

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

February 25, 2014

12:00 P.M. Executive Session

Public Session Immediately Following

4 Sharpe Drive

MINUTES

This meeting of the New England Laborers' and Cranston Public Schools Construction and Career Academy was held on the above date in the conference room and called to order at 12:10 p.m. with the following members present: Chairman Traficante, Dr. Lundsten, Mrs. McFarland, Mr. Cardi, Mr. Santangelo, and Mr. Sabitoni. Absent were Dr. Leone, Mr. Rampone and Mr. Curran.

Mr. Sabitoni made a motion to convene to Executive Session; this was seconded by Dr. Lundsten; all were in favor. Executive Session was conducted pursuant to R.I. State Law(s):

A. R.I. State Laws PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel

B. PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation

At 12:13 p.m. this meeting was called to order; the roll was called. It was noted there was a quorum present.

A motion to seal the minutes of executive session was made by Dr. Lundsten; seconded by Mr. Santangelo; the roll was called; all were in favor.

Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) Approved – January 14, February 4, 2014

A motion to approve these minutes was made by Mr. Sabitoni; seconded by Mrs. McFarland. All were in favor.

Public Acknowledgements/Communications – none.

Chairperson's Communications – Chairman Traficante stated – I have one communication. It relates to a discussion on the floor of the school committee meeting. We asked our attorney, Ron Cascione, to write a letter to Mr. David Abbott, the Deputy Commissioner for the Rhode Island Department of Education. It is involving special education. You well know we are an LEA, (Local Education Agency). The school department is the LEA and as such they basically supply us with food service, transportation and also special education. In the past any out of district student that came to the charter school we would receive dollars for the additional service. We have been informed by RIDE that we are not identified as a career educational institution therefore we could not collect that additional money for the special education services. We asked Attorney Cascione to write a letter to David Abbott to clarify that and I will now read the letter into the record:

Dear Mr. Abbott:

This letter is to advise you that this office represents the New England Laborers/Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy (NEL/CPS CCA).

I hereby request an advisory opinion with regard to the following issues:

1. Is the NEL/CPS CCA a career technical charter public schools as set forth in R.I.G.L. 16-77.2-5(g), and as such, entitled to the average per pupil special education cost of a sending district for special education students that are enrolled with verifiable individual education program designations?

Thank you for your consideration, and if you need anything further, please contact me. Sincerely, Ronald R. Cascione

(Original letter on file in the superintendent's office)

We have not heard back from Mr. Abbott or Attorney Cascione.

Dr. Lundsten stated – I think it's really important that we pursue this because if not...I think what happens is some sending districts see this as a place where they can send their special ed students and not have to pay the out of district costs so frankly it is a bargain for them and a huge expense for us. We definitely need to educate all kids who come our way but we need to have the funding to support it.

Mr. Traficante continued – the proposed budget the school committee had to basically consider the loss of about a \$120,000 to the Cranston School Department because of the loss of collection monies

regarding the special education services we provide. So we are going to look into it and hopefully get that clarified very quickly.

Site Visit from RIDE

Mr. Traficante stated – I want to thank all of you for being present at the site visit by RIDE. This board could not have prepared any more than we did. Every single board member, faculty and student focus group responded and was well prepared.

Mr. Santangelo stated – Ms. Ferris did an awesome job of actually keeping us focused which was not an easy task. She really helped us prepare and made sure we knew what we needed to know. Discussion ensued regarding the duration of time with the visitation.

Board Members Communications – none

In the absence of Mr. Curran; Mr. Traficante reviewed the following reports with the board:

 

Executive Director's Communications

a. Enrollment

Mr. Pecorelli submitted his report to the board (see handout a. on file in the superintendent's office).

Mr. Pecorelli stated – On January 15th we had an open house here for all prospective new students and parents. There were approximately 29 parents in attendance.

On January 29th I attended the open house at the annual Charter Fair Open House at Times 2 Academy in Providence. All the charter schools were there to present. Many interested people came by and picked up applications. Mr. Sabitoni asked if we could host this fair in the future. Mr. Traficante stated he would bring it to Mr. Curran's attention.

Mr. Pecorelli continued – a few weeks ago I visited a dozen high schools, in Pawtucket, North Providence, Warwick, Johnston and Scituate school districts. I interacted with two dozen guidance counselors and tried to explain what this school is all about. As of today I have received 43 applications for fall enrollment (37 for grade 9, 2 for grade 10, 3 for grade 11 and 1 for grade 12.). On Monday, March 3rd, I will conduct the required charter school lottery to determine which students receive acceptance letters for September admission.

b. Monthly Update on Budget

c. 2014-2015 Proposed Budget

Mrs. Corcelli stated – (see handout b. and b.1 on file in the superintendent's office) this years' budget – so far, state, city and adult ed revenue reflect typical results. Out of district tuition is slightly lower than expected, impacted by enrollment and account receivables. We are having problems with one district but it is being resolved as we speak. Mr. Traficante asked Mrs. Corcelli to explain. Mrs. Corcelli stated – we have not received payments from Quarters

1, 2 or 3 from West Warwick. Mr. Balducci, CFO, has asked Attorney Cascione to look into this matter. West Warwick was questioning the tuition and we are not charging special ed any longer although we had charged in the past they feel that should be taken out of the current billing. However, the books are closed.

Adult ed – I cannot speak for adult ed because Ms. Dzekevich is not here today but adult ed right now stands about \$53,000. Under expenditures, effective July 1, 2013, the beginning of this fiscal year, we are carving out adult ed. According to RIDE the adult ed program can no longer be comingled with the charter schools' expenses or revenues. So possibly by next months' budget there will be some changes. Basically anything adult ed related will be carved out of this budget. Mr. Traficante stated – an enterprise fund will be set up for the adult ed program. All the monies collected in adult ed must be spent in adult ed only.

Mrs. Corcelli continued – salaries are pretty much on board as to where they were last year. I'm watching purchased services, field trips and classroom supplies. In purchased services we have had some district testing, we've had some adult ed expenses and some printing and of course the busing. Busing right now is 60%, and we actually get invoiced from Providence, Johnston, North Providence, and Pawtucket right now so next year I anticipate...I am increasing that by \$10,000 because next year it will be 80% busing for the out of district students. Our utilities are the same. Propane has gone up considerably. We had the tank filled twice just this past month and that heats the outer building. We are at the mercy of the suppliers.

They say there is not a shortage but it's the transportation of the propane that causing inflation. The other accounts are lower than normal. On the second page, classroom supplies I am watching and that \$9,700 for adult ed will be carved out. This budget is as of January 31, 2014.

Mr. Traficante stated – so in spite of all our unexpected expenses, we still can end up with a small surplus at the end of this fiscal year.

Mrs. Corcelli continued – attached to your agenda is the proposed budget for 2014-2015 school year. In looking at the fourth column of the proposed budget; the state aid is based on data as of March 12th, this year. Our enrollment as of March 12th drives the state aid. As of a couple of weeks ago we had 139 students so I was conservative and based it on that amount verses what was recommended from a meeting that I went to because that's really only in two weeks. I also used about 80 Cranston students and about 67 out of district students based on average of what we have had for the past couple of years. Tuition has been accounted for. Adult ed revenue is no longer added but the credit recovery I did add in. The credit recovery is the afternoon program or night program for current East and West students who would like to take a class instead of summer school. There is a tuition charge for that. Mrs. Corcelli discussed with the board her rationale for the possible increases for employees. Mr. Traficante asked the board to keep in mind we are still negotiating with all our collective bargaining groups including teachers so this is just a suggestion on our part. We have no idea what the end result is

going to be.

Mrs. Corcelli continued – purchased services – I increased that by \$10,000 because busing is now 80% and also we have undertaken the computer lease for two years. Those are the laptops devoted just to PARCC testing which will be about \$7,200 per year. Our utilities bumped up pretty much standard with expected increases. Our repairs are going up considerably for maintenance. We own all our copiers so we don't have to worry about copy leases any longer. Everything is going up slightly, fees, special programs, reducing stipends slightly, increases in professional development with some extra PARCC testing and things that might come up down the line. Again, Capital, usually it's our computers, it's our software, trying to reconfigure our computer lab with the wiring and such so it stands at \$2.4 million. This budget is much leaner than last years' budget.

Mr. Traficante stated – this is a moving target. If you notice in the academic areas, for example science, math, social studies, English, you will notice the variances for salaries. What we did in this proposed budget was reduce the faculty by .5 in each of those areas and in social studies, reduced it by 1.0. That is why you will see reduced variances in those areas. Just to be on safe side. We hope our enrollment will be up to where we want it to be with our incoming class; then we can reinstate full math, sciences, English, and social studies. We will be revisiting this budget for several more months until the council decides on the school budget and when the school committee decides on a district budget which can have an impact on our budget. Last year we finalized our budget in June. Collective

bargaining will be ongoing up until the summer months as well. Mrs. Corcelli stated – the state aid will be known by June.

Dr. Lundsten asked – purchased services – it looks like this year it is \$28,000 then it jumps to a proposed \$71,000.

Mrs. Corcelli stated – in purchased services I increased busing by \$10,000; the computer lease is also \$7,000; and then some other incidentals. This year financial literacy testing was about \$4,600 and I thought it would run about \$1,800. That's almost another \$5,000 increase there.

Mr. Traficante stated – you also included the computers for the PARCC which is \$7,400. Mrs. Corcelli continued – the math testing is \$2,000; literacy testing is \$5,000. The math based software that we use, \$16,000. Last year we split it with IGA money.

Mr. Jacobs asked – Instructors AM/PM.

Mrs. Corcelli stated – that category was always for the adult ed instructors as well as the credit recovery instructors. Up until now they were always part of the school budget.

Mr. Jacobs stated – but on the variance side, twenty grand...

Mrs. Corcelli stated – probably we expected to spend \$28,000 on it.

Mr. Jacobs stated – that number should be a negative.

Mrs. Corcelli stated she would make that correction.

d. Focus Plan Quarterly Report – to be discussed at the next meeting.

e. NECAP Results – to be discussed in detail at the next meeting

Mr. Traficante read from an email that he received from Mr. Curran regarding the NECAP Result. He wrote this email to Dr. Lundsten and to the central administration.

Good news! We have the largest one year gain in reading scores for secondary schools in the state of Rhode Island - 63% proficient in reading last year; 78% this year; a gain of 15 percentage points. We had the largest gain in reading scores for all schools statewide over a five year span, since 2009 to 2013, from 47% proficient to 78% - a gain of 31 percentage points. This is great news. Our math scores didn't go but leveled off.

Mr. Traficante stated – we are heading in the right direction. We should be proud of our faculty; they had a lot to do with this.

Dr. Lundsten stated – just to keep it in perspective – math scores across the state stayed flat. I think if you look at the writing scores too, their writing scores improved also. That is a really nice gain and what I think you also need to keep in mind is it's not the reading teachers, its every teacher in this building. Every teacher in this building is a reading teacher when it comes to this so to me this was a collaborative effort of this staff.

Mr. Traficante stated – until we get that letter from RIDE in mid-March we're not going to know exactly where we stand.

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

f. Charter Renewal – to be discussed at the next meeting.

Public Hearing

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

b. Members of the Public (agenda matters only) - none

Action Calendar/Action Agenda

RESOLUTIONS

PERSONNEL

NO. 2-1-14 - RESOLVED, Whereas, the expiration of the teacher's limited employment contract effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year, and

Whereas, there is uncertainty of sufficient Federal, State and local funding for general and categorical programs for the 2014-2015 school year, program reductions, and/or reorganization, consolidation of classes, realignment and/or reorganization of staff, and elimination of positions to meet student needs and/or to more efficiently and effectively use the school system's resources and

Whereas, the teacher was hired for a one-year position to fill the position of a teacher who is on leave of absence, and it is anticipated

that the teacher will be returning from leave and

Whereas, positions occupied by retirees must be posted each year, and

Whereas, because of these concerns, and in accordance with Title 16 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, the Executive Director has recommended that the employment of certain teachers be terminated at the end of the 2013-2014 school year, and

Whereas, the Executive Director has sent prior notice to said teachers informing them of the specific reasons for their termination, and

Be it RESOLVED that said teachers be terminated at the close of the school year under provisions of Title 16 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, and

Be it further RESOLVED that the Executive Director notify those teachers of the Board's action to terminate their employment.

A motion to approve this resolution was made by Mrs. McFarland; seconded by Dr. Lundsten. All were in favor.

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BUSINESS

No. 2-2-14- RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Executive Director that the Board of Directors accept the preliminary proposed budget for the school year beginning July 1, 2014. (See attached).

A motion to table this amended* resolution was made by Mr. Sabitoni; seconded by Mr. Santangelo. All were in favor.

NO. 2-3-14 - RESOLVED, to approve the contract with ePlus Technologies, Inc. to create a wireless classroom solution. The amount of the contract is \$30,381.85. The funds will be provided through a grant from the Rhode Island Department of Education.

A motion to accept that resolution was made by Mr. Santangelo; seconded by Mrs. McFarland. Discussion: Mr. Votto explained this resolution to the board.

All were in favor.

Public Hearings on Non-Agenda Items – no speakers.

Announcement of Future Meetings – to be determined.

Adjournment

Mr. Cardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Santangelo. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Traficante

Chairperson

NEL/CPS CONSTRUCTION & CAREER ACADEMY

PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET 2014 - 2015

ACTUAL ACTUAL CURRENT PROPOSED \$ %

REVENUE

2011-2012 2012-2013 2013-2014 2014-2015 VARIANCE VARIANCE

STATE

AID

1,649,333 1,255,888 1,233,644 1,181,760 -51,884 -4.21%

CRANSTON

CITY

AID

839,536 623,426 613,204 643,200 29,996 4.89%

OD

REGULAR

EDUCATION

485,153 579,210 657,000 578,394 -78,606 -11.96%

OD SPECIAL EDUCATION 79,675 115,114 0 0 0 0.00%

ADULT

ED

REVENUE 156,496 164,399 123,000 0 -123,000 -100.00%

CREDIT RECOVERY 0 0 0 10,000 0 0.00%

REIMBURSED EXPENSES 105,739 138,836 0 0 0 0.00%

TOTAL

REVENUES 3,315,932 2,876,873 2,626,848 2,413,354 -213,494 -8.13

%

ACTUAL	ACTUAL	CURRENT	PROPOSED	\$		
EXPENDITURES						
2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	VARIANCE	VARIANCE	
EXECUTIVE						
DIRECTOR	85,462	101,000	101,000	102,010	1,010	1.00%
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	2,271	75,644	87,411	88,285	874	1.00%
RECR/ASST		TO		EXEC		DIR
40,999	40,000	35,000	0	-35,000	-100.00%	
PROGRAM COORDINATOR	21,952	0	0	0	0	0.00%
FISCAL MANAGER	60,769	60,000	70,000	70,700	700	1.00%
JOB						PLACEMENT
SPECIALIST	73,710	73,710	73,900	75,192	1,292	1.75%
SCIENCE	132,379	110,473	117,984	88,084	-29,900	-25.34%
MATH	160,429	183,718	193,359	176,444	-16,915	-8.75%
SOC STUDIES	113,540	130,554	136,789	74,639	-62,150	-45.43%
NURSE'	30,789	0	0	0	0	0.00%
ENGLISH	157,067	138,089	169,020	150,082	-18,938	-11.20%
ART	48,886	41,650	44,358	59,642	15,284	34.46%
PHYSICAL						
EDUCATION	110,894	99,304	73,931	59,642	-14,289	-19.33%
TECHNOLOGY	55,446	75,698	77,998	77,220	-778	-1.00%
REIMBURSED TRANS/GUID	88,396	83,369	0	0	0	0.00%
INSTRUCTORS						

TELEPHONE 7,238 4,279 5,625 4,125 -1,500 -26.67%

PROP & SEWER TAXES

63,068 61,511 57,448 62,625 5,177 9.01%

INS: PROPERTY 4,652 3,600 4,800 4,800 0 0.00%

E & O 5,050 5,050 5,555 6,000 445 8.01%

WORKERS COMP 7,314 7,500 8,000 8,000 0 0.00%

UNEMPLOY COMP 7,924 6,792 2,000 2,000 0 0.00%

LEGAL 6,770 15,054 6,000 11,000 5,000 83.33%

ANNUAL AUDIT 1,000 10,000 7,000 7,000 0 0.00%

SPECIAL ED SERV REIMB 79,675 115,114 0 0 0 0.00%

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE 366 0 1,500 2,500 1,000 66.67%

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE 1,446 657 750 0 -750 -100.00%

SNOW REMOVAL 0 530 1,000 1,000 0 0.00%

FEES & DUES 1,789 1,585 1,900 2,300 400 21.05%

SPECIAL PROGRAMS 19,341 21,721 9,500 9,250 -250 -2.63%

STUDENT ACTIVITY

STIPENDS 14,535 15,400 8,550 5,600 -2,950 -34.50%

PROF DEV 5,300 4,011 6,000 8,000 2,000 33.33%

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES 7,161 3,000 9,300 6,950 -2,350 -25.27%

P.E. SUPPLIES 1,092 0 500 0 -500 -100.00%

ADULT ED SUPPLIES 17,940 16,612 10,028 0 -10,028 -100.00%

CHARTER OFFICE SUPPLIES 6,267 8,478 8,500 8,500 0 0.00%

CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES 782 723 900 900 0 0.00%

CAPITAL OUTLAY 3,867 22,518 18,000 34,000 16,000 88.89%

WEBSITE UPGRADES 0 100 250 0 -250 -100.00%

CLASSROOM

IMPROVEMENTS	19,440	10,560	12,000	12,000	0	0.00%
CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVE	79,928	0	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL						
EXPENDITURES	2,964,762	2,615,538	2,626,848	2,413,354	-172,494	-6.57%
BUDGET VARIANCE	351,170	261,335	0	0	(41,000)	

This budget has been amended. The amendment will be reflected at the April meeting.