

NEL/CPS CONSTRUCTION CAREER ACADEMY

BOARD MEETING

April 14, 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 following members were present: Mr. Traficante, Mr. Nero, Mr. Cardi, Mr. Bowling, Ms. DeSimone, and Mr. Rampone. Mrs. McFarland and Mr. Sabitoni were absent with cause. Others present were Mr. Pecorelli, Dr. Silvia, Mrs. Corcelli, Mrs. Dzekevich and Mr. Scaffardi.

Chairman Traficante called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. There was no executive session. The roll was called; a quorum was present.

Minutes of previous meeting approved – March 23, 2011. A motion was made by Mr. Rampone to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2011 meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Bowling. All were in favor.

Public Acknowledgements/Communications

There were none.

Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Items)

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

There were no speakers at this point in the meeting.

Committee Reports/Reports/Updates

It was noted that Dr. Silvia and Mrs. Corcelli have an appointment with the Rhode Island Department of Education so they will be giving their reports first.

Fiscal Report – (Handout #1)

Mrs. Corcelli reviewed the fiscal report (as of March 31, 2011) with the board.

Mr. Nero asked Mrs. Corcelli to check the year-to-date comparison of last year to this years' substitute account.

Mission Statement et al – (Handout #2, 2b)

Dr. Silvia reviewed these handouts with the board and how they will be applied to the upcoming visit from the Rhode Island Department of Education.

Governing Board – (Handout #2a)

Chairman Traficante provided the board with this handout for their review.

Executive Director's Report (Handout #3)

Mr. Pecorelli stated – computer software \$2,267.00 – this is

surveillance computer software where the teacher is able to view what each student is working on. This software also allows the teacher to block certain websites.

Chairman Traficante stated – that \$2,267.00 will be reimbursed to that account from the capital account.

Recruitment

Mr. Pecorelli stated – the following students will be visiting the school for an orientation tour – 5 students from Western Hills on April 26, 20 students from Bain on May 2nd, 20 students from Park View on May 4th and 5 students from the Edgewood Alternate Education school on May 4th. Total of 50 students from the various middle schools will be visiting.

ASPEN X2 Training

This is new software that the entire district will be using replacing SchoolMax. The Charter School will be going live with this on May 2nd. Training is in process.

ESAC Conference

Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference in Seneca Niagara Falls will be attended by Mr. Nero and Mr. Traficante on May 22. Chairman Traficante stated the workshop is entitled, “The Power of Apprenticeship through Secondary School Education.”

Mr. Nero and three other superintendents from the Northeast region will be making presentations regarding the impact of their respective

programs on apprenticeship.

Commissioner Visit

Mr. Pecorelli stated – the Commissioner will be visiting our school on April 27. She will arrive at 12:45 and attend one construction class followed by a one hour faculty meeting.

Re-authorization Update

Mr. Pecorelli stated – as of yesterday we completed the reauthorization video and it will be available for the visiting team on May 6th.

Chairman Traficante stated – the video is being produced by the Media Department of the New England Laborers’.

Site Visit – (Handout #4)

Mr. Pecorelli explained this handout to the board and discussed same.

Chairman Traficante asked that all documents be available ahead of time.

Mr. Pecorelli further stated – the Visit Lead person will want to interview the board members and the designated time is May 6 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

May 9 and 10 are the additional two days for the site visit.

NECAP Testing/Science

Mr. Pecorelli stated all the 11th graders will be tested on May 17, 18

and 19.

Fundraiser (Japan)

Mr. Pecorelli stated – we have a student named Isabella Moretti who has been on the news three or four times with her tee-shirt making as a fundraiser for the victims of the Japanese tsunami. So far she has raised \$600.00 for the victims.

Senior Drop in Portfolio Day

We will be doing this again this year – this years' date is Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a good opportunity for seniors to practice their presentations and to receive some extra help on their projects.

Alternate Education Program (Handout #5)

Mrs. Dzekevich read from her report. Mr. Nero commended the low numbers for the IAES program.

Academics (Handout #6)

Mr. Scaffardi reviewed the School Mission (refer to handout #2b) with the board members. Mr. Scaffardi also briefed the board on what the Rhode Island Department of Education will be looking for in their visit to our school.

The Regents will not have summer public hearings. The Board of Regents will not be approving anything in August; it will all wait until

September and October.

Mr. Scaffardi stated - handout #6 is a brief synopsis of everything I have been talking about. It is simply a schematic for you to keep in mind of what you have been involved in and what we have been doing and what you have been approving. Mr. Scaffardi then went on in detail explaining handout #6.

Chairman Traficante advised Mr. Scaffardi to put together all of this information in writing as a briefing for new board members and a refresher for the remaining board members. Mr. Pecorelli and Mr. Scaffardi agreed to put together bullet statements to be disbursed to all board members.

At 1:15 p.m. Mrs. DeSimone left the meeting.

A motion to accept the Executive Director's report was made by Mr. Rampone. This was seconded by Mr. Cardi. All were in favor.

Non-Agenda Items

New York Class Trip – Dr. Joel Gluck – (Handout #7)

Chairman Traficante stated Dr. Gluck's request will require no vote from the board but he wanted this opportunity to speak with the board regarding the decision made by the Executive Director of the Charter School.

Mr. Nero stated – you are asking a board that has no authority to vote on a non-agenda item. You have a right to state your opinion on something but no legal right to a vote.

Dr. Gluck stated – what I wanted to bring up was that we have a field trip coming in which we will be going to Lake Placid for a weekend. When I planned the trip I planned the trip for five chaperones, not quite sure how many kids we were going to have totally but it turns out we have 39 students. I know the minimum requirements for chaperones is 1:10 but I am asking Mr. Pecorelli for a little leeway on that because the rules in our pamphlet that we got about field trips of long duration was that it said, and I quote, “a sufficient number of adults to be provided to ensure adequate supervision” and as a trip leader I don’t feel that the kids that we have on this trip at this time, we don’t have enough chaperones to adequately supervise. Taking the extra chaperone wouldn’t cost anything for the school. This trip was already put in with the five chaperones. It wouldn’t interfere with the operation of the school or the educational programs since this is a weekend trip. So I am asking for support to have the fifth chaperone so we can make sure our students are protected and supervised adequately.

Mr. Nero stated – let me just say a few things from the beginning. We hire a director to direct the building that’s the first thing. The second thing, originally this trip was supposed to have 50 kids and that’s why there were five chaperones. When we voted on this there were 42 kids

on this. The question I would have for you is this, if that is the case when you had 50 going, why didn't you ask for an extra one then?

Dr. Gluck stated – well, we never had 50, it was based upon the possibility of 50 but until we got the total number of students, when we saw the exact list of who was going that's when I made the determination that we needed the extra chaperone.

Mr. Nero stated – and again I will just tell you this, it was clearly stated about three hours ago – we have difficult kids is not a statement that they want to hear at RIDE or anywhere else. There is a cost, and that cost is to the kids because for every chaperone that goes the kids pay for that chaperone and I can tell you this, on my end, as a principal I kept close to the rule. When I needed extra chaperones because I had tough kids I would ask parents to go. The cost is going to come out of the kids on this.

Dr. Gluck stated – it turns out to be \$8-10 per student and the students know already that they are paying for the cost of the chaperones.

Mr. Nero stated – I understand that but one less would be \$8-10 dollars per kid that is here and you are multiplying that times 39 kids. That is why we hired a director.

Mr. Pecorelli stated – originally I signed the request for 49 students

with 5 chaperones. Unfortunately with the economy the way it is we did not get that number of students. Basically we are always talking about our students, our families, if there is any financial burden or impoverished students we are definitely on the top of the list so I did not feel comfortable when I found that when we had 39 students that they had to pay for an additional chaperone, pay for the room, pay for the meals, and so forth, it just didn't seem right. I told Dr. Gluck that and 39 students support the 4 chaperones.

Dr. Gluck stated – we are trying to be proactive in preventing problems, we want these students adequately supervised and...

Mr. Nero stated – again, if you had 50 students going and you had 5 chaperones, you didn't ask for another one then.

Dr. Gluck stated – what we did do was ask for the full bus. We didn't necessarily know that there was going to be 50, 49, or 42 or 37 at that time. When we put out the bid we put it out for a full bus.

Mr. Nero stated – but again, when you put in for this and when it was voted on, it was voted on for 5:42. Now that is under that and what the Director is saying here...

Mr. Pecorelli stated – I am going by the policy, I have the policy here it says, "Chaperones – the student chaperone ratio shall be 10:1. Any deviation from this standard must have the approval of the Executive

Director or his/her designee. Such deviation should be requested when making application for the field trip.”

Dr. Gluck stated – then the policy goes further it says there has to be enough to make sure that we have adequate supervision.

Mr. Nero stated – we pay a Director to do these things and we have a policy in which the board voted on based on 42 students and 5 chaperones. It is now down to 39. He is well within the policy here. It becomes the decision of the Director.

Mr. Pecorelli stated – I did not want the public to find that those students had to support five chaperones because I didn't feel it was correct.

Mr. Santangelo stated – first off, if we were asking to go out to each student now and say we need two extra dollars in order to cover another chaperone that would be one thing. That's not the case. The field trip is paid for; the students have already made their payments, the documentation has already gone home to mom and dad explaining about the cost, what the cost is covering including the 5 chaperones, when the parent meeting is going to be concerning the ins and outs of the trip that we always have prior to going on the trip. All of that has already been communicated with the parents so there isn't a parent out there that is expecting \$8 back. They will understand what the cost is and how many chaperones going. I think,

personal opinion, I think that we as an institution don't look very good if we now turn around and tell parents, oh we're only going to send four people with your kids and not five. I don't think that looks good.

Mr. Nero stated – first of all I think you are dead wrong on this. Second of all I am going to tell you this; the fact of the matter is that I pay for my chaperones for ten people. I am not paying for a fifth person to come and I'm not paying for my kid to do that. So, I am saying to you, if we had to be in that situation where we don't need the other room, here is \$10 back in this economy.

Dr. Gluck stated – if we were to cancel the fifth chaperone, it would be a female chaperone.

Mr. Nero stated – I have a problem with what is going on conceptually right now. If that is the case then let's whip the board together and throw our opinions out there. That is why I say, we have a Director here.

Mr. Traficante asked Mr. Pecorelli – what precipitated you questioning the number of chaperones?

Mr. Pecorelli stated – when they went below the 40 (student) level there was a surcharge added which was brought to my attention and Dr. Gluck wanted us to pay for the surcharge. Mrs. Corcelli, the Fiscal Officer, felt that maybe the five chaperones should get together and

pay \$30.00 each for this surcharge. When I was made aware that there was a surcharge because there were 39 students...I just knew, I ran field trips, and I just knew 39 equals 4 chaperones. So I simply said you have to go with the four chaperones.

Mr. Traficante asked – how much money would you save with one less chaperone?

Mr. Pecorelli stated – we would save around \$400.00. If the chaperones wanted to pay for the fifth chaperone....

Mr. Traficante stated – I think Mr. Nero made it clear; this is your decision. The board has approved the trip based on the original information given to us. I would advise you to sit down with Mr. Santangelo and Dr. Gluck and discuss the issue and come up with a decision, it's your decision to make.

Mr. Nero stated – either way, my issue is there is an authority, a delineation of responsibility that within any organization. Steve (Cardi) runs a big company. He has people under him that do big things, they don't always go to the Board of Directors – you don't do those types of things.

Dr. Gluck stated – I just want to make it clear, our appearance here at the board was not something that I asked for.

Mr. Traficante stated – I suggested it.

Mr. Nero stated – the record clearly shows that you guys had

projected over 40; this is not the first time we've had a trip where we have had over-expenses on things. We have had issues in the past - issues with money.

It was reiterated that Dr. Gluck, Mr. Santangelo and Mr. Pecorelli iron this out.

Mr. Traficante stated – we will not have a May board meeting because we have so many obligations going on in May. The only reason, should we have to have a meeting would be to recall teachers from layoff and that won't happen until the end of the month depending on what the council approves for a budget. Our next scheduled meeting will be June 2, 2011.

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Michael A. Traficante
Chairperson**