

# **NEL/CPS CONSTRUCTION CAREER ACADEMY BOARD MEETING**

**August 3, 2011**

**NEL/CPS CONSTRUCTION CAREER ACADEMY**

**CONFERENCE ROOM- 4 SHARPE DRIVE, CRANSTON, RI 02920**

**12:00 P.M. Executive Session**

**Public Session Immediately Following**

## **MINUTES**

**The regular monthly meeting of the New England Laborers'/Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy Board of Directors meeting was held on the above date in the conference room with the following members present: Mr. Traficante, Mr. Nero, Mr. Rampone, Dr. Leone and Mr. Cardi. Mr. Bowling arrived at 12:50 p.m. Absent was Mrs. McFarland, Ms. DeSimone, Mr. Sabitoni.**

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

**Chairman Traficante reconvened public session at 12:16 p.m. The roll was called; a quorum was present. No votes were taken in Executive Session.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Rampone to seal the minutes of Executive Session. This was seconded by Dr. Leone. All were in favor.**

**Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) Approved –June 22, 2011. A motion was made by Mr. Cardi to approve the minutes of the June 22nd 2011 meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Rampone. All were in favor.**

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

**A friendly amendment was made to add the word “acting” to the Executive Director title by Mr. Traficante. All were in favor.**

**Personnel**

**Resolutions**

**Resolutions**

**No. 7-1-11 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Acting Executive Director the following certified personnel be appointed for the 2011-2012 school year:**

**John Christy**

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

**Experience...Cranston Public Schools**

**Certification...Secondary General Science/Social Studies**

**Assignment...AEP, .4 FTE**

**Effective Date...September 1, 2011**

**Fiscal Note...40235127 51110**

**Moved by Mr. Rampone (as amended), seconded by Mr. Nero. All were in favor.**

**No. 7-2-11 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Acting Executive Director, the following non-certified employee(s) be appointed for the 2011-2012 school year:**

**Catherine DiSegna, Program Consultant**

**Assignment...AEP, .4 FTE**

**Effective Date...September 1, 2011**

**Fiscal Note...40235137 51110**

**Petrina Parente, World of Work Instructor**

**Assignment...AEP, Hourly Employee**

**Effective Date...September 1, 2011**

**Fiscal Note... 40235191 51110**

**Moved by Mr. Nero (as amended), seconded by Mr. Rampone. All were in favor.**

**Acting Executive Directors' Report (see handout #1)**

**RIDE Renewal Site Visit Report and Response to Site Visit Report**

**Mr. Pecorelli explained this visit to the board and discussion ensued.**

## **Personnel**

**Mr. Pecorelli explained the changes in personnel and the status of same.**

**The position of math coach was explained to the Board.**

## **Recruitment**

**Mr. Pecorelli mentioned that we have advertised for students. (A copy of this ad will be submitted with Mrs. Corcelli's report). It has been a difficult recruiting year but since the summer things have been looking better. By August 15 we have to release our numbers.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – at this point in time we are twenty-six students down from last year. Mrs. Corcelli is doing the recruiting at present and is doing a magnificent job of making contacts and has had a variety of interviews over the last several weeks. Each and every week we are picking up two to three students. Our maximum number of students is 245 and we are 26 students down from that particular number. Hopefully by the time school starts we will be very close to that number. We have 55 out of district students right now; last year we had 63.**

## **After Graduation NEL & AEP**

**Mr. Pecorelli went over where some of students were headed after graduation. Mr. Nero stated these are the statics I recited at the last Board of Regents meeting; the success of our students here and the**

**fact of the matter is this year you had 24 students go to CCRI. The success rate was incredible this year. Dr. Leone was of the opinion this rate could be even higher because some kids will decide last minute to attend CCRI.**

**AEP Report (see handout #2)**

**Ms. Dzekevich read from her report.**

**GED Test Center – over 300 students was tested and graduated 260. These were not all Cranston students; statewide.**

**Operating Budget (see handout #3, 3a, 3b, and 3c)**

**Ms. Corcelli read from her report and explained the revenue and expenditures accounts.**

**Question was asked about the rent increase. It was explained that in 2005 when we built the construction laboratory in the rear we picked up an additional rent. We are being charged for rent on the land that the building sits on. That charge was not picked up in the budget until this year. The lease will need to be renegotiated in 2012; Mr. Cardi expressed an interest to be part of that committee.**

**AEP Supplies and GED Tests**

**Mrs. Corcelli stated –the reason for the overage there is because the AED and GED programs are paid for upfront with the reimbursement coming to us in the latter weeks.**

**The Rhode Island Foundation – (handout #3a)**

**Mrs. Corcelli produced the letter that is for a \$45,000 grant that will be effective for the upcoming school year. It is the next level of the Diversified Level Education Campus Grant that we received last year. It will benefit those students who are considering dropping out of school and increasing those graduates transitioning from a school to a post-secondary school or job training program or education.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – just to update the Board, so you understand, this current year we received a \$75,000 grant from The Rhode Island Foundation. What we did was not only conduct our AEP in the morning for Credit Recovery; we also added two classes in the afternoon from 2:30-4:30 and two classes from 6-8 p.m. We refer to that as our Diversified Program. We increased the number of hours in our Diversified Program giving more students the opportunity to achieve credit recovery through a variety of programs that they failed in in the past. This year we received a \$45,000 grant for that same purpose. What we will do with that grant is pay for the virtual learning and AEP credit recovery instructors.**

**It was asked how come the grant was less?**

**Mrs. Corcelli explained how the tiered system works. You cannot get the same amount twice because you would be duplicating it but it is not the full duplication, i.e. start-up costs only occur once.**

**Mr. Nero stated – I will be sending a thank you letter to The Rhode**

**Island Foundation.**

**Dr. Leone stated – as I read it a second grant, if they didn't like what you did the first year you would not have received a second grant. It's not automatic. The Rhode Island Foundation gets requests from colleges, universities; it's really extraordinary to be recognized by them.**

**Mrs. Corcelli stated – we send them a follow-up report at the end of the year and have a good working relationship with The Rhode Island Foundation.**

**Dr. Leone stated – I am struck by the fact that the grant was renewed, it's a sign that they approve of the work that is being done here.**

**Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston Youth Services – (See handout #3b)**

**Mrs. Corcelli continued – we also have a \$26,927 grant for job readiness skills with the Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston. Right now we have 22 students employed and one staff member who is overseeing that. The students work 20 hours a week; the first day is four hours of classroom – job readiness skills, job retention skills. The good news is 6 of those students work for the Cranston Public Schools lawn crew. They have done such a fantastic job they are getting raises to \$8.00 an hour and they are working an additional two weeks after the grant is over. Their work ethic is very**

**strong so we are really pleased with that.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – we also had 4 students working in this building who were a tremendous help to the custodial crew. The building looks great because of their help. We also have several other students in the community working in a variety of non-profit agencies. One in particular I can speak of because I am a member of the Board is the Cranston Chamber of Commerce. We have 2 students there and Steve Boyle, the Executive Director can't speak highly enough about these 2 students their attitude and their work ethics. They have made a very good impression on the community and that reflects well on all of us.**

**Mrs. Corcelli continued – we also have 2 students at the Providence Mission. They are building homes or repairing homes in the area and 3 students are miscellaneous. This program is need-based (family income and at-risk students).**

**Dr. Leone stated – here is another independent entity that looks favorably upon our work and gave us a significant amount of money.**

**Mrs. Corcelli continued – June 30th we applied for a Champlin Grant, \$75,000, we should hear by fall of 2011 and this grant would be strictly for technology.**

**Newspaper Ad – (See handout #3c)**

**Mrs. Corcelli stated – this ad was placed in six different entities.**

**Mr. Nero suggested that advertisement should also be made with the Cox bulletin board.**

**A motion to accept the Acting Executive Director's report was made by Dr. Leone and seconded by Mr. Cardi.**

### **New Business**

**Mr. Traficante stated – we will be holding interviews for the Executive Director position on August 9, 2011, 2 p.m. in the Briggs Building at 845 Park Avenue.**

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michael A. Traficante  
Chairperson**