

**NEW ENGLAND LABORERS'/CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CONSTRUCTION CAREER ACADEMY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
NOVEMBER 16, 2011  
12 Noon Executive Session  
Public Session Immediately Following  
NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy  
Conference Room – 4 Sharpe Drive  
Cranston, RI 02920**

**MINUTES**

**This meeting of the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy was held on the above date in the conference room with the following members present: Chairman Traficante, Ms. Larkin, Mrs. McFarland, Mr. Rampone, Dr. Leone, Mr. Nero and Mr. Sabitoni. Mrs. DeSimone and Mr. Cardi were absent.**

**Chairman Traficante called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. A motion was made by Dr. Leone to go into Executive Session pursuant to R.I. State Laws PL 42-46-5 (a)(1) Personnel and PL 42-46-5 (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation. This was seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. All were in favor.**

**Chairman Traficante reconvened public session at 12:15 p.m. The roll was called; a quorum was present. No votes were taken in Executive**

**Session.**

**A motion to seal the minutes of Executive Session was made by Mr. Rampone and seconded by Mr. Sabitoni; all were in favor.**

**Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) Approved – October 25, 2011. A motion was made by Mr. Rampone to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2011 meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. All were in favor.**

**There were no speakers or public acknowledgements/communications.**

#### **Committee Reports/Reports/Updates**

##### **A. Executive Director Report –**

**Mr. Curren stated – in terms of staffing we still have a couple of positions that are open right now; both of them are in math. One is for the AEP program and that closed the other day. We will be reviewing those candidates for hiring and will be bringing that information to you at a future board meeting. In addition to that we have a .4 position here at the Charter School. You recall at the last meeting I mentioned that Mr. John Santangelo had taken on the vice presidency of the Teachers' Alliance and as such would teach a .6 position, the .4 position then has to be filled. We have completed interviews, we contacted twelve people to interview, and of those twelve four of them chose to decline their interview. We did interview eight people**

and of those eight we

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have a person that we have brought in as a sub because we want to see how the person does in our unique environment. We will make a decision on that in the very near future and bring that appointment to you at a future board meeting.

The other topic is the status of our renewal and as you recall from my email following our board meeting – we had good news. A few of us, Traf included, when to RIDE in early November and at that time the three charter schools that were up for renewal were invited to attend to get some information about the charter renewal process. The other two school being Blackstone Academy and The Compass School. As you know, because we discussed it over a few board meetings, we were in the midst of a rather contentious renewal situation with RIDE. As it turns out the outcome was very favorable to us as the Office of Transformation at RIDE, Jennifer Smith and her department, and then David Abbott the Associate Commissioner, was there as well. They essentially laid out for us (the three charter schools) that they were uncomfortable with their own process and they felt that it would be

have unfair to go forward with any recommendation for the three charter schools other than a three year renewal simply Carte blanche without really considering any criteria for that recommendation. I guess I would categorize it as close to an apology as you might get from RIDE which we were very accepting of. Traf and I were relieved to hear that actually because we had expected a long arduous battle ahead of us which we were willing to do but it is always good news when you don't have to go to battle. We would of course liked a five year renewal status but we'll take the three. As I said to you in that email and we talked about it as well, we have a pretty good menu for the future. We know what we need to do over the next three years to prepare this school for the next charter renewal and fortunately we have three years to attack those issues. Those issues were not revelations to us although we may think that some of them were opinions as opposed to facts, the bottom line is that is their opinion and that's what we have to address in the next three years. I am very comforted that we have a very good plan that we can attack over the next three years. We have the time to do it and we certainly have the capacity to do it. That's the good news.

I also want to mention that the other two charter schools, The Compass School and Blackstone Academy were not happy with that decision by RIDE because they believe that they should have been given a five year renewal and they are going to argue that point as the Board of Regents meeting in February. We're not going to argue that point. We are going to take the three years and work to make our

**improvements but we have made it clear to the Charter League that we are not part of that fight to go for five years. We are going to sit still and work on our improvement plan.**

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**I will however, want to discuss the report issued by RIDE at future meetings and probably will attack those topics one by one because that is our improvement process over the next few months and perhaps over the next couple of years we are going to be dealing with those topics and talking about them at this table.**

**Discussion ensued regarding the process of reauthorization.**

**Program Coordinator's Report**

**Mr. Scaffardi stated – The Charter League has done a lot of push back work and has sent several letters to RIDE pointing out the inconsistencies in the process and for a long period of time there was also a committee that wanted to work on the process. Because of all the responses to the letters there are six schools going through the**

**process; the entire process now is changing.**

**Mr. Scaffardi then explained the different changes to the Board.**

**Crisis Management Protocol – Mr. Scaffardi stated – this board was the first to receive this professional development. In the near future this Crisis Management Protocol will be voted in as the Charter League’s management protocol for any board of directors in any school that needs guidance on that.**

**Rhode Island Foundation – Mr. Scaffardi stated – March 13, 2012 will be the date for the Rhode Island Foundation meeting. However, this year will be professional development solely. No presentations by the schools.**

**Discussion ensued regarding NECAP testing vs. PARK testing.**

**Financial Advisor’s Report (See handout #1)**

**Mrs. Corcelli was absent; Mr. Traficante reported out on the Operating Budget.**

**Alternate Education Program (See handout #2)**

**AEP report was read into the record.**

**A motion to accept the Executive Director’s report was made by Mr. Sabitoni, seconded by Mr. Rampone, all were in favor.**

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**RESOLUTION**

**No. 11-1-11 - Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, said certified personnel be appointed for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year:**

**Sarah Gray, Instructor**

**Education...University of the Incarnate Word, BA**

**Experience...Cranston Public Schools**

**Certification...Secondary English**

**Assignment...AEP-Hourly**

**Effective Date...November 14, 2011**

**Fiscal Note...40235127 51110**

**A motion to accept this resolution was made by Mr. Nero and seconded by Mr. Rampone. All were in favor.**

**The next meeting will be held on December 20, 2011 in Pomfret, CT.**

**There being no further business to come before the Board a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sabitoni and seconded by Mr. Rampone.**

**All were in favor.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michael A. Traficante**

**Chairman**