

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

January 22, 2013

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 and called to order at 12:02 p.m. with the following members present: Chairman Traficante, Mr. Santangelo, Mrs. McFarland, Mr. Cardi, Ms. Oberlander, Mr. Sabitoni, Dr. Leone, and Mr. Rampone. Dr. Lundsten was absent.

The members convened into executive session pursuant to R.I. State Laws PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel: PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation; Settlement with part-time administrator A.

This meeting was called to order; the roll was called. It was noted there was a quorum present. No votes were taken in executive session. A motion to seal the minutes of executive session was made by Mr. Rampone, seconded by Mr. Santangelo; all were in favor.

Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) Approved – November 20, 2012

Moved by Mr. Cardi, seconded by Mr. Rampone; all were in favor.

Public Acknowledgements/Communications – none.

Chairperson's Communications

Chairperson Traficante stated- there was legislation submitted. Not all superintendents support the idea of charter schools acquiring their finances and taking students away from the public schools. Thus legislators submitted legislation which reads; this act would ensure that students and the funds appropriated by the state and the local for local student cost(s) will go to charter public schools and to the Met Center only when said school(s) are performing at a higher level than the traditional school in the students' district of residence.

Chairperson Traficante continued - Senator Ruggiero has been notified. He is the senate majority leader and will be looking into it as well as Mr. Nardelli from the League of Charter Schools. Hopefully we will be able to keep this legislation on the table.

Mr. Curran stated - this legislation came out of South County and the representatives on the legislation are from South County. Representative Kennedy told me that this on behalf of the administration in Chariho. It is coming basically from Superintendent Ricci from Chariho. There are two charter schools in that immediate area and for years they have distained sending money to those

charter schools. It has to go through committee obviously and then get through both houses as well so we will be monitoring this and will keep you posted.

Job Placement Report (See handout #1)

Chairperson Traficante stated – I apologize for not getting this report to you sooner. As you know the charter school has we have a World to Work Program and the two instructors that work in that program do an outstanding job in light of our economy. Part of their work is not only to teach these students work ethic skills but also to place them in positions where they get real-life experiences through job placement. This report is showing you what has happened since 2008, to the present time. Many students are placed in more than one job.

Executive Director's Communications

Mr. Curran stated - late last night I received communication from RIDE, (see handout #2) from Andrea Castaneda, Chief, Division of Accelerating School Performance. In our discussion with RIDE this year, over many issues, as you know, one issue they raised was we were bringing students in from all around the state of Rhode Island and not just from Cranston. That puzzled us because that is the way we have operated since around 2005 so in querying them as to why they were raising that question they determined in our original charter going back ten years' time we did not have a stipulation in the

original charter that we could recruit from the entire state. At that time we were a Cranston school catchment area. Over time, going back to 2005 we began to bring the students in with RIDE's knowledge from other districts. So we have had a good seven year history of us doing this so we weren't really sure why they were raising this issue at this point in time. Dr. Lundsten, Mr. Traficante and I met with David Abbott and Andrea Castaneda in early December to discuss this issue. Attorney Cascione was also there representing us as well. They weren't sure what to do with this because it was not in our charter although it has been an accepted practice for many, many years here. They also knew that without any standing Board of Regents that there could be no amendment to the charter at this time. So they were in a bit of quandary as to how to resolve this issue.

Mr. Traficante stated – we approached Keith Olivera back in 2005. Keith was the coordinator of charter schools throughout the state of Rhode Island as an employee of RIDE. Keith Olivera did investigate it; he reported back to us saying that our charter did permit us to basically recruit from outside of the Cranston district. We went forth with that policy and recruited kids and it is noted in our annual report every single year who we recruited and from what town or city. I had called Keith when this issue came up and he stated he would testify to that fact and there is documentation in his files. He did check it out and did investigate it and gave us permission. We brought that to their attention when we met with them on December 6, 2012 and that convinced them we did not try to recruit kids without their authority.

We also showed them where it was in our minutes.

Mr. Curran continued – we are fine through the end of this charter. When we recharter next year, when we write our charter again we will have to put in wording to that effect so this is clear.

Update on Focus School Status/Diagnostic Screening

Carolyn Ferris stated -

Committees at the school – what are their functions?

Carolyn Ferris stated – (see handout #3) – as we talked before we had started five committees that are going to support our drive with what we are trying to accomplish here with the turnaround. These five committees are still up and running. What I did start with on this issue of the committee update is we have established which intervention strategies we picked from the flex model from RIDE. A bigger copy is also included – (see handout 3a). These four interventions will be what drive us as we continue with our reform and these committees and the work that is happening with them will support this. Now looking at the flex model and those four interventions the next step in the game is right now we have submitted our diagnostic screen and the interventions that we chose to RIDE. It is sitting with the commissioner now and we are waiting for her feedback. What happens at that point is that hot off the presses from RIDE is the handbook for schools that are identified under the accountability, 124 pages. This is going to guide what our form plan looks like. So we need to get her feedback on whether or

not this is all accepted and then at that point we will move forward with the reform plan that comes straight out of this.

Insofar as the committees stand, our biggest push this month was our advisory is up and running. It started right after the New Year. It is going smoothly at this point, students have advisory each day with an extended time period on Wednesday and several topics are being focused on. The advisory curriculum is supporting what we are trying to accomplish with our flex model interventions.

We also have Behavior Management and Response to Intervention which are the two other committees that are up and running and right now we're in the process of merging the two and focusing on what interventions and what subject topics need to be focused on. They decided our attendance issues are a major concern right now so that is going to be what the guiding topic will be for the two of those merged together. We are working with the district – there isn't an overall RTI movement for the district that they are trying to create a system plan and the feedback from this point is we're not moving forward with RTI as far as individual students but more from a holistic approach. Attacking attendance makes a lot of sense. It's definitely a concern and need for us and we can attack that from several different ways insofar as groups of students are concerned.

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Culture and Climate is continuing and we are trying to broaden

communications. We have several newsletters out now including a weekly one from the director to keep everybody abreast of what is happening at this point. The SIT is going to be supporting the flex model interventions that we picked and all of the groups are going to stay within an awareness of what we need in our reform plan. Discussion ensued regarding transportation issues; regions; busing within that region and the provision of transportation because we are a catchment area. It was suggested that the letter sent by Andrea Castaneda be brought to the transportation area of RIDE and explain why this school should be given transportation throughout the state.

Mrs. McFarland asked – the students that are absent, do they drop out?

Mr. Curran stated – if they withdraw from here they transfer back to their district.

Mrs. McFarland stated- so you are not counting them as part of your numbers. The absenteeism- are the students that are currently enrolled, have not dropped out so that means there is no commitment by their family, there is no commitment by the state, then someone needs to be talking to their state representative and to RIDE with this letter because there is an entitlement issue for a student to be educated isn't there and they are not being educated because they are not being provided with the resources to get to school.

Mr. Pecorelli stated – for the past ten years Scituate has voluntarily bused their students to us until this year when RIDE set up the

regions and Scituate was not in our region. Mrs. McFarland stated – the Department of Ed can't have it both ways, they can't submit to you a letter stating you are a state-wide catchment area and then tell you they are only going to provide transportation to region 2. That makes no sense.

Mr. Traficante stated- there is another issue that was brought up by Mrs. Corcelli and that is the cost of the transportation. We are going to start bearing the cost of the transportation by state law.

Mr. Curran continued – we also initiated last week – CNN – our Charter Network News – so using the projectors in the classrooms and the TV's where we have them; each morning during the advisory period we broadcast a morning news show. It takes about two to three minutes each with local news, what's happening at the school, upcoming events, notices for the kids, and maybe some sport scores.

Recruitment – Mr. Pecorelli stated – currently we have 168 students in the four grades. Next Tuesday I will be going to the Times2 Academy to recruit. I will recruit at Bain on the 29th and am waiting to hear back from Park View and Western Hills for a date.

On March 1 we will have our first lottery which every charter school has to have according to RIDE. We will call RIDE and a representative from RIDE will be present at the time of lottery.

Open House – Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 6 p.m., for all new students.

New brochures about the school are being printed.

Social media Facebook for the school – we will be working on that.

Monthly update on the budget. (see handout #4)

Mrs. Corcelli reviewed the December 31, 2012 budget with the board.

Transportation – Mrs. Corcelli explained – the state, two years ago required that the charter schools would absorb busing transportation over the course of five years. The first year is 20%, 40-60-80-100, so next year we will be in year three and absorbing 60% of busing transportation. The billing comes in very late, is not dependable and not quarterly. A lot of the districts are getting used to the outsourcing busing invoices so many times I got the invoices late last year, say April, May and June. They typically come from Providence, Johnston, Pawtucket, most of our districts and it's a very tedious task because we actually go by the number of students and even though a student may take a bus one way, they may not take a bus home and we're still paying for the bus. They make take it in inclement weather, yet we're still paying for the bus. I have to average about 60%. Last year it was about a good \$8,000 that we paid so I am just projecting it for now to anticipate next year. Scituate will allow a student to attend our school but Scituate does not have to pay for transportation. Mr. Traficante stated – if we are going to pay 100% of the transportation costs in two more years from now...it would behoove them to send the students then because we will be paying for the transportation. Mrs. Corcelli stated – they know that full well. Mr. Curran stated – except that they also have to pay for the tuition for the student to come here. Discussion ensued. Mr. Curran stated – now we can go back to the

Transportation at RIDE and present the letter from Andrea Castaneda and say, now can you offer state-wide busing since you are approving us to do this.

AEP Report - Ms. Dzekevich read from her report. (See handout #5)

Ms. Dzekevich stated – she is in need of a custodian for the summer programs (night). Mr. Traficante stated he would look into this. She also stated she needs file cabinets.

Mrs. McFarland asked – regarding the programs for vocational training. Do we have any stats on how many people are becoming employed in any particular area?

Ms. Dzekevich stated – Susan tries to do the follow-up, by state regulation, she only has to call half the number of students to find out. Most of the CNA's will get jobs, I know James runs all the labs for Fatima and St. Joseph's and he has employed some of the phlebotomy students there but other than that we really don't know about jobs.

Mrs. McFarland asked – is that only because the Department of Labor requires that you contact half of them for your measurable outcome?

Ms. Dzekevich stated – it is the Department of Ed that requires that.

Mrs. McFarland asked – is there any ability for us to start tracking whether or not these programs are viable or whether or not do we think of something more innovative? These are low skill/low paying jobs and I am wondering how many people are successful?

Ms. Dzekevich stated – the medical field is huge. Some are actually at CCRI in the RN program but they want to become a CNA so they can

be working at the same time as they are in school. We have some who are medical assistants who come back to get the phlebotomy training because they would be more marketable. It is impossible to keep track with only one secretary.

The seniors who were taking the CNA class just completed and now they will be going out doing their clinicals.

Public Hearing

Students (agenda/non-agenda matters) – none.

Members of the Public (agenda matters only) – none.

Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda – none.

Action Calendar/Action Agenda

RESOLUTIONS

PERSONNEL

No. 01-01-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the settlement agreement with part-time administrator A be approved.

Moved by Mrs. McFarland; seconded by Mr. Santangelo. All were in favor.

No. 01-02-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the following certified personnel be appointed for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year:

James Jones, Step 9, Plus Masters

Education: SUNY, BA, Piedmont College, MAT

Experience: Central Falls School Department

Certification: Secondary English

Assignment: NEL/CPS Charter .6 FTE

Effective Date: January 2, 2013

Authorization: Replacement

Fiscal Note: 40235122 51110

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

No. 01-03-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the following certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article XIX, Section B.4 of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance.

Heather Ledoux, Teacher

NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy

Effective Date: February 2013 to August 2013

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

No. 01-04-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the resignation(s) of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Kristen Maynard, Teacher

NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy

Effective Date: November 30, 2012

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

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Public Hearings on Non-Agenda Items – none.

Announcement of Future Meetings – February 26, 2013.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Traficante, Chairperson