

**NEW ENGLAND LABORERS'/CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONSTRUCTION CAREER ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 27, 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 and Mr. Sabitoni. Mrs. DeSimone was absent with cause.

Chairman Traficante called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Sabitoni 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. Rampone. All were in favor.

Chairman Traficante reconvened public session at 12:18 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. Sabitoni and seconded by Mr. Rampone; all were in favor.

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

There were no speakers or public acknowledgements/communications.

Committee Reports/Reports/Updates

A. Executive Director Report – (See handout #1)

Opening Staff Meeting – Met the entire staff and had a good meeting. Set some of the parameters of where we need to go and the very important job we need to do. There were good ideas of discussion and a very positive staff meeting. I had another staff meeting in September and another scheduled for tomorrow. We are off to a good start with that.

B. Opening weeks of school

Have gone fine; I have been out and about the building as both Mr. Scaffardi and Mr. Pecorelli have as well. Absenteeism and tardiness of students was discussed and Mr. Curran explained the district policy for absenteeism and tardiness.

C. Enrollment

We are currently 218 students and 153 of those are here in the Academy and 64 are in our AEP program. We anticipate seeing about another 18 in the very near future so our enrollment at that time will be about 236 and we have a goal of 245.

D. Open House Report

Last Thursday we had open house and we had a good turnout of parents from all grade levels. It was a very positive night with good comments from parents.

E. Science NECAP report

As you know our students have traditionally not done well on the NECAP and last years' results were as dismissal as the previous years' results. We really do need to focus on our students taking the NECAP, preparing them obviously academically to well on the NECAP but then also preparing them to physically take the NECAP which is coming up next week. Our juniors will take the NECAP's next week beginning on Tuesday. We have about 50 or so students schedule to take all portions of this six day test. We're interested in them being mentally prepared to take the test as well as academically prepared to take the test. This year we are going to do something different with them then we have done in the past. Starting tomorrow we're going to be taking our juniors to the LIUNA headquarters downtown for a sort

of pep rally if you will to talk about the NECAP preparation and different strategies they can employ during test taking that will perhaps put them in a better position to do well on the test. Our thinking was that maybe should get them off-site to discuss this with them rather than putting them in the cafeteria just to let them know there is something special about these tests. Each test day is about an hour and a half of a test taking session. Discussion ensued regarding why this test is necessary, incentives, and absenteeism. Mrs. McFarland asked for a copy of the scores for last year, percentages, to compare to the new scores when they come in. Mr. Curren stated these scores won't come in until January 2012 but at that time he will provide the board with both scores. Scores of both the math and science portion were also discussed. We are doing better in Science.

Mr. Curren asked Mr. Scaffardi to update the Board.

Mr. Scaffardi stated several things have gone on. We are in the middle of our reauthorization. We still do not have dates of things due from the RIDE. Everything is on hold right now.

We developed this summer crises protocol based on what happened at CVS Highlander. We were with Advocacy Solutions which is our consulting firm with The League of Charter Schools. We met to develop simple and clear documents that would help any school going through the crises and possibly having difficulties with the reauthorization. There is going to be a lot of good material in there and it is meant for the Board specifically, it's meant for the teachers.

They are templates that have very good ideas and provide a plan of attack. The League is offering a thirty minute or so training for Board of Directors that I think would be immensely helpful to you. At the end of it they will develop a plan with you to how to go about responding to any reauthorization issues. They will present at the next Board meeting.

Financial Literacy Program

We are one of ten schools that have been invited in the state to participate in the Jump Start Coalition as a significant school again this year. I believe we are the only schools in Cranston to be asked.

We started the School Improvement Team meeting again and have met several times already to address the school improvement plan. They are also helping to get teachers ideas and input on our reauthorization.

Problem Based Learning has been revised and will start the second quarter.

Mr. Curren continued – the next meeting we will have the Advocacy Solutions come and present.

We also met with the Office of Transformation, Jennifer Smith and her staff basically to get a feel of where are we in this process. We had a good discussion with give and take around the table. We could not get a real clear definition of the process going forward, no timeline, no dates available to us but they did say they were going to help us in anyway with our report. Jennifer did say they were going to take the feedback from the summer that we had given them and make some

edits to their report which was positive to hear depending on what the edits might be and they will send us the report after they have made some edits. That was three weeks ago and haven't heard from them since. I did send her an email the other day and asked her if when she gives us that "final report" could I still have a chance to react to that as the new Executive Director here and I have not received a response to that email so I am going to call her today and see if I can get something from her over the phone.

One of the things we did talk about was inviting the Board of Regents (BOR) here to the Academy as we get closer to this process happening. They told us before there would be a discussion and vote at the Board of Regents they would be a public hearing and that public hearing would happen here in Cranston at this school and that is the chance for the public to come out and comment to the Office of Transformation what they want to tell us what we would want to tell them about this school and why it should be re-chartered. I asked if members of the Board of Regents go to that meeting and the answer was no. So this is only a chance to talk to the Office of Transformation. Well then we really want to get to the BOR who ultimately make the decision so we thought we would invite them here to spend some time. We are prepared to do that but I don't want to do it too soon. If we are not in the shoot to be re-authorized let's say December or January, let's push that visit off until later so they don't forget about us. Once this is clearer we will let you know.

Teacher Evaluation Training Report

Mr. Curren stated last week he and Liz Larkin spent a week at the Teacher Evaluation training but we are prepared to enact the teacher evaluation model which our teachers are getting trained in now and I will be beginning shortly with the non-tenured teachers and then the tenured teachers in November. Every certified teacher will be evaluated this year. Mr.Curren then briefly explained the procedure. Ms. Larkin stated she was a proud member of the 36 member design team and we worked on it for two a half years and the Commissioner has been trying to merge with us but we decided to go off on our own because how can you merge unless you have tested your own tool. It is very intense with having undergone a 40 hour training last week. We took a five hour plus exam on Friday and it was very interesting. I took it as being part of the evaluation committee and also that if someone was put at risk or on a plan that I as President of the Cranston Teachers' Alliance might co-exist with an administrator so I wanted to understand the process. The other link that might also affect the Charter School is the fact that the presidents met last Thursday and the Board of Regents had three hearings on teacher certification, once again it is very rough, people did not know about the first one so attendance was low. Second one there was some attendance but we had just found out the dates and the third one was held in Newport. So we did try to get some NEA people from the island over there. There will be a vote at the BOR at the beginning of November and they are redoing the certifications which may affect some of the people in your building. At our delegate meeting last night requested that the delegates go back and have their staff go

on-line see what the changes are to certification and possibly write a letter to the BOR making a statement. The amendment is that they are going to be linking student achievement to teacher evaluation to teacher certification. That is going to change the scope and sequence of many things. First of all there is no research that supports this whatsoever. There is no proof that because you link a licensure to someone so it would be like you not being able to control your product, your product fails, and you have your license taken away to be able to practice ever again. Charter schools that have an alternate pathway – it will be very difficult to have a commitment or have a long-term staff because you are saying you have people who love to work with those populations, I work with urban populations at middle school, I'm on the recruiting team and I love working with them. Are they going to show enough progress on a test that I'm not going to lose my license even though I can't make sure they have breakfast or go to bed at night or have someone helping them or even having a home? So that is something to discuss with the BOR. Discussion ensued.

Recruitment

Mr. Pecorelli stated Mr. Curran gave the figures. The way I plan on eliminating the deficit in enrollment is I have called guidance counselors in all the high schools in Cranston, Johnston, Scituate, Shay, Pilgrim, Toll Gate, Mt. Pleasant and I will be making visits there to show them our recruitment video. I think once I get the guidance counselors on board they have students they have identified that they

think would be a good fit here. I have to keep informing them so they know what the fit is. I am also planning, now that the open houses are completed, to meet with parents to tell them what we have to offer. We do have 18 students onboard waiting for approval. Approval of special education students.

Fiscal Report

Carol Corcelli stated she has a draft budget but the actual budget will be presented next month. We won't have our actual enrollment numbers until October 1st.

** **

Alternate Education Program (See handout #3)

AEP report was read into the record.

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

RESOLUTIONS

No. 9-1-11 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the resignation of the following member of the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy Board of Directors be accepted:

William Kenneth Bowling

No. 9-2-11 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the appointment of the following CTA representative be accepted as a member of the Board of Directors of the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy (replacing Mr. Bowling):

Lizbeth Larkin

No. 9-3-11 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, certified staff members be recalled from layoff, and

Be it further resolved that the Executive Director notify those individuals of the Board's action.

This resolution was withdrawn.

No. 9-4-11 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, said certified personnel be appointed on a 90 half-day probationary period for the 2011-2012 school year:

Robert Scaffardi, Program Coordinator

Education: BA, BS, M.S. Ed.

Experience: Cranston Public Schools

Certification: Administrative

Assignment: Charter, .4 FTE

Effective Date: September 1, 2011

Fiscal Note: 40235136 51110

No. 9-5-11 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, said certified personnel be appointed for the 2011-2012 school year:

John Kelly, Step 12 + Masters

Education: PC, BA, MA

Experience: North Providence School Department

Certification: Guidance K-12

Assignment: Charter, .4 FTE

Effective Date: September 1, 2011

Fiscal Note: 40235124 51110

Plus Addendum

Donald Lareau, Step 9, BS +36

Education: Johnson & Wales University, BS

Experience: Johnston School Department

Certification: Technology Ed K-12

Assignment: NEL/CPS 1.0 FTE

Effective Date: September 26, 2011

Authorization: Replacement

Fiscal Note: 402351126 51110

No. 9-6-11 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the resignation(s) of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Thomas Lombardi, Teacher

Charter

Effective Date: August 21, 2011

No. 9-7-11 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the following non-certified employee(s) be appointed on a 90 half-day probationary period for the 2011-2012 school year:

Richard Pecorelli, Assistant to the Executive Director

Assignment: Charter, .4 FTE

Effective Date: September 1, 2011

Fiscal Note: 40235115 51110

The next meeting will be held on October 25, 2011.

There being no further business to come before the Board a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sabitoni and seconded by Mr. Cardi. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Traficante

Chairman