

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

**Board of Trustees**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

Thursday, April 10, 2008

*The minutes were accepted at the July 10, 2008 Board meeting.*

**I. Routine**

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 8:08 am, Dr. Segovis called the meeting to order.

B. **Roll Call of the Board**

Davies' Executive Assistant called the roll of the Board.

**Members Present:** James Bone; Raymond Chartier; Larry Gemma; Carolyn Kyle, *Vice-Chairperson*; John Nardolillo; John Quinn; Dr. James Segovis, *Chairperson*; Robin Smith

**Members Absent:** Richard Beaupre; V. Michael Ferdinandi; John Gregory; Robert Halkyard

**Others Present:** Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Cheryl Carroll, Bernie Blumenthal, Susan Paquin, Joanne Andrews, Judy Valentine, Lynn Tait-Romano, Jeff Carlson, Richard Bonenfant, Bill Esser, Gerry Suggs, SKillsUSA RI State Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal Winners

C. **Approval of Minutes** – February 14 and March 12, 2008 Regular Session Minutes  
*Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to accept the February 14 and March 12, 2008 regular session minutes. Mrs. Smith made the motion, Mrs. Kyle 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**

Recess into Executive Session was moved to the end of the agenda.

E. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

No comments were made.

**II. Business Agenda**

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

Ms. Carroll did not have a lot to report. The state keeps postponing the passing of the state's supplemental budget along with the six furlough days. No action has been taken on this budget. Also, like all other state agencies, Davies has an extremely skinny budget for next year. Once we hear the final number, we are dealing with teachers and teacher assistants contracts this summer. We have a lot of work ahead of us once we know what we have to hit the ground running. The

director has a lot of staffing decisions to make and right now it is in total limbo. We are just waiting to know how we are to operate in the last quarter of this year. This hasn't even happened let alone how do we begin thinking about next year.

Dr. Segovis realizes it is difficult to find the time, but he stressed the importance of the board, if possible, to become available to volunteer to testify at the State House to lobby for education and what we do and show our support.

Dr. Segovis then welcomed Mr. Boisselle to the Board. He just got a bill passed. About 3 or 4 years ago he met with all of the career and tech centers and vocational schools to try to establish a state-wide curriculum. After almost a year or two of meeting with all of the teachers, RI \_\_\_\_\_ Assoc, Associated Builders and Contractors, they finally decided to use the apprentice program that all the ABC chapters use all over the United States of America. It is portable; it is a 4-yr program for electrical and carpentry; it's a 5-year program for plumbing and pipefitting. The Dept. of Education purchased all of the books; Paul Williams was on the committee.

It only made sense to Mr. Boisselle to introduce legislation three years ago just before he left ABC the first time. The amended language of the bill says that kids that graduate from the vocational, career and tech schools, they would get one-year whole credit towards their apprenticeship program. Instead of having to do four years in electrical, it will be three years and then be able to sit for their exams. It has been a hard fight, but the evening before this meeting, the House Education and Welfare Committee unanimously passed the bill out positively. It now has to go to the Senate where there will be another fight. The argument that was made was the other states do give the kids credit and Mr. Almeida was applauded for actually saying the words, "You are sending our workforce out of state now." That hit them the hardest. Chairman McNamara said it is about time we stop sending our youth to Massachusetts. The next step would be to identify your senator and send them a letter or an e-mail supporting the bill.

Again, Dr. Segovis welcomed Mr. Boisselle and he spoke for everyone by saying that he is excited to be working with him again.

Mr. Boisselle added that his board of directors voted last month to rename the their annual golf tournament to the Harvey Simms Memorial Golf Tournament and to take it one step further, they also voted to take some of the proceeds from the tournament and turn it over to Davies and Warwick Career and Tech because they are the only two school that have helped with ABC's apprenticeship program in allowing them the use of their classrooms at night. They are going to turn the money over to the two schools and ask them to award the Harvey Simms Memorial scholarship that will be given every year during the schools Award's Night, to a graduating senior.

- B. **Human Resources Report** - *Joanne Andrews, Human Resources Coordinator*  
By the end of April, we will have fulfilled our hiring obligation in that we will have a School-to-Career Coordinator with a candidate coming to us from Johnson and Wales with a good number of years of experience. She will be a welcome addition. There will also be a janitor transfer in who recently left us and is now

returning. Lastly, we have another bump situation coming from MHRH and will be an Information Aid in the Guidance Dept.

C. **Nominating Committee** – *James Segovis, Chair*

There is nothing to report. The committee is still planning to meet in a few weeks. There are two parents who have applied and they are still looking for any recommendations from the board. On the next agenda we should discuss having a Board retreat to discuss where we want to take the Board to the next level in terms of membership and in terms of the school. Davies has always been the premier school regionally, but there is some competition coming up, which is good because it means that technical education is being paid attention to, but part of the competition is money. If we are to remain the best in the state but also one of the hallmark schools regionally and nationally, what do we need to do to push the Board to the next level? Who wants to make that commitment? Our Board's joy is that we do not have to deal with the politics of other local school boards.

D. **Total Quality Management**

Dr. Segovis wanted to sit down and talk with Mr. Gemma about how Gem made a turn around and moved it forward to something much larger. He used a lot of different management techniques and Dr. Segovis thought it was time to bring it to the school. Dr. Segovis asked for any volunteers to get together. From the March minutes, it looks like Mr. Beaupre would like to help because he has the ISO certification. Mr. Quinn volunteered because of his experience. Mr. Nardolillo also mentioned that there is Six Sigma.

III. ***Informational Time/Program Updates***

A. **Director's Report**

1) **SkillsUSA State Competitions 2008** – *Gerry Suggs, Davies SkillsUSA Advisor*

Before he reported to the Board on how well the Davies SkillsUSA Chapter did in the statewide competitions, he first mentioned that Davies was prominently featured in two of the three quarterly, SkillsUSA Champions Magazine that is circulated to approximately 285,000 members including business and industry partners across the country. Secondly, the Davies Chapter reopened, after a long absence, the school store which is temporarily stored in a roll-away closet. The store partnered with a Carpentry student who, as part of his senior project next year, will build a mall type kiosk for the merchandise, and also partnered with two current seniors who are managing the store as part of their senior project as well, one in marketing and management and the other in finance. Currently they are selling hoodies, long sleeve and short sleeve t-shirts, polo shirts, sweatpants, travel mugs, water bottles, pens and pencils all with "Davies" or the Davies logo printed on them.

Regarding his report on how well Davies students did at the SkillsUSA state competitions, last year he explained to the board on how he was amazed at how well they did then and he considered it a Davies miracle. Well, in hindsight, that was a warm-up. This year we entered 29 contests and we won medals in 27 of them. 86 Davies students were entered in those 29 contests and 42 of them won a medal. We entered contests that we haven't entered in years and we won medals. We dominated the state competitions. If a school wins a team contest, each individual on the team gets a medal and they count all of them towards their total win, but Mr. Suggs counts it as one. Davies had as many gold medal

winning contests as our two nearest competitors, Cranston and Warwick combined. Some schools win medals when they are the only schools competing in that contest. You have to win the medal. Davies competes among ourselves in this building; when we leave this building we compete against the other schools.

These are all numbers but to get a sense what the numbers mean, Mr. Suggs introduced Davies medal winners. All 42 students walked in, paraded around the Board of Trustees, and received a round of applause.

<b>Program</b>	<b># of Contests</b>	<b># of Possible Medals</b>	<b># of Medals Won</b>
Electrical	2	6	3 2-Bronze/1-Gold
Carpentry	2	6	3 2-Silver/1-Gold
Automotive	3	7	5 2-Bronze/1-Silver/2-Gold
Culinary	3	6	3 1-Bronze/1-Silver/1-Gold

<b>Program</b>	<b># of Contests</b>	<b># of Possible Medals</b>	<b># of Medals Won</b>
Graphics	2	6	1 1-Gold
Electronics	2	6	5 2-Bronze/2-Silver/1-Gold
Machine	1	3	2 1-Silver/1-Gold
Computer Info. Technology	1	3	1 Gold
Cosmetology	2	6	3 3-Silver
Technical Mathematics	1	3	1 1-Bronze
Prepared Speech Extemporary Speech	2	6	4 2-Bronze/1-Silver/1-Gold
Job Interview	1	3	1 1-Gold
Health Careers	6	18	9 2-Bronze/2-Silver/4-Gold

18 Gold medal winners will be going to Kansas City to compete nationally. They are Team Davies who will be representing the school. Our teachers do an unbelievable job of preparing these young men and women to compete. Mr. Suggs always get the recognition, but he is not their teacher. He is the person who helps fill out the paperwork and get them to a place on time. The teachers in these technical and academic areas and the facilitators for the Job Interview are the ones who deserve the congratulations and applause. They are part of

Team Davies and none of this would not get done if it wasn't for the Board's support as evident with the Director and Business Office Coordinator who manages to find the funds to get everyone to those places.

The Director commended the students on the great work they have done and she will be scheduling a luncheon for all of the medal winners to recognize them for the great job they did. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Segovis thanked Mr. Suggs for the work that he does. He also thanked the teachers. It is a partnership between the students and the teachers to get anywhere. He wished the students luck with the next step in Kansas City, and he finally congratulated them once again.

2) **Teachers' Association** – *Frank Barcellos, President of the Davies Teachers' Association*

No report given.

3) **Teacher Assistants' Association** – *Lynn Tait-Romano, President*  
Ms. Tait thanked the Board for coming today to see the students. Mr. Suggs really appreciated it.

4) **Building Security** – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

Last year Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick reported to the Board a rollout plan for a new security system for the school. The first phase began with the installation of detect alarms on six exterior doors and now there are sixteen all together. The second phase has now been implemented as of the end of March. Two buzzing systems were installed, one at the front entrance and the other at the back entrance next to the Guidance Department. These two phases changed the flow of traffic in an out of the building and the students and staff have adjusted well to this new system. Of course we are doing this because of what is going on around the country and it is her job to make sure this learning environment is safe and secure.

The last phase is going to be a little more expensive and we will have to do it piecemeal and it involves strategically placed video cameras and ID'ing every staff member but that will have to be worked out with the union during contract negotiations. It has to be done. Representatives from Honeywell came in and worked out a plan for us at about \$100,000 and that does not include installation. Every time there is some extra dollars in the budget, some cameras will be purchased and then the computer system will come last.

Mr. Bone mentioned that we are probably ahead of where many schools are because this has become a national issue across the country. Ms. Tait asked what kind of cameras will be purchased. Will they be continually monitored or will they run a tape? They will be both. They will have a digital feed so that we will have home-in-on capabilities say for example viewing license plates out in the parking lots. It is very exciting, very long overdue, and worth every penny.

Dr. Segovis was glad to see the school is making progress on this issue; however, we are forced to look at other budget alternatives to get it done. Mrs. Kyle asked if this was a grant opportunity particularly with the Champlin Foundation perhaps. The School Improvement Team has a Grant sub-committee who are looking at some grants. Mr. Gemma suggested looking into companies that are shutting

down and may be willing to sell their used state-of-the-art security equipment. The technology doesn't change a whole lot over the course of a few years.

In addition to this security plan process, the Health and Safety Committee is working on a Crisis Intervention Plan that will include procedures for a lockdown. The chair of the committee, along with Ms. Paquin, was invited to Lincoln High School to witness their lockdown drill to get a feel for it. Our plan will probably be ready by the beginning of school in September. A lot of work is being done to make the school secure and the chair of the Health & Safety Committee is doing a wonderful and outstanding job.

5) **Graduation Requirements – Status of the Senior Project Process**–

*Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

Davies has new graduation requirements and there are two multiple measures we are looking at: Senior Project (research paper and final product) and the Graduation Portfolio. From our last Reading Day, out of 145 students, 80 or more submitted a research paper. They are currently working on their final product of which some have already been completed. Recently, a group of Culinary Arts students did a project on homelessness and their research papers reflected that. The product had a marketing plan, a finance plan, etc, and they provided a dinner at a homeless shelter. They prepared the meal at the school and transported it to the shelter. It's all on video. They bragged about it to the Commissioner when he was here. They spoke to him about the project, the ups-and-downs, the challenges, etc and they were very articulate on the whole concept. She believes they met the challenge. She had a recognition breakfast for all those students who met proficiency in their research papers. She is trying to keep the motivation, energy going to get this work done. The oral presentations will be in May sometime and hopefully some of the Board members can come and see some of these projects.

There is still some work to be done with the Graduation Portfolios. It's a whole new concept which is all electronic and we have all been to some training to try to work out the kinks.

Every student who graduates this year will have a traditional diploma; however, there is going to be seal endorsed for proficiency for those students who met the proficiency requirements of the State of RI. They will also wear cords distinguishing them from those who did not meet the proficiency requirements.

6) **Professional Development Day- 5/2/08** - *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

Two workshops have been planned. One with an attorney from NEA and Mr. Ragosta. They will be talking to the faculty about some educational issues and the law. The second is on the RI Writing Project. Then she will provide them with a luncheon and then they will be able to leave a 12:30 pm.

7) **Business Partnership Appreciation Breakfast – 5/7/08** – *Bernie Blumenthal*  
*Partnerships in Education Coordinator*

This breakfast is our way of thanking the partners who help our students do work-based learning, curriculum, or advisory boards. He has invited the

Board even though he realizes it is very difficult for some; however, he encouraged some to attend to help award the certificates to two partners: Tracy Gear, Inc., from Pawtucket, and Rhode Island Hospital, again for their commitment with the whole nursing program. This year we are excited that they are going to be able to offer twenty of our students Seacole Scholars opportunities. The Board is to send back their RSVP as soon as they can. Dr. Segovis is a “Yes.”

8) **Other**

—Mr. Blumenthal recently hosted a delegation of high level officials from Bermuda. This was their fifth visit to take a look at Davies as a model to help them restructure their education programs especially at the high school level. They had some strong concerns about their ability to educate their youth moving right into the workforce. They looked at different models and through their visits up to this recent one, they felt Davies with the combination of academics and career preparation was the one they want to pursue. So they brought their Minister of Education on this visit. You could just see their eyes and ears. They actually did strategy sessions in each of the technical areas. How can we do this, can we retrofit; do we need to add on; will this program meet the certifications; what will it take to duplicate Davies model? Right from the get-go when they walked into Automotive, “This is a high school?” That was just the Minister of Education’s response. The first part was very positive for the Bermuda group because they walked away saying this is definitely the model they want to follow. The minister had a way of moving around away from the scripted structure and going right to the heart of the matter which were the students. He just zeroed in on all of the students and talked to them. Our students did a really good job demonstrating their commitment and passion about Davies and why they are here. They took pictures with the minister and he walked away really impressed.

During their lunch, Commissioner McWalters joined the group along with the Director. It was interesting to hear the questions and learn what they do in Bermuda, but kiddingly he suggested that they could make us really happy if we could visit there once. He suggests that the Director and Mr. Murphy, Automotive teacher, should go so they can show them how to do it right from an academic and technical point of view.

Mr. Gemma asked how Davies was recommended to this delegation. It was through Lee Arnold Group. He used to be the director of the Department of Labor and Training.

**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 9:08 am, Mr. Quinn 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 for informational purposes only. Mr. Gemma seconded the motion and all were in favor.*

**Return to Regular Session**

*At 9:18 am, Mrs. 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.*

*Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to keep the minutes of the Executive Session confidential. Mrs. Smith made the motion, Mr. Quinn seconded the motion and all were in favor.*

**IV. Adjournment:**

*At 9:19 Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.*

**V. Next Meeting:**

The next Board meeting will be on May 8, 2008, at 8:00 am, postponing the evening meeting until June.