

NEW ENGLAND LABORERS'/CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONSTRUCTION and CAREER ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 20, 2015
12:00 P.M. Executive Session
Public Session Immediately Following Executive Session
4 Sharpe Drive, Cranston, RI

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 12:00 noon with the following members present: Chairman Traficante, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Santangelo, Dr. Leone, Mr. Jay Sabitoni and Mr. Wall. Also in attendance was Mrs. Paula McFarland. Absent were Dr. Lundsten and Mr. Rampone.

Executive Session - there was no executive session.

Call to Order – Public Session

Roll Call/Quorum – the roll was called; there was a quorum present.

Minutes of Previous Meeting Approved – November 18, 2014

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

Public Acknowledgements/Communications – none.

Chairperson's Communications – none.

Board Members Communications – none.

Executive Director's Communications

Mr. Curran stated he has a communication from our Yearbook Advisor which he passed around (see handout A attached). This is our annual appeal for yearbook advertisements. Part of our funding of the yearbooks is the ads that various people put in and this is the letter for anyone who may be interested in contributing to that cause. I would note that the board has been generous in that category.

FOCUS/Student Performance

Mr. Curran stated – I want to talk about our work in FOCUS and Student Performance today. As you know this is going to be a reoccurring agenda item and Carolyn (Ferris) is going to be giving us some information about those two topics.

Ms. Ferris stated – we are going to start with the FOCUS. I just wanted to catch you up. Last time we spoke about our accountability of moving from focus to focus rising. At that time we had verbally heard from RIDE regarding this but since our last meeting it is now in written form (see handout B attached) from the commissioner explaining that we are in the focus rising. One thing I do want to point out is it was a little bit difficult to describe

why we had gone from focus to warning to focus and on this sheet from the commissioner it is clearly described here how our AMO is working (that is our accountability system) here with scoring. So when you look all the way over to the left side of the page, the CIS scores, that's what we really want to be looking at. We have seen progressive growth over the last three years so RIDE is redesigning their accountability system now we all await that and keep this as our record and that we continue to grow and improve as they build their new accountability system we will stay on this path.

Mr. Curran stated – on the back of that page you will see the statement from the commissioner in bold that based upon this information we are categorized as Focus, Rising. That is a new category that they have come up within the past year. It is not part of the original school classification system and the future of this classification system is in a limbo state right now because of the NECAP going away. Most of the accountability system was based on NECAP scores. We don't know, yet, and RIDE doesn't know yet what that new accountability formula will be. They are targeting December of this year, 2015, to have that new system in place and we can believe it will be largely based upon PARCC scores and yet we still don't know what that is going to look like. We will be reporting to you on this probably at every meeting as we get more information. Right now we know that the PARCC scores are going to be a baseline year of data and we really are just anxiously waiting to see what that formula is going to look like and that will determine next years' classification for us. Whether we stay in Focus or do we move to Typical or they are probably going to come up with a whole new system of nomenclature I suspect. So the takeaway from this right now is we are still in Focus and we will be at least until December of 2015 if not longer and basically what that means is that we have to continue to give them reports and we are hoping there is going to be some grant money available because we have that classification. For the last two years we have received grants from RIDE for being identified as a Focus school so we will hope that if that is going to continue that will be some money to support that as well. Any questions on that topic? (There were none at this time).

Ms. Ferris stated – RIDE at this point with this system is they have a board together that is creating a new accountability system and we have been meeting with the charter representative who is Rosemary Grant and to make sure the needs of our school are known and being met with whatever design they come up with. We are going to move along this process with them and monitor very carefully what is going into this new system.

Dr. Leone stated – all of our progress is based on NECAP thus far. Obviously we are moving in the right direction and have made pretty progressive progress. Now we bring in another standard, people say it is harder, more difficult, more challenging, so that means our progress could be stalled or could it mean those that have already claimed proficient could lose that?

Ms. Ferris replied – what RIDE is saying at this point is because of the shift in the accountability system there will be no new schools identified as Focus or Warning or Priority but the schools that are currently in Priority and Focus will not be moving out. So it is a little bit of Catch 22.

Dr. Leone stated – it seems to be the group in the middle, including us, and this doesn't seem right to me.

Mr. Curran stated – it is true that it is more difficult to get out of this now even though as you say Dr. Leone, we enjoyed great progress every step of the way, again not knowing what that formula is going to look like but I think based upon past experience we can probably assume it is going to be more challenging.

Mr. Traficante stated – if you recall Dr. Leone, we were supposed to be categorized as Warning, we moved from Focus to Warning, and they changed the agenda again and now it is Focus Rising.

Student Performance

Ms. Ferris stated – moving onto Student Performance (see handout C -1 and C-2 and D attached). We are going to start with STAR reading (C-2) and catch up where we are currently. The handout that has the graphic on it is currently as of today where our school is. On one side is the math (C-1) and on the other side is the reading (C-2). I want to take you through this process so you can see how we are monitoring at this point. We screen for STAR three times a year so once we have two sets of scores we can start to look at student growth- that is what is really important. We are looking at achievement and growth but we really want to see the marker of growth moving forward for our students. We currently and this is slightly tentative, we are pretty excited about this information and I wanted to share it with you today but the window for the second screening is open until January 30th. We currently have 85 % of the students tested in reading and 70% tested in math so this is a pretty good indicator but this could shift a little. We know that the students that we are now looking to test or were absent, we know that attendance does tend to have an impact on achievement so this could change a little bit. Right now when you look at this graphic and I apologize because it is not really clear, the middle section running up and down that is the growth line so what the district has determined is that at the 50% line that's the growth marker like we want to see students growing beyond 50% STP (Student Growth Percentile). Going the horizontal way right in the mid-section that is the achievement line. What we ultimately want to see is that gives us four quadrants. The highest achievement and highest growth is up in the right hand corner so ultimately we would like to see that. We know that when we get our students in here they tend to be along the bottom line and actually most of them tend to be in the lower left hand quadrant. So what we ultimately want to see is first a lot of growth and then see if the achievement also will rise. So right now, at the mid-point, and we kind of like to think of this like a progress report card in the middle of the year because what we are going to do at the end of the year is really see what is happened from fall to spring. This kind of gives us a reading right for us to say - where are things working and what do we need to look at for alternative instruction.

Ms. Ferris continued – on the math side (C-1) we have currently 50% of our students are proficient with 52 SGP's so we are past the 50 point mark. We are in pretty good shape right there; that is a lot of growth from midyear. On the flip side, (C-2) we currently have 30% of our students proficient in reading with 69 SGP's so there is even more growth that we are seeing on the reading side. But both are in a good comfort place right now and we're going to monitor all of these systems to make sure we stay on the trajectory that we are currently on. The way this looks, and I know this is just a handout but when you're looking at this electronically the little circle is actually active that when you click on it - it takes the school to the teachers and then you will see the

teachers and then a teacher can click on it and see their classes and then the classes go down to students so they can delve down pretty easily into how each student is testing, where their strengths are, where maybe they might need some help with growth. Currently, right now, what our teachers are doing is they are taking this information, looking at their classes and then they are looking for patterns to say, what are the students doing in English 11, if you have one class that isn't performing the way your other two classes are, they can delve down and look to see if there is one particular theme or common denominator so that they can then maybe go back and reteach something or change their lessons up a little bit. So it is actually a really good tool and the teachers seem to like it and its immediate data. Once the kids test we have the scores within seconds.

Mr. Traficante questioned – on C2 – 101/121 what does that mean? Ms. Ferris stated – not all of our seniors take math classes but they all take English. Four year requirement for English; three year requirement for math.

Ms. Ferris continued – I will continue to monitor that and report back to the board next month where we will have the hard core data on this once the window is closed but right now we are happy to see that.

Mr. Jacobs asked – do the teachers talk back and forth between each other? Let's say there is one class that did well - were the teachers able to talk and share ideas as to what they may have done better?

Ms. Ferris stated – yes they do. We made the schedule the last two years to be able to benefit the teachers; it's not common planning time that is contractual language after school but they have a common time period during the day where they have time to do that if they want to so English, math and social studies all have the same periods off so if they need to discuss and they tend to do that.

Mr. Curran stated – next week, when we have completed all the students because there is about 15% of the kids who have to test, then Carolyn and I will sit and with the three English teachers, and the three math teachers separately in a meeting and go over all the data with them, look for those patterns that she talked about, get some ideas from them on what they think is happening, how can we work to improve some of that. The other thing we do too is we might have to give a student some additional classroom support so we may put a student, for example, if their reading scores have really declined, we might put them in a reading class for the rest of the year. We might put them in a math workshop for the rest of the year. Give them that additional support they need.

PARCC

Ms. Ferris stated – what I can currently share with you is we do have the calendar of our assessment dates. On that front page (D) you will see the testing window for PARCC runs from March 16th to April 27th and we are testing from March 16th to March 27th.

Being a small school it is fairly easy for us to get through testing fairly quickly. We will be testing in Algebra I, Geometry, English 10 and English 9. The district does make our schedule and that is due to the technology piece of this because they are trying to share a small tech department with every building so we don't have any hiccups in the middle of testing. We were one of the schools that tested out the computer based test last year so I am pretty confident that we saw where the glitches were, we worked them out.

Mr. Traficante asked – what are we doing to encourage these kids to participate in PARCC and not opt out of it?

Mr. Curran stated – we have not come up with a strategy yet and we are looking at what is happening state-wide and there have been some articles of late in the paper and I think on public radio about parents having the right to opt out of taking the PARCC test and right now the State Department of Education is looking for some suggestions, they are looking to make some suggestions to the districts on how to encourage all students to take the PARCC test and not opt out of it because there is still right now a 95% participation requirement for a school so we obviously don't want to fall below that, we have always been up around 98% - 99% so we have to do some strategizing. Carolyn and Cindy Grady our assistant principal, are going to some meetings in the next couple of weeks, state-wide meetings on PARCC and I think we are going to come back with some strategies from that. It actually has not been an issue for our students as of yet. We are looking forward to full participation and I really think the kids will do that, they are pretty connected to their instruction in their classrooms with their teachers.

I am not concerned about non-participation/students opting out, even if there is a movement. There will not be many of our students/parents who will choose to opt out. Participation Rate was one component of the accountability system. In the past, the participation rate requirement for accountability has always been 95%. We don't know how this will fit in to the scheme of things moving forward with the new system.

On top of that eventually PARCC will count towards graduation and they need to be practicing, which leads me to the next two months before we do test we will be practicing with practice questions and the sophisticated toolbar. Our students are very tech savvy but there are still some pieces they need to get under their belt before they sit for the test so we are working on that over the next two months.

Mr. Curran stated – we are going to share some of the PARCC questions with you at the February board meeting just so you can get a feel as how different this test is from NECAP and I think that John (Santangelo) would probably tell you too, that the kinds of questions they are asking, in particular the math area, are quite different from the NECAP test. This is why; I think, nationally states that have used PARCC thus far have seen a drop in student achievement on the PARCC because it's so different from the typical state testing used in the past. We can initially predict that Rhode Island scores, at least initially will be somewhat depressed.

Ms. Ferris stated – I just want to clarify – the testing window for STAR closes on April 17th, not April 27th.

MTSS

Ms. Ferris stated – at our last meeting with had talked about MTSS (Multiple Tier System Support) that we started working with a group out of RIC this past fall. One of our universal initiatives that we began, actually it starts today, is what we are calling “Attendance Games” based off of Hunger Games. We are moving forward with all students who have perfect attendance for the week they will get a ticket and it will be a male/female like the Hunger Games. We will be monitoring and we know from that data from the first quarter that our females had higher absenteeism rates so we will be monitoring that and see if we can kind of ignite a little competition going. Each student that does have perfect attendance for the week will get a ticket on Friday that they can

put into this tube and at the end of the quarter there will be a winner. We had a roll out to the students, we made a little video based on the Hunger Games, and then we actually had them vote for prizes electronically right there using their phones and it actually calculated up on the board. The students were really motivated and took this seriously so they are pretty gung-ho to get going on this. We are hoping that we will start to see an improvement in the attendance that is one thing that we constantly battling here. We will keep you posted on that. This quarter ends on March 31st and we will keep you informed as to how we are progressing with that.

Recharter

Mr. Curran stated – in the recharter world as you know we have three conditions and at the last meeting we handed out this communication from Commissioner Gist which was dated October 7th. It spoke of the Board of Regents approving our five year charter with three conditions. So we are just reporting to you today that the first two conditions we have reported back to RIDE on. I'll just remind you that the first one was -

This renewal is subject to the following conditions being met by or before December 15, 2014:

- 1. NEL-CPS Career and Construction Academy leadership must establish practices for student performance data collection and analysis as set forth in Standard 2.1.b.3.***

Mr. Curran stated – they were looking for what practices were we doing in the school to use student performance data to inform instruction? We sent up to them a report ...Ms. Ferris interjected – originally we were going to email it but it was too big.

Mr. Curran stated – this is condition one (holding up the report), that is 477 pages long. That simple statement I just read resulted in us putting together a 477 page response. (This document is on file in the office of Mr. Curran).

Ms. Ferris stated – in our dialog with RIDE, they will be doing their due diligence and calling us where we will have our second conference call on what needs to be updated, clarified, or added, to this. So we have a call with them on Thursday ...Mr. Curran interjected - to review this condition one and condition two which is right here which is an 80 page response (This document is also on file in the office of Mr. Curran).

Condition two is -

- 2. NEL-CPS Career and Construction Academy leadership must establish practices for fiscal oversight as set forth in Standard 2.1.b.8.***

Mr. Curran continued – both of these responses were signed by our board chair, Mr. Traficante and myself as the director and we sent that to them on December 12th. So they have had it about a month now and the call from RIDE this week is to review these (reports) with us in a telephone conference call.

Mr. Traficante stated – before you go to condition three why don't you briefly explain how you resolved condition two. What we did.

Mr. Curran stated – condition two really was, I think RIDE's concern in that area of fiscal oversight, was they felt that we needed to codify what our relationship was with the

district in terms of our financial supports from Cranston Public Schools and our school. As you know, we do get benefits from being a district school. We met with Joe Balducci, the financial officer for the district, several meetings actually, to come up with a system on paper that which we have been doing actually for years but it more formulized what we were doing with them. In this report we basically have both sides of that; what we do on our side through Carol's (Corcelli) position as the fiscal officer and then what the district does on its side through Joe Balducci's office.

Mrs. Corcelli stated – it is really the step by step protocols of daily duties and interactions and where the ownership lies on what area but ultimately it is the district that handles the final holding of the money so to speak because they receive the funds from the city.

Mr. Curran stated – that is pretty much the summation of what is in this report too. Report three or condition three which is not due until July 1 but we are going to get it done quickly here is that –

This renewal is subject to the following condition being met by or before July 1, 2015:

- 1. NEL-CPS Career and Construction Academy Board of Directors must articulate an agreement for services provided by the Cranston Public Schools as set forth in RIGL 16-77.2-2(8).***

Mr. Curran stated – what they are looking for there is those kinds of programs that Cranston gives to us as a school, for example, our lunch program, our bus service in Cranston, our special ed positions are supported by the Cranston Public Schools, our social worker position, so they want to see that. Although it is in our original paperwork as a school they want to see it again so Traf and I met last week with Attorney Ron Cascione, Carolyn was in the meeting as well, and we went back to the original application for the school, back in 2001 and in our response to condition three we are going to basically send them #9 (see handout E attached) which nicely delineates those services that they are looking for clarification on. This document is from our original Charter, page 20. According to our attorney, Ron Cascione, his recommendation was to take that excerpt and send it back to them in a communication from Mike Traficante as our board chair and that should satisfy that third condition.

Mr. Traficante asked Mrs. Macera (the recorder for this meeting) – could you go back to 2001, there was a resolution passed by the Cranston School Committee basically in support of the NEL/CPS by the Cranston School Committee, Jackie White was the School Committee chairperson at that time. Mrs. Macera affirmed she would get that information to Mr. Traficante.

Mr. Curran continued – in sum when we send up the condition three report which will be done very shortly here, I expect what will happen is we will get some feedback from RIDE as I said we are going to have a conference call this week on these two conditions, and then ultimately and I think it is the February RIDE school committee meeting they have to report back on the four charter schools that were up for renewal to see if those conditions have been met by each of the charter schools and it is my hope and anticipation that when I go to that meeting at RIDE they will report that we have met

those conditions and those conditions will be wiped off the slate and we should be in good stead for the next five years. I will keep you updated on that development.

Staffing Update – none.

Enrollment

Mr. Curran stated – I would answer to you that we have concluded our visits to the three Cranston middle schools for recruiting purposes. I went out with the team of Larry Roberti, our community outreach coordinator, two of our teachers, a construction teacher and our world of work teacher, went to the three middle schools and met with the entire 8th grades in those schools, perhaps 1,000 8th graders over the last two weeks. We gave a nice rundown of our school, its opportunities, we left with the guidance office, applications and we are waiting to collect those initial applications from those three guidance offices which will happen over the next couple of weeks.

Open House

Mr. Curran continued - on January 28th, we have our open house for all prospective students and parents at 6 p.m. and you are certainly welcome to attend. It will be here at the school and at that time we will give an overview of our school for the parents and then we take them on a tour of the building. We show them what this building has to offer, the construction lab is always a big hit for them and our staff is here that night so they get a chance to have some conversations with our teachers as well. That's not just for Cranston students of course; Larry has been busy visiting many other districts in the state and has been getting good responses back from those districts. We are hoping that we will be looking at a March 1 lottery. That is the date where all charter schools in Rhode Island must hold their lottery and so it is our belief that on March 1 we will have a lottery and determine which students can come into our open slots.

League of Charter Schools

Mr. Curran continued – there is also the League of Charter Schools Open House on January 29th in Providence of which we will be attending and basically all the charter schools attend and set up tables for parents throughout the state to come in and talk to us.

Advertising -

Mr. Curran continued - In addition to the above, Carol and Larry are putting together an advertisement that is going to the Beacon Communications which has four districts they deliver to. Because there are many districts that won't let us into the schools for competitive reasons so to reach those parents we have to try to use their local newspapers and that is why we are going to invest the money in that because we think that will pay some dividends in those towns that we cannot get into.

Laborers' Media Department

Mr. Curran continued – The Laborers' Media Department is coming up with good size posters that we are going to actually go into those same towns and on community bulletin boards put up posters about our school because we're not very well known outside of Cranston and that is one way to get our word out. I will keep you posted on enrollment as we go through the next few meetings and we are hoping all of that will pay dividends.

New Initiatives

Mr. Curran continued - in our meetings with the 8th graders by the way, we talked about our new initiatives next year in the construction area. We are adding some new modules to our construction classes. We are adding welding, plastic pipe fusion, hoisting and rigging, and asphalt. Jay has helped us put together this proposal for these new modules and maybe you would like to talk about why those are coming in next year.

Mr. Sabitoni stated – as we try to keep our finger on the pulse of what is going on in the construction industry, those areas are definitely hot topics and we think that the job opportunities for our graduates will be there in the workforce in those areas that is why we targeted those areas specifically.

Mr. Cardi stated- no doubt, especially asphalt. You think that just laying asphalt is very easy but it actually has become very complicated to do it properly. Hoisting and rigging of course, plastic pipe fusing, that is great.

Mr. Santangelo asked – is this supplanting anything or are they going to be able to do that in addition to their current program.

Mr. Sabitoni stated – it will be in addition to their current program but we are going to take it to another level obviously when they go to GENCON up in Pomfret but they will get all the fundamentals skill sets available to do it on a larger scale when they arrive in Pomfret.

Mr. Traficante stated – we did eliminate weatherization. There is very little opportunity in that area. The program and cost analysis was sent to Armand (Sabitoni) after Jay and his staff, and Carolyn did the research.

Mr. Curran stated – we began this discussion with Jay and then Armand about adding these modules to our construction program and of course there is a cost factor involved in anything new that you would do and some of this has been pretty pricey to bring in some new equipment to the construction program and in that discussion with Armand he offered to fund the entire cost of this program including the training that would be involved for our instructors and in addition to that he went on to say that if we needed some new equipment in the school as a whole that he would help support that as well. So through his beneficiary we are changing over all of our classroom furniture this spring, some new teacher desks and all new white boards for our classrooms. John (Santangelo) probably knows better than anyone when the school started a lot of it was on borrowed furniture and we have had it for fourteen years. That furniture has been there and is pretty well beaten up so we are hoping in late February we are going to be able to change over all the furniture in the school thanks in great part to Armand's support. One other thing he has supported is we added a new surveillance system in our building over the holiday vacation. We enhanced our camera system so we now have twenty cameras in and around the building and a much better way to access them.

We used to have to go into a closet and look at them on a small screen. Now we can see it from a mobile device and check anything. Armand supported the financing of that as well. We are very pleased again of his support of this school and we know that these modules, as Mr. Cardi said, are going to put us on the cutting edge for our instruction. Mr. Traficante stated – that cost analysis and the program structure has been sent to Armand and we are just waiting for word from him to move forward. We are very, very happy about that.

Mr. Cardi stated – if you need to do something in rigging or paving let me know I can send one over one for the day and the kids can get on it.

Mr. Sabitoni stated – we thought about that but the landlord is the only obstacle.

Mr. Cardi stated – we won't pave but we can show how it works.

Budget (see attached)

Mrs. Corcelli stated – (see handout F attached and see attached budget at the end of these minutes) – this is as of December 31st, 2014 I have reported enrollment figures, all tuitions are in for quarters one and two, all monies are received and posted. We owe slightly less than what we budgeted for the city students we are at 83%, for out of district students we are at 86% so with our recruitment efforts we like to see that number jump for the next two quarters and regain that area there. The contractual obligations of salaries are pretty much in line to where they should be compared to last year so are benefits as well. Our purchased services, we have seen some savings there due to some reduced testing fees and our transportation needs. Many of our out of district students – even though I budgeted for some of the transportation they have elected to seek their own means of transportation. As of December 31st we have seen some savings there. We also have some savings in the field trips and in our repairs. Our energy auditor had come last year, and we said this at different meetings, we had the energy auditor come here and do an assessment of the building and we have saved at least 30% from last year on our energy, electricity use just by keeping the temperature of the building set and locked, by shutting lights off, by keeping the projectors off, so we are pretty pleased in our due diligence in maintaining this as you would in your own home so (see handout G attached) and what you see if you look at 2011 and look at 2014 and you will see we have a 30% savings just by these small measures. Even with the new kiln that takes up a lot of energy.

National Grid had done an energy audit a few years ago but we needed approval from the landlord and that has not been successful as of yet.

Mr. Curran stated – we are moving in that direction now. We were able to put in new thermostats last year that are programmable and we think we are softening that a little bit and think we will see more opportunities. We are pleased with the year here and this is a good cost savings measure.

Mr. Traficante stated – once we resolve the issue with the lease and come to a resolve with the next five years I think the landlord will give us the opportunity to do even more.

A motion to approve the report of the Executive Director was made by Mr. Sabitoni; seconded by Mr. Santangelo. All were in favor.

Public Hearing

- a. Students (agenda/non-agenda matters) – none.
- b. Members of the Public (agenda matters only) – none.

Action Calendar/Action Agenda

RESOLUTIONS

No. 1-1-15 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Board of Directors, said changes be made to the NEL/CPS Construction and Career Academy By-laws:

Section 2. Number, Method of Selection and Term.

(i) Number and Method of Selection. The Board of Directors shall have ~~nine (9)~~ **ten (10)** members. One (1) director shall be a signatory contractor selected by the New England Laborers, or designee; two (2) directors shall be representatives of the New England Laborers appointed by the New England Laborers; one (1) director shall be the Superintendent of Cranston Public Schools or designee, one (1) director shall be the Chairperson of the Cranston School Committee or designee, one (1) director shall be the President of the Cranston Teachers' Alliance or designee, one (1) director shall represent the RI Association of General Contractors, one (1) director shall represent the community of Cranston, **one (1) director shall be our liaison to higher education,** one (1) director shall be a parent selected by the Executive Director of the School, and with the approval of the remaining Board of Directors. The parent representative shall be selected from the parents of current students, while their student is enrolled in the school. Other than the parent representative the term is in effect until such director's death, resignation or removal in the manner provided hereafter.

Mr. Traficante stated – we basically going to expand our Board. As you know at the present time we have nine members and we are going to expand it to ten and the explanation is before you. Right now we have a director that is represented as a signatory contractor and that is Steve Cardi, Jr. from Cardi Corporation; we also have two directors that represent The New England Laborers', that is Jay Sabitoni as Director of Training as Pomfret, and myself, we also have one director who is the superintendent and/or her representative and Judy generally represents herself, we also have one director from the Cranston School Committee and as I announced earlier that is Dan Wall, we also have a representative from the Cranston Teachers' Alliance, either the president or her representative, John Santangelo who is on the executive board and

also the vice president of CTA. We also have a representative from the Rhode Island Association of General Contractors that is represented by Hart Engineering, David Rampone and we also have a director, of course... Tony Leone was basically representing two positions, he was representing as a Cranston resident and also as the liaison to higher ed. What we are trying to do here is redirect Tony as being the director of higher ed and appointing an additional person to represent the Cranston community as a community person and that is the direction we want to go in. In the immediate future we will be announcing that we would like to see Paula McFarland represent that position. We cannot vote on that today but we can vote on the change in the bylaws and the reason we would like to see Paula come forward is that she has been a community person for many, many years going back to the 1970's when I first met her. She also served on the Cranston City Council for ten years, she served on the Cranston School Committee for six years, she is actively involved with CCAP as one of their directors and we could utilize her talents and expertise on this Board. That is the intent of adding one person. **With that I would like to entertain a motion to approve changing the bylaws. Moved by Dr. Leone; seconded by Mr. Santangelo. All were in favor.**

Public Hearings on Non-Agenda Items – none.

Dr. Judith Lundsten

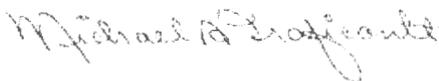
Mr. Curran stated – tonight the School Committee will be accepting the superintendent's retirement and I just wanted to put it into the record that we have appreciated her presence on our Board during the time she has been the superintendent and we wish her well in her retirement and look forward to working with whoever will be taking her position as superintendent but she will finish out in June our meetings for this year and look forward to a new superintendent on this Board by July or August, whenever we meet.

Announcement of Future Meetings – The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 12:30 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sabitoni and seconded by Mr. Wall. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael A. Traficante
Chairperson

NEL/CPS CONSTRUCTION & CAREER ACADEMY
 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET 2014 - 2015

AS OF 12/31/14

REVENUE	APPROVED	2014-2015		2013-2014	% USED
	2014-2015	December YTD	% USED	December YTD	
STATE AID	1,194,388	597,196	50%	615,270	50%
CRANSTON CITY AID	669,395	300,421	45%	334,804	55%
OD REGULAR EDUCATION	690,640	321,918	47%	281,872	43%
OD SPECIAL EDUCATION	0	0	0%	0	0%
ADULT ED REVENUE	0	0	0%	61,375	50%
CREDIT RECOVERY	16,000	1,800	11%	0	0%
CONTRIBUTION RESERVE	0	0	0%	0	0%
REIMBURSED EXPENSES	0	0	0%	0	0%

TOTAL REVENUES	2,570,423	1,221,335	48%	1,293,321	49%
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EXPENDITURES	APPROVED	2014-2015		2013-2014	% USED
	2014-2015	December YTD	% USED	December YTD	
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	104,050	55,472	53%	54,385	54%
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	88,285	47,067	53%	47,067	54%
RECR/ASST TO EXEC DIR	0	0	0%	16,667	48%
FINANCIAL DEV DIRECTOR	70,700	37,692	53%	37,692	54%
JOB PLACEMENT SPECIALIST	74,447	35,100	47%	35,100	47%
SCIENCE	108,522	51,165	47%	41,361	35%
MATH	144,650	71,155	49%	85,778	44%
SOC STUDIES	146,190	62,251	43%	52,611	38%
NURSE & READING	0	0	0%	20,950	0%
ENGLISH	176,300	83,121	47%	78,240	46%
ART	59,642	22,496	38%	25,347	57%
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	64,906	26,798	41%	33,715	46%
TECHNOLOGY	78,543	37,031	47%	36,047	46%
REIMBURSED TRANS/GUID	0	656	0%	51,278	0%
CREDIT RECOVERY TEACHERS	7,200	0	0%	0	0%
INSTRUCTORS AM/PM	0	0	0%	4,995	18%
PORTFOLIO PREP COORDINATOR	8,800	8,167	93%	23,328	107%
VIRTUAL LEARNING	0	0	0%	11,240	0%

FACILITATOR

TEACHER SUBSTITUTES	18,000	3,728	21%	4,400	24%
CHARTER INSTRUCTORS	248,347	99,339	40%	72,345	30%
TRANSFORMATION SERVICES	53,750	19,545	36%	19,545	36%
SECRETARY	37,204	19,835	53%	19,575	53%
CLERICAL SUPPORT	13,300	4,734	36%	6,051	32%
CUSTODIANS	37,671	19,506	52%	25,549	75%
BENEFITS/PAYROLL TAXES	474,119	211,875	45%	224,157	46%
RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS	3,000	0	0%	0	0%
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROG	160	0	0%	0	0%
RENT	218,734	145,823	67%	91,295	42%
PURCHASED SERVICES - UBIO	27,250	10,362	38%	11,731	41%
PURCHASED SERVICES	55,100	5,683	10%	15,917	57%
FIELD TRIPS	3,300	322	10%	2,772	185%
VIRTUAL LEARNING	0	0	0%	0	0%
UTILITIES: ELECTRICITY	33,750	15,960	47%	22,182	72%
HEAT	14,025	2,309	16%	3,891	32%
TELEPHONE	2,125	1,070	50%	1,104	20%
PROP & SEWER TAXES	57,691	57,691	100%	57,566	100%
INS: PROPERTY	4,800		0%	0	0%
E & O	6,000	0	0%	0	0%
WORKERS					
COMPENSATION	8,000	0	0%	0	0%
UNEMPLOY					
COMPENSATION	14,000	8,100	58%	0	0%
LEGAL	8,000	1,617	20%	1,736	29%
ANNUAL AUDIT	10,300	0	0%	0	0%
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	3,320	497	15%	1,017	68%
EQUIPMENT					
MAINTENANCE	1,200	885	74%	1,162	155%
SNOW REMOVAL	2,000	0	0%	0	0%
FEES & DUES (INTERSCHOLASTIC)	2,800	985	35%	1,895	100%
SPECIAL PROGRAMS	9,250	2,462	27%	1,601	17%
STUDENT ACTIVITY					
STIPENDS	5,600	210	4%	215	3%

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	5,500	250	5%	1,256	21%
CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	6,950	6,739	97%	6,900	74%
ADULT ED SUPPLIES & GED Testing	0	0	0%	5,033	50%
CHARTER OFFICE SUPPLIES	8,500	1,671	20%	3,609	42%
CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	1,000	514	51%	671	75%
CAPITAL OUTLAY	34,442	15,263	44%	24,351	135%
WEBSITE UPGRADES	0	0	0%	0	0%
CLASSROOM IMPROVEMENTS	9,000	9,720	108%	13,080	109%
CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVE	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,570,423	1,204,866	47%	1,296,407	49%
BUDGET VARIANCE	<u>0</u>	<u>16,469</u>		<u>(3,086)</u>	

A.

New England Laborers'/ Cranston Public Schools Construction & Career Academy



4 Sharpe Drive, Cranston, Rhode Island 02920 Tel: 401-270-8692 Fax: 401-270-8697

Dear Parents, Business Owners and Elected Officials:

Attached you will find our Business AD/Booster order form for NEL/CPS Construction & Career Academy yearbook. By placing Ads and/ or boosters in our yearbook you will be supporting the education of the students who attend our school, as well as, publicizing your business.

If you know any business owner that would be willing to purchase ad space, refer to the rates on the attached sheet. To purchase a business card size ad, you may use the lines on the bottom of the page and we can create the ad for you or provide your business card. A photograph and/or logo may be added to any half page or full page ad, please submit an electronic copy to jdegregorio@cpsed.net

If you have any questions please call Jennifer DeGregorio at 401-270-8692. If additional forms are needed, feel free to make copies of this form. If you are mailing your Ad/Booster with payment, please send it to Yearbook Ads/Boosters, c/o NEL/CPS Construction & Career Academy, 4 Sharpe Drive, Cranston, RI 02920. All boosters and/or Ads must be returned to our school by February 1st, 2015.

Sincerely,

Jennifer DeGregorio

NEL/CPS Yearbook Advisor

Website: <http://cpsed.net/chartet/>

TDD: (401) 270-8115

The Cranston Public Schools welcomes diversity in its employment opportunities, programs and activities.

NEL/CPS Construction & Career Academy Yearbook Ad Order Form

Showcase your business in the book that never loses its appeal. Students and their families will flip through its pages hundreds of times and cherish it for a lifetime. In addition, proceeds from ad sales are a fundraiser for the yearbook program at our school. Please fill out the below form and return, with payment (checks made payable to NEL/CPS Construction & Career Academy), by February 1st to: NEL/CPS Construction & Career Academy, Attn: Yearbook, 4 Sharpe Drive, Cranston, RI 02920. Digital images may be submitted on cd in jpg or tiff format. Please do not send original hard copy photos. Professional copies are accepted.

Sincerely,
NEL/CPS Construction & Career Academy

Customer Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Ad Size	Ad Color	Price	Quantity	Total
Full Page	Color	\$275.00		
1/2 Page	Color	\$80.00		
1/4 Page	Color	\$65.00		
1/8 Page	Color	\$50.00		

Hard Copy

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Staff Use Only

Ad Sold By:	Date:	Receipt #:	
Photo & Text Received Date:	# of Photos Received:		
Ad Assigned To		Page #:	
Notes			



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 Shepard Building
 255 Westminister Street
 Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Deborah A. Gist
 Commissioner

November 22, 2014

Dr. Judith Lundsten
 Superintendent
 845 Cranston School Department
 Park Avenue
 Cranston, Rhode Island 02910

Mr. Dennis Curran
 Executive Director
 New England Laborers'/
 CPS Construction Career Academy
 4 Sharpe Drive
 Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Dear Superintendent Lundsten and Executive Director Curran:

I would like to update you on the academic progress of New England Laborers'/CPS Construction Career Academy. In 2012 the United States Department of Education granted the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) an Elementary Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver. Under the terms of this waiver, NELs/CPS Career Construction Academy was identified as Focus. To accelerate school performance, the school adopted the "Flex" turnaround model and entered into a process of monitoring and reporting with RIDE.

The table below summarizes the major state reported academic outcomes since the school's identification. Shaded rows indicate results prior to full implementation.

Test Admin.	Overall NECAP Math Proficiency	Overall NECAP Reading Proficiency	AMOs			CIS
			Met/Total	%	2 Year %	
2011-12	6%	54%	5/5	100%	N/A	39.8
2012-13	3%	66%	4/5	80%	90%	46.7
2013-14	10%	75%	3/3	100%	87.5%	48.8

Note on Exit from Transformation. A Priority school which achieves either two consecutive years of a Composite Index Score (CIS)¹ greater than or equal to 50 points or meets 80% of its Annual Measureable Objectives (AMOs)² over the same time span is designated "Rising" to indicate that it is on track to exit the transformation process. A Focus school which achieves a

¹ The Composite Index Score is a measure of school performance integral to the Rhode Island system of accountability, recognition and support. It is composed of multiple measures of performance including proficiency, progress, performance gap closure, distinction, student growth, high school graduation and improvement.

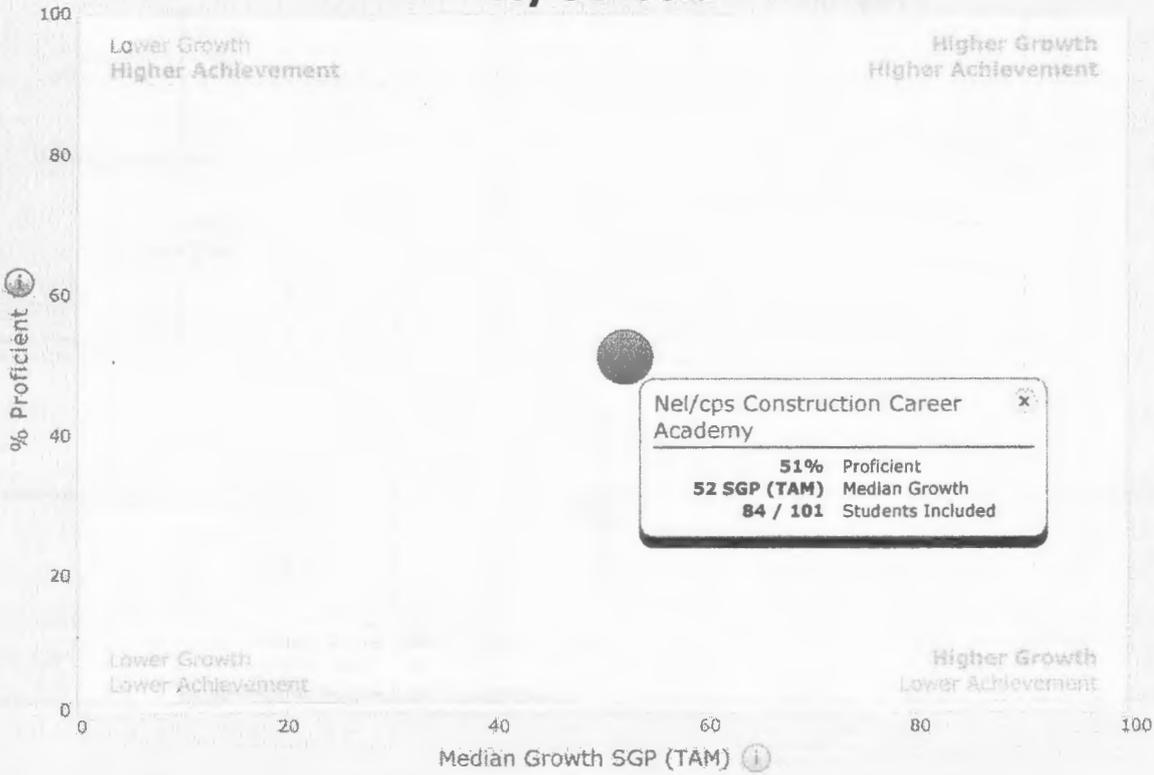
² Annual Measureable Objectives are progressively increasing annual performance targets for reading and math proficiency for all students and student subgroups as well as high school graduation rate, when applicable.



MATH

Growth Proficiency Chart

My Schools



Proficiency
District Benchmark
At/Above 40 PR View

Growth
Fall to Winter SGP (TAM)

Grade
All Grades

Nel/cps Construction Career Academy

51% Proficient
52 SGP (TAM) Median Growth
84 / 101 Students Included



Board of Directors Meeting Report Out

Date of Board of Directors Meeting:	January 20, 2015
Department/Committee Reporting:	Student Performance
Author:	Carolyn Ferris
Approved By (Executive Director):	Dennis Curran

Key Topics for Consideration

STAR Reading and Math Assessments:

There are three screening periods each year, Fall, Winter and Spring for STAR Assessments. We are currently in the midst of the 2nd screening. The window officially closes January 30th. Approximately 87% of the students have completed the second screening at this time. Testing during this screening was monitored closely for testing fidelity.

- Please note- Students who were absent during the testing period are currently being tested and scores will impact the data shown here. Updated Student Growth scores will be shared at the board meeting in February.

STAR Student Growth Percentile Data:

Student Growth Percentile (SGP) is analyzed after two screening periods have been concluded. Students' growth is measured and progress monitored by appropriate staff, administration and the consultant throughout the year. Students are assessed looking at Growth and Achievement.

With 85% of student data reporting for Reading and 70% of student data reporting for Math; preliminary growth scores in January show:

- School-wide Math: 52 SGP
- School-wide Reading: 69 SGP

The district has established a benchmark of 50 Student Growth Percentile (SGP)

(See attachment 1 & 2)

*Data for this screening period is currently being analyzed by teachers and used to inform instruction where gaps are evident. Once all students have been assessed for the winter screening we will analyze data by grade level, class and student.

PARCC:

PARCC testing window is March 16- April 27th. The schedule for testing was established by the district. We will be testing March 16th- March 27th. This gives us a month for make-up if necessary.

PARCC-NEL Calendar

Monday, March 16, 2015 – Friday, April 17, 2015

(Adjusted for Daylight Saving Time)

March 2015							April 2015							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			

Over the next two months, students will practice using the technology associated with PARCC in order to

E.

9. Student and Operational Support Services

Describe the student and operational services to be provided by the local district;

List the conditions/terms as applicable;

If third parties provide support services, describe the terms and conditions.

In accordance with all regulatory requirements under IDEA, IDES and ADA and for LEP/ESL, the district will provide educational support services, including but not limited to the following personnel: school psychologist, social worker, reading consultant/specialist, and guidance counselor. Additionally, the district will provide: career/college guidance counselors, and a World Language teacher. Further, the district will provide food services, and transportation for students attending the NEL/CPS CAREER ACADEMY under current school district contract.

The NEL will provide the services of their training academies, apprenticeship coordinators, signatory contractors, health and safety specialists and labor-management coordinators including public relations coordinators of their various affiliated trusts when deemed as needed by the governance board.

10. Building

Identify and describe the facility to be used for your proposed CHARTER SCHOOL.

List the detailed terms and / or conditions for its use.

The optimal site would be one located in the Eastern part of Cranston in the vicinity of Cranston East. Several sites are under review at the present time.

11. Health and Safety

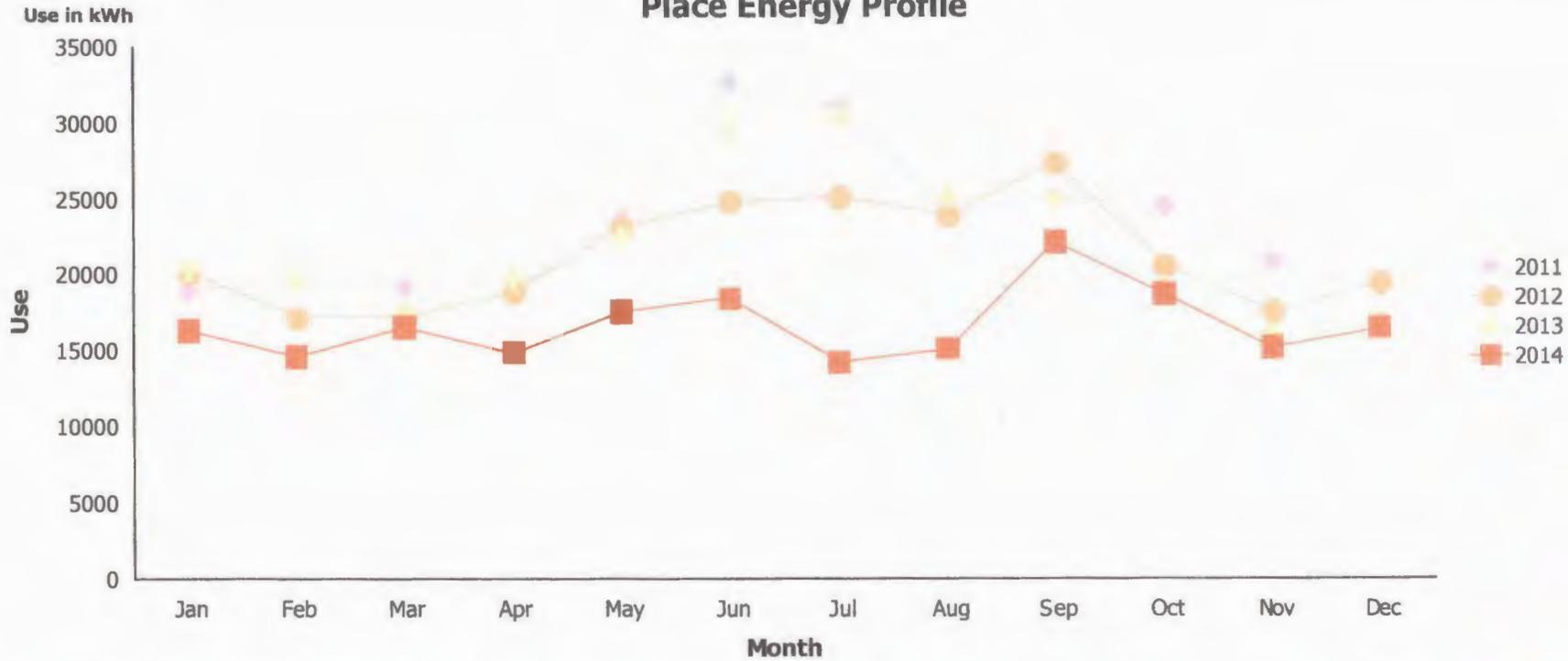
Describe how you plan to ensure the health and safety of students and staff;

Describe provisions for providing student health services.

Inspection by local inspectors and the district's Director of Plant Operations will ensure that the building is in compliance or brought into compliance with state and local ordinances. Thus the health and safety of students and staff will be ensured.

~~Further, the executive director will be responsible for complying with federal, state and local laws protecting the health and safety of students and staff. The school nurse will be responsible for the on-site delivery of student health services, student referrals to off-site health services provided as needed to CCAP (Cranston Community Action Program), and other community agencies.~~

Place Energy Profile

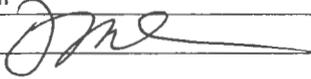


Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2011	18,960	19,760	19,200	19,120	23,600	32,640	31,040	24,000	25,120	24,480	20,880	19,120	271,920
2012	20,160	17,200	17,200	18,880	23,120	24,800	25,120	23,920	27,360	20,640	17,600	19,440	268,940
2013	20,400	19,680	17,520	19,760	22,480	29,680	30,400	25,040	24,960	19,200	16,180	16,960	292,340
2014	16,320	14,640	16,560	14,880	17,600	18,480	14,240	15,120	22,160	18,720	15,200	16,480	200,400
Total	75,840	71,280	70,480	72,640	86,800	105,600	100,800	87,080	99,600	72,960	60,860	72,960	995,060



F

Board of Directors Meeting Report Out

Date of Board of Directors Meeting:	January 20, 2015
Department/Committee Reporting:	Financial Development
Author:	C. Corcelli
Approved By (Executive Director):	

Background/ Context:
Operating Budget as of 12/31/2014
Revenue:
As of QTR2, based on enrollment, actual tuition revenue vs budgeted revenue to date slightly less than budgeted, City 83% and Out of District 86%. All tuitions for QTR1 and 2 are received and posted.

Expenditures:
Contractual operating expenses are typical for QTR2 end. Compared to last year, expenditures in Purchased Services and Capital are lower largely due to reduced testing fees and transportation needs. Also, field trips, repairs and capital also reflect savings to date.

Key issues for consideration:
Financial Development Opportunities:
To promote the Academy and enhance recruitment, print advertisements are scheduled for February publishing in Beacon Communications (Johnston Sunrise, Cranston Herald, Warwick Beacon and PennySaver). Additionally, posters will be available for distribution in local venues as well.
In process – State legislative grant renewal
In Process – Safety Grant Application for purchase of two-way radios
In Process – RI Foundation Art grant

Recommendation to the Board: