

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

January 17, 2012

12 Noon Executive Session

Public Session Immediately Following

NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy

Conference Room – 4 Sharpe Drive

Cranston, RI 02920

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy was called to order at 12:10 p.m. and convened to 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.

The following members were present: Chairman Traficante, Mr. Thompson (in place of Ms. Larkin), Mrs. McFarland, Mr. Rampone, Dr. Leone, Mr. Nero and Mr. Sabitoni.

Chairman Traficante reconvened public session at 12:20 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 Mrs.

McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sabitoni; all were in favor.

Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) Approved – November 16, 2011. A motion was made by Dr. Leone to approve the minutes of the November 16th, 2011 meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. All were in favor.

Public Acknowledgements/Communications

1. Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Items)

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

There were no speakers.

Communications:

Chairman Traficante stated – as you probably know or don't know we made a donation to the Hope Highlands Elementary School of \$200.00 for repair and renovation of the stage. We hold our graduation there. A letter was sent to Mr. Cowart, Principal of Hope Highlands and the PTO President of Hope Highlands.

We also received a \$1,000 donation from Mr. Sabitoni for the general fund of the Charter School; a letter of gratitude was sent to Mr. Sabitoni.

Schedule of Meetings – Chairman Traficante stated our attendance is very important at all meetings. A new schedule was distributed to the staff members. (See handout #1). (The third Tuesday of the month will

be the designated date unless there is a conflict with the Cranston Public Schools' School Calendar).

The New England Laborers' UPDATE magazine – page 12 (See handout #2). Mr. Curran, Executive Director of the Charter School is featured in this article.

Mr. Jay Sabitoni asked – if Mr. Traficante had received communication in regards to the ESAC Conference. Mr. Traficante stated he did receive a post card saving the date.

2. Personnel

a. Discussion of Administrator A's performance and contract.

Mr. Traficante stated – the administrator we are discussing is our current director, Mr. Dennis Curran. Mr. Votto asked Mr. Curran if he had any questions. Mr. Curran stated, no, I met with Mr. Traficante and spoke with Mr. Nero previously about the contract and I think I have talked with you as well Ray so I think any questions I had have been answered. Mr. Traficante stated this will be on the next agenda.

Mr. Nero stated – when Dennis was hired there was the issue of the charter itself and as I said to Dennis, barring any issues that we have with the charter or poor performance that more than likely the Chair would be looking to recommend his contract. We are all set with our charter for the next three years. I have spoken with the Chair and the issue is to have this issue on the next agenda with a three year

contract.

Mr. Curran stated – thank you for extending to me a three year contract. Of course I didn't have much doubt that we were going to get re-chartered. The question was going to be for how many years but it's good to have that behind us and to have a three contract for me and I am very pleased so thank you.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 1-1-12- Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director the resignation of the following Board Member be accepted:

Julia DeSimone

Chairman Traficante made a friendly amendment to this resolution that the Director send a letter to Julia thanking her for her service to the Board and to the Charter School.

Moved by Mr. Rampone; seconded by Mr. Sabitoni; all were in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 1-2-12 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director the appointment of the following Board Member be approved:

Jamie Bedford

Moved by Mrs. McFarland; discussion.

Mr. Curran stated- when we were looking for the replacement I looked first at our freshmen class wanting to get some tenure out of this position. I had discussions with staff members that they had been in communication with and we jointly agreed on Jamie Bedford as the best candidate for us. She is a freshman parent. Her son is a very good student here, has good attendance, good grades, good comments from the teachers. When I called Ms. Bedford and expressed the desire to fill this open position she jumped at the chance and stated she is very happy with the school and her son is as well and she would like to contribute in some other way in its' existence and so I bring forward to you the name of Jamie Bedford.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Sabitoni; all were in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 1-3-12 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director the following certified personnel be appointed for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year:

Pamela Palumbo, Step 2, Plus Masters

Education: Roger Williams University, BS, PC, MBS

Experience: Cranston Substitute

Certification: Secondary Math

Assignment: NEL/CPS, .4 FTE

Effective Date: January 3, 2012

Fiscal Note: 40235129 51110

Moved by Mr. Sabitoni; seconded by Mr. Rampone. All were in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 1-4-12 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director the following non- certified personnel be appointed for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year:

Anthony DelSignore, Part-time Math Instructor

Assignment: AEP

Effective Date: January 17, 2012

Fiscal Note: 40235127 51110

Moved by Dr. Leone; seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. All were in favor.

3. Committee Reports/Reports/Updates

A. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Curran stated – A few items I will share with you. As you know we have been talking about the charter renewal and I have been trying to get some definition from RIDE as to when the Board of Regents will actually be officially renewing our charter and I have not gotten that reply yet. When we had originally met with them in early fall it was supposed to be in February that we would be on their agenda but they have been pretty busy as you know, and I don't know if we have been pushed back or not. I will inform you of that date once I learn of it.

Champlin Grant – Mr. Curran stated – we had received the Champlin

Grant for \$78,000 and we have spent probably the better part of the last month looking at various proposals, looking at the technology, trying to make the best decision that we can on what technology to bring into this school with this grant and we have determined as recently as this morning that we're going to go with Epson projectors in every classroom and that will allow us the technology that we have been talking about – interactive learning into the classroom. The Champlin Grant will pay for the projectors, the software that will be used by the teachers, the training that will come along with it and some additional technology in the form of some new computers to run the projectors and very importantly a new piece of this will be that our video technology will finally be working here in the school because of this grant. You will probably remember this past year this school purchased some video technology to send a video signal out to all the classrooms. However, we never got that up and going for a variety of reasons. This will allow us to do that and we will be doing morning announcements to each classroom through the Epson technology as well as some video programs we will be creating and sending out to the classrooms as well. You will see it here too for future board meetings.

Survey Works – Mr. Curran stated – we have Survey Works that is going out to our parents. Survey Works is the new form which was previously the SALT report. That is an annual report that is done in each school. Now it is online and parents can access it by a website and it takes about ten minutes which can be done at home. We are

also offering them a chance to come here to do it if they don't have a computer at home. On January 24 we have an open house for them. It will start at 1:30 and go until 5:30. Last year we only had three parents do it so we are trying a variety of methods to increase usage of that survey. What that survey gives us is good information of what our parents think of our school, it's not just for parents, teachers here will take the survey, students as well. All that information is compiled by the company that runs Survey Works and once I get that report I will share it with this board.

NECAP Results – Mr. Curran stated – we expect our NECAP results on February 1, 2012 and will share those results with the board at the February meeting in a raw form; in March more detailed.

Operating Budget 2011-2012 (See handout #4)

Mrs. Corcelli went over the budget with the board members. The school checking account had an opening balance of \$2,474.64. We received a Laborers' donation of \$20,000. We have spent \$1,200 on miscellaneous furniture with a company called Access Group where we purchased tables for the computer labs, a high quality commercial grade table. We bought a podium that we needed for activities. We bought various chairs for certain rooms and a large double rack to hang our folding chairs. We spent \$378.00 for math book supplies. Our ending balance as of the 17th is \$20,896.69.

Mrs. Corcelli further stated – the districts are now required to provide

transportation to residents who attend charter schools, however, the districts can now bill the charter schools for those transportation services and it will be done in increments of 20% down the line. That really does not affect us now, that is a district expense, but they will be billing charter schools for transportation. Mr. Traficante stated – that will be an item for discussion. Since we are part of the Cranston public school system I don't believe they should be charging because we are not our own LEA.

Yearbook (See handout #5) – if any board member wants to place an ad in the yearbook they should contact Jennifer DeGregorio.

AEP Report (See handout #6)

Mrs. Dzekevich read from her report.

Recruitment

Mr. Pecorelli stated – we have 241 students; our cap is 245. On January 5, I went to the Western Hills PTO meeting where there was a lot of interest in our school. Last week, January 11th, I went to Park View PTO meeting and met with the same there. I will be visiting the high schools, not only in Cranston but outside of the district, meeting with guidance counselors to enhance enrollment in September. We decided on March 6 to be our first open house. The middle schools will be placing that notice on their report cards.

Mrs. McFarland suggested tapping into social media; Facebook page; for a recruitment tool. Discussion ensued regarding various methods

of recruitment.

Financial Literacy – (See handout #7)

Mr. Scaffardi stated – this article was on the front page of the Providence Business News.

Our program was also discussed on Channel 10.

Mr. Scaffardi discussed the following:

- March 13, 2012 – Annual Charter League Conference (See handout #8).

- New England Laborers’/Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy – Classroom Based Management and Strategies (See handout #9).

- NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy – School Improvement Plan (See handout #10).

- NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy – Making Choices (See handout #11).

Field Trip

Mr. Curran stated – the field trip will be based on problem based learning. We are looking into something less costly for the students and not an overnight trip, i.e., trip to Ellis Island, Brooklyn Bridge, Statue of Liberty, and/or the new museum in New York called The Tenement.

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

4. Old Business/New Business/Discussion

Mr. Rampone stated – I was recently named to a national committee called TED (Training Education Development) and their main crux in life is how to get young people geared toward the construction trades, the industry in general so I will be bringing back whatever I learn. My first meeting is in March.

5. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rampone, seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

**Michael A. Traficante
Chairperson**