State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

Enclosure 7c
September 8, 2014

September 8, 2014

TO: Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner

RE: **Appointment of Nominee – William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School Board of Trustees**

It is with great pleasure that I recommend for your approval the following nominee to fill a current vacancy on the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School Board of Trustees:

- **George H. Nee**

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the appointment of George H. Nee to serve on the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School Board of Trustees, as presented.

Candidates for Boards of Trustees at State-Operated Schools

1. **Background:**

What led you to be interested in serving on the Board of Trustees?

I was on the original Board of Trustees and was recently asked if I would like to serve again. I still believe that career and technical education is not given the priority it should receive, and I also believe it can be a critical component to an improved economy + workforce.

2. **Qualifications:**

What qualities and strengths from your background and experience will you bring to the Board if you are chosen to serve?

I believe my background and experience in the labor movement has required me to work with many varied constituencies and interest groups and keeps my horizons expanding.

3. **Goals:**

Is there any particular area or initiative that you would like to focus on as a new member of the Board of Trustees?

I would defer at this time until I can better a better picture of where Dania is and what our great goals..

William M. Davies, Jr. Career & Technical High School

50 Jenckes Hill Road, Lincoln, RI 02865 • www.daviestech.org

Phone/TDD: 401.728.1500 • Fax: 401.728.8910

Educating Innovators for the Twenty-First Century

Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director

A school of excellence by the U.S. Dept. of Education

June 2, 2014

Ms. Deborah Gist
Commissioner of Education
R. I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
255 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Commissioner Gist:

The Nominating Sub-committee of the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School Board of Trustees is currently active in recruiting new board members in an effort to fill the vacant seats due to some resignations.

At the last Board of Trustees meeting on May 29, 2014, the trustees accepted the Nominating Committee's recommendation of one candidate, Mr. George Nee, President of Rhode Island AFL-CIO. Mr. Nee is looking forward to sitting on our board as a returning member and Davies is very fortunate to have him back.

With his extensive career and RI networking experience along with being involved in a number of economic development projects, he will be able to open doors for our students that are otherwise very difficult to open when placing our students on internships, work-based learning opportunities, and apprenticeship trainings. He will be a great asset to the Davies Board of Trustees as we improve the education and skills sets of RI's future workforce.

Enclosed you will find Mr. Nee's bio. Upon your approval, please forward this nomination to the Board of Education for their final approval. If you have any questions about this candidate, please do not hesitate to contact me at (401) 728-1500, ext. 300.

Sincerely,

William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School

Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick

Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick
Director

cc: Angela Teixeira, Special Assistant to the Board of Education

The William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, sexual orientation, or disability.

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Rhode Island Works Best When We Say UNION YES.

George H. Nee

President, Rhode Island AFL-CIO

Professional Career

- Rhode Island AFL-CIO
  President 2009-Present
  Secretary-Treasurer 1991-2009
  Executive Director 1983 - 1991
- Service Employees International Union, Local 76 (now New England Healthcare Employees 1199/SEIU)
  President 1976-1983
- United Farm Workers of America
  Field Organizer 1969-1971
- Graduate of Rhode Island College 1990

Government Boards and Commissions

- Human Resource Investment Council/Governor's Workforce Board – Board Member
- Workers Compensation Advisory Council – Chairman
- Rhode Island Commerce Corporation – Board Member
- Rhode Island Convention Center Authority – Board Member

Community Boards and Commissions

- Institute for Labor Studies and Research – Chairman
- Building Futures – Advisory Board Member
- Providence Performing Arts Center – Board Member
- Providence St. Patrick's Day Parade – 2011 Grand Marshall
- R.I. Heritage Hall of Fame – Member

George H. Nee President • **Maureen G. Martin** Secretary-Treasurer • **Cheryl A. Masciarelli** Office Manager
Mark A. Mancinho Political and Legislative Director • **John F. Killoy III** Director of Communications, Research and Mobilization • **Thom Cahir** Field Director
AFSCME 35N

George Nee

President, Rhode Island AFL-CIO

George Nee has been a leader of the Rhode Island labor movement for 35 years and currently serves as president of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO.

Nee's dedication to organized labor and civil rights began in earnest when he was inspired to leave Boston College in 1969 to help organize the grape boycott for the United Farm Workers of America in Dorchester, Massachusetts. After the successful conclusion of the grape boycott, which resulted in union contracts and improved working conditions for farm workers, Nee continued to work with the organization both in California and New England. In 1971, the farm workers' union sent him to Rhode Island to coordinate a lettuce boycott. By working alongside uneducated farm workers who spoke little English, Nee solidified his belief that the right to organize and the power of collective action were the keys that would allow hard working people to take control of their economic futures.

In 1976, Nee organized an array of low paid employees including jewelry workers, clerical workers, and healthcare workers in Rhode Island into a formidable group that eventually became the Service Employees International Union, Local 76. Nee served that organization as its founding president from 1976 to 1983.

Nee joined the Rhode Island AFL-CIO as its executive director in 1983. He was elected secretary-treasurer in 1991 and president in 2009. During the 1980s, George resumed his studies and became a graduate of Rhode Island College in 1990.

In his current role as AFL-CIO president, George is actively involved in economic development projects, serving on the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority; the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC); the Human Resource Investment Council; and the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. He is also chairman of the board of the Institute for Labor Studies and Research and an executive board member of The United Way of Rhode Island. He is a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in South Providence and presided this year as the Grand Marshal of Providence's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

George has been married to Anne Sliney for 33 years. She is the Chief Nursing Officer of the Clinton Health Access Initiative. George and Anne have three adult children: Patrick, Katie, and Brigid. The family resides in Cranston.