

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

April 10, 2012

12:00 P.M. Executive Session

Public Session Immediately Following

4 Sharpe Drive

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, Mr. Cardi, Mr. Santangelo (in place of Ms. Larkin), Mr. Sabitoni, Dr. Leone and Mr. Nero. Ms. Bedford arrived at 12:20 p.m. Mrs. McFarland and Mr. Rampone were absent.

Chairman Traficante called the meeting to order at 12:10 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; Threatened Litigation re: Personnel Matter. This motion was seconded by Dr. Leone. All were in favor.

Chairman Traficante reconvened public session at 12:27 p.m. The roll was called; a quorum was present. There were no votes taken in

Executive Session.

A motion to seal the minutes of Executive Session was made by Mr. Cardi and seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. All were in favor.

A motion to approve the minutes of January 17, 2012 and February 14, 2012 was made by Mr. Cardi and seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. 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.

RESOLUTIONS

BUSINESS

No. 04-1-12 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Board of Directors for the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy the mid-year budget adjustments for the 2011-2012 budget analysis be approved.

Mrs. Corcelli stated – (see handout #1) – We made adjustments to the

budget to account for some differences. The first one being the Program Coordinator line item; we reduced that by \$4,000 to accommodate the classroom improvements account and also the Portfolio Prep Coordinator account. We received the Champlin Grant and needed some tech support to accommodate the installation of the equipment so when that activity does happen we will have some extra funds to help with the installation. We increased our Teacher Subs account by \$15,000 to accommodate various teachers that are on leave or anticipated leave. Last year at this time we had already expended about \$17,000 in subs so this is just one of those unexpected accounts we like to have coverage for. I also increased Benefits and Payroll by \$150 to account for the Portfolio Coordinator line item. Page 2, I reduced the Virtual Learning account by \$5,000 and that transferred money into the Teachers' Sub account. We were fortunate enough to have some grants to cover the licensing of the Virtual Learning Lab so there was some savings there. Legal account, we increased it by \$5,000 for the anticipated expenses for this upcoming year. Snow removal, we were fortunate in having no expenses to date. That \$4,000 will be transferred into the Legal account. Page 3, Classroom Supplies account – increased there to account for any minor purchases. On Equipment Maintenance, I was able to reduce that line item by \$10,000 again in order to cover the other half of our Teachers' Sub account. Website upgrades – there were no upgrades accounted for this year so the \$1,000 was able to be transferred into the Legal account. Classroom School Improvement – that account was increased by \$2,500 for anticipated

repairs. Asset Inventory Protection – able to have a cost savings there of \$500 and that money was transferred towards Benefits, Fees and Supplies.

Chairman Traficante stated – by Charter, the City of Cranston has to adjust their budget every fourth quarter. We are basically following the same procedure.

Mr. Sabitoni asked – Virtual Learning, no negative impact at all? Mrs. Corcelli stated – no not at all. Between the Rhode Island Foundation Grant last year and the Champlin Grant this year we didn't have to dip into this budget.

Teacher Substitute Account – Mr. Curran will be asking Mrs. Corcelli to look at the historical trend over the last few years so that when we start out the upcoming school year we will have an amount in that account that will be reasonable.

A motion to approve the revised budget was made by Mr. Sabitoni, seconded by Dr. Leone. All were in favor.

Committee Reports/Reports/Updates

A. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Curran stated – I am going to be sharing some dates with you in this report, some things that you probably will want to know that are upcoming in the fourth quarter here. The first one is the Senior

Portfolio Presentations. As you know seniors in Cranston make a presentation as part of their graduation requirements and this year it is going to be done in this manner; on April 30 our school day will end at approximately 10:30 a.m. Underclassmen will go home at that time; the seniors will stay here for the balance of the day. We will give them a lunch in the cafeteria, the teachers will have their lunch and then at 11:15 we will begin with the presentations. What is different from previous years' is all of our staff will be involved in judging the senior portfolio presentations. In the past we have had a small group of people doing it including some people from the community and it would take several days to go through all of the presentations so basically in Cranston this year they will all be done in one day here and East and West will also do it in the same format. We have a training schedule set up for the Monday after vacation for all of our teachers to understand the rubric and then the following Monday will be the presentation day. We have groups of three or four people doing the judging and that will allow us to get all the seniors through in a timely manner. We will be done by 3 p.m. on that Monday. I mentioned that to you if you would like to stop by and observe you are certainly welcome to stop in to any of the groups. Jay we are going to ask you to participate again and Chairman Traficante as well.

Another date I share with you today is the graduation date which is June 15, it's a Friday, 6 p.m. at Hope Highlands Elementary School. We will get more information out to you once we get closer to that

date. And Awards Night as well; the date is to be determined.

Update on the Lease

Mr. Curran stated – we are still in negotiations with the owner of the building. Mr. Traficante, Mrs. Corcelli and I met with Attorney Cascione, the attorney for Cranston Public Schools, last week and looked at some of the language in the contract. We are looking for a more favorable lease that will serve our needs going forward and of course on her side she will be looking to continue the language in the lease as it presently stands because it certainly is more on her side of the needle than it is on our side. But those negotiations are going on at this time and are hoping by sometime in May to have reached an agreement on what that lease will look like going forward and we will share that lease with you as soon as we have that.

Teacher Evaluations

Just to keep you in the loop on that; as you know there is a new structure in place this year and many of us have been trained and have been working through the new system. It has its' challenges. I am sure Mr. Santangelo would agree (we are both on the Steering Committee). Every time we get together as a group we hear about the challenges around the district, both on the teachers' side and on the administrators' side. What I would share with you today is that there will be some revisions to the format and we have a meeting this afternoon and will see what those revisions will look like. Basically we are all looking to modify the evaluation instrument so it is more

palatable on both sides of the equation. The system we have right now is rather daunting, it's very cumbersome and extremely time consuming and we think we can be as effective with a less time consuming vehicle. Interestingly the State is doing the same thing. Most of the State is using a different model as you know and RIDE is also looking at making those very same modifications to their system so I think we are on the right path with this and I do believe we will come back next year with a still effective but probably more palatable system for us to operate in and I will keep you posted on that when it changes.

NECAP

We are continuing as a staff to look at our data and look at ways to improve our student performance on the NECAP. Just yesterday I had a meeting with the Math Department and the Math Supervisor for the district Jeff Goldthwait and we've got strategies for the fourth quarter to work in our math classes to get our current sophomores who will be taking the test next as ramped up as we can. We came up with some good strategies to implore going forward and we are also looking to maybe make some modifications to our schedule for next year that will increase student knowledge. One of the things we are looking at is having a double block of Algebra I in the 9th grade. We believe that extra time in front of the teacher in Algebra I will pay some dividends for the students, not only as freshmen but as they go forward into their sophomore and junior year. As you know it is in the

interest of RIDE and the Commissioner in particular to have schools be high performing and to have them meet certain benchmarks in NECAP and we can't ignore that and must continue to strive to get our students to perform better on the NECAP. That is an ever present discussion we have here at the school. The Science NECAP is coming up and will be delivered in the middle of May to our students, again juniors take that. There are three days in the middle of May at which time the juniors will be going through the science NECAP. We don't get those results until September, they will be in their senior year at that point in time and you may recall from the fall when I shared the science results with you from last year that they did improve from the previous year so it's a positive thing to be able to say our science NECAP went up, our math, reading and writing NECAP went out this year as well. We definitely are going in the right direction and sometimes its baby steps but so long as we can show progress as a school I think we can keep the wolves at the gate.

Charter Renewal

As you know we are being rechartered for three years and the Board of Regents will have their Work Session next week at which time they will be looking at the three schools that are up for charter renewal. Then on May 3rd, the Board of Regents will hold their public hearing at which time we can actually speak with them about the charter renewal process. This is the official time of rechartering. Our three year charter will expire in 2015 at the end of the school year.

Events Coming Up

Charter School Showcase is at the State House on May 2nd at 3:30 p.m. We will be there along with all the other charter schools. It is simply a time for the charter schools in Rhode Island...for the Legislatures to become aware of what the Charter School Movement is all about and to represent each of our schools in the state. There will be a small speaking program and we will have a student there representing for us at the speaking portion of the program.

ESAC Conference

Mr. Traficante, Mr. Sabitoni, Mr. Nero and I will be attending this conference (Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference) on May 6 and 7 in Portsmouth New Hampshire. We have a presentation to make on the Monday to represent the Laborer's Construction Craft Technology program at the charter school.

Construction Career Day

This will be held on April 25 and 26 at the RIDOT facility in Coventry/East Greenwich. At that time we will be bringing about 50 of our students to that program and many of them will be demonstrating some of the construction skills that they have learned here at the school with some of the tools and some of the equipment that they work with here. This is an opportunity to promote the construction industry as a career opportunity for the students in Rhode Island and all public high schools are invited to bring students to that event.

Cindy Grady

Mr. Curran stated – as part of my report I want to introduce Cindy Grady who we did bring on to help us with student management issues, attendance, discipline, tardiness and many other things that come under her umbrella. Cindy is a long-time teacher in Cranston in the PE Department but of late has also been working in administrative positions around the district helping us out where we have a need. We are glad to have her here. Ms. Grady stated – I am glad to be here and I just want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity. I know you had to approve my being here and I am thoroughly enjoying it. I have been here a little over a month now and I think my tenure has been somewhat smooth and I am very grateful for this opportunity.

B. Financial Advisor's Report – (See handout #2)

Mrs. Corcelli stated – we have been very successful in receiving state aid, out of district funds and the city appropriation. AEP has had a very good year. Expenditures – we are in the range of where we should be; nothing out of the ordinary. Right now with Teacher Subs we are at 48% and because of the increase we are going to keep a watchful eye on that. Purchase Services – not as many repairs this year like last year.

Discussion ensued regarding possible field trips.

World of Work Program – Grades 11-12 have 80% employment and that represents having one job or two jobs or a promotion which is very good considering the economy. For grades 9 and 10 the total is

30% employment and remember they are 14, 15, 16 years of age. AEP has 49% employment. Between Petrina and Marilyn, they really have a good reputation out in the community.

C. Assistant to the Executive Director's Report

Mr. Pecorelli stated – recruiting is going well. I am very pleased with the progression and direction of recruitment. We have a good caliber of kids coming in the fall. We started on March 6 where well over 100 people attended our Open House. I received 12 applicants immediately from that open house and those applicants have become our students. Of the 12, 9 of them were college prep at their respective high schools. I visited all three middle schools multiple times, talked to all eighth graders and kept having focus groups. This Thursday we are having students from two middle schools tour this school and the following Wednesday after vacation the third middle school will take a tour. It looks pretty encouraging that we are going to meet our cap (students upstairs). We are heading for 45 freshmen and I don't see any problem reaching that number. Last year we had approximately 19 at this time. I think we will have a waiting list come summertime. Discussion ensued regarding the number of students needed.

AEP Director's Report – (See handout #3)

Mrs. Dzekevich was away at a conference; Mr. Traficante read from her report. Ms. Corcelli stated – they did a poll of the juniors and seniors and many of them did not know about the VTA classes and

what they encompassed. We asked them would they be interested in getting a CNA certificate or a Medical Office Skills certificate. We did enlist a few students to take the classes and hopefully those students will graduate not only with a diploma but with a certificate as well making themselves more marketable in the job industry.

A motion to approve these reports was made by Mr. Sabitoni; seconded by Mr. Santangelo. All were in favor.

Old Business/New Business

Mr. Curran asked what the status of the van/bus is. Mr. Traficante stated – Joel Zisseron has been researching constantly to see what is out there to purchase and he reported back to me that at this point in time he hasn't found anything decent to purchase.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Leone; seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Traficante

Chairperson