies and Mrs. Kyle would like to know if they participate in any extracurricular activities. Mr. Ouellette asked if the school has any kind of community service or is that against the rules. We use to have that during Saturday School but then the parents started protesting because there is no transportation.

Mr. Halkyard reminded everyone based on what was just said, that you have to be willing with whatever is set up as a consequence, to stand behind it because there will be protests from the parents. We all have to stand behind it; there can't be any exceptions to the rule. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick added when it comes to the prom, it is one of the most exciting times in high school for the students. She has a very difficult time telling them they can't go to their prom. It may be the only experience they will have in their lifetime when they can get dressed up.

Mrs. Kyle said it is very hard to put something in place that doesn't sound punitive because by its very nature, consequences are punitive and it doesn't work. How about targeting good behavior; those who are never tardy? It changes the culture a little bit. It is something to celebrate when 95% of the student body is on time for school. Dr. Segovis liked the immediate consequence, lose privileges that day. We are a school that people choose to go to so call in the parents and reassess their goals of why they chose Davies and determine if the school is a good fit for them. This does happen when the parents are called in. Some are very supportive and there are others that say, "10 minutes a day?" "What is the big deal?" "I can't get them out of bed in the morning." "He is bigger than I; what am I supposed to do?"

Mr. Quinn has been listening to this discussion but he doesn't see the imperative here. If we are running the best operation here and achieving statistically better than any other school that we can find in this state or elsewhere, is this where we want our attentions to go. What percentage of seniors is having trouble meeting their senior project requirement or meeting their graduation goals? Should we be putting

mental energy of a room like this against those types of things where the short come is much more profound and much more impactful if we don't resolve them?

Mr. Flynn made two suggestions. We have a PBIS team and two years ago we had a successful initiative on reducing tardiness to class in the Freshmen Wing which was a major issue. We did a positive initiative-based intervention with them. All the kids earned it and the reduction of tardiness was sustained throughout the year. It became a learned behavior. We can give this new issue to the PBIS team and see what they can do with the seniors. This is the proactive idea. A reactive/punitive idea is we let students go home for half days during exams. It could be quite a deterrent to have those students stay until 2:15. Having to take their exam that day is the drive to get them to come to school. Mrs. Kyle liked the proactive solution. She likes the idea of an award system. The reactive approach would be left up to the administration because of the transportation issues, etc.

Dr. Segovis concurred with Mr. Quinn. Simple is better. We have other fish to fry. Where does this fit in the priorities? He asked Mr. Champagne to come back to the board with a policy with some combination of what was heard today.

5) Communication from Commissioner Gist— V. Gailliard-Garrick, Director

The Director received a phone call from Commissioner Gist. She welcomed the Commissioner back from her medical leave. She told the Director that the Board of Regents and her chiefs at RIDE nominated Davies as one of the U. S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon schools.

What does the Blue Ribbon distinction mean? It is an award given out by the US Dept. of Education that recognizes schools across the country for their commitment to excellence and their ability to overcome outstanding odds to properly educate their students.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools with students performing at very high levels or with significant improvements are being made in students level of academic achievement and that is what we are being recognized for. Our students have made significant improvement. They have given out over 250 awards over the last 30 years. In the State of RI, there are 8 schools that have received the award: Barrington Middle School, Arlington School in Cranston, Chester Barros Elementary School in Cranston, East Greenwich Cole Middle School, Agnes B. Hennessey Elementary in East Providence, Hope Valley Elementary School, Forest Park Elementary School in North Kingstown, and Park School in Warwick. They have never nominated or recognized a high school so this will be the first. Mrs. Kyle added, "plus career and tech."

We have to go through an application process. RIDE has looked at our data since 2007. We met all of the criteria/requirements set for this award and RIDE is going to work with us populating the data needed to fill out the application. If we are lucky enough to receive the award, we will find out in the Spring. The Director was very excited; the Commissioner was very excited. V. Gailliard-Garrick told her it was very nice. With all the hard work going on here at Davies with the teachers and all the stakeholders that help move this school forward, it was very nice to be recognized.

APPLAUSE

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 5:50 p.m., Mrs. Kyle asked for 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. Quinn made the motion; Mr. Ouellette seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Return to Regular Session

At 6:08 p.m., Mrs. Kyle asked for a motion to recess back into Regular Session. Mr. Quinn made the motion; Mrs. Smith seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mrs. Kyle asked for a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Ouellette made the motion; Mr. Quinn seconded the motion and all were in favor.

In Executive Session, there was a discussion on the nomination of a new trustee, Mr. David Marquis, President of Chemart Company, to replace Mr. Beaupre.

Back in Open Session, Mr. Quinn made a motion to nominate Mr. David Marquis as a new trustee and to forward it to the Board of Regents or the new consolidated education committee for approval. Mr. Ouellette seconded the motion; and all were in favor.

V. Adjournment

At 6:11 a.m., Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.