

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

**MAY 19, 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 12:13 p.m. with the following members present: Chairman Traficante, Mr. Jay Sabitoni, Dr. Lundsten, Mr. Wall, Mr. Cardi and Mr. Santangelo.**

**There was no executive session.**

**Call to Order –Public Session**

**The roll was called; a quorum was present.**

**Minutes of Previous Meeting Approved – April 14, 2015**

**A motion to accept the minutes of the April 14, 2015 meeting was made by Mr. Wall and seconded by Dr. Lundsten. All were in favor.**

**Public Acknowledgements/Communications – none.**

**Chairperson’s Communications – Mr. Traficante stated that last night at the School Committee meeting I announced the generous donation by the Labors’ Union. The Charter Academy should send a letter of gratitude. I sent photos of all the school furniture, the white boards, security cameras, etc. by memo went to Armand Sabitoni a couple of days ago.**

**Mr. Curran stated –I can send Armand a follow-up now that we have the furniture and equipment.**

**Board Members Communications – none.**

**Executive Director’s Communications**

**Mr. Curran stated – We have a few brief reports today to share with you on the usual topics and we will begin with the Student Performance.**

**Student Performance - See handout A – attached.**

**Ms. Ferris stated – We have completed our Starr testing for the year for reading and math. Overall you will see on the front page under school proficiency for math, which is the achievement rate that is**

established by the district at 40%, we are at 58%. What we measure more, other than the achievement piece, is the Student Growth Percentile. Everything is measured by SGP. What the District would like to see is that there are at least 50 SGP's for student growth within a year. In math we are at 60 SGP's. We are really pleased with our math scores at this point. The ELA, our proficiency rate is at 29% with a Student Growth Percentile at 50 SGP's. We are getting the growth which is what we want to see. We do understand that the ELA proficiency is slightly lower than what would want to see at this point.

When I put them into the STARR data, one piece that I think is playing into this number is when we have the ELA teachers and their percentages are broken down, the reading teacher is considered an ELA teacher so you have the reading scores but the kids who are in the ELA classes who take the reading, their scores are counted twice.

When you get an overall score for the kids and for the students who take reading are usually the lowest readers in the building. You have the lowest scores doubling up here. I am hand tabulating to glean that out to see how big of an impact it will have. That will happen also when we move forward with math with kids that are in intervention classes.

Mr. Santangelo stated – We do that at Western Hills. We have Math Intervention classes and some of those kids that have been identified go to those classes. We are having the same issue where they are being tested 6, 7, 8 times during the course of a school year and everyone else is being tested the standard 3.

**Ms. Ferris stated - I just wanted it to be pointed out that I believe that is what is playing into this achievement rate for the ELA. We know from our NECAP scores over the last few years that our ELA scores have jumped dramatically. This does not support where our kids are. We will get to the bottom of what the actual numbers are.**

**On the second page, I would like to point out that we have taken and disaggregated the data from STARR by grades so that we can see where our achievements are. There is a yellow bar line that I going across, that is the district marker. You can see that for math, our achievement and out growth scores are all up beyond that in every single grade level. With the ELA the growth is great across all lines. We do see a natural progression in the ELA where the 11th and 12th graders are progressing at an even higher rate. We are really pleased with the direction. We started STARR last year but it was a rocky start so we are using this as our base line and we will start fresh from here. We will now take next years and compare it so we can start to look at trends and see how the kids are progressing. That is all good news.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – How is it we did so well on NECAP in ELA?**

**Mr. Curran stated – If you look at the 12th grade reading on the sheet you can see in the second table there that he SGP for the 12th grade is the highest and also their achievement level is the highest of the**

four grades. That is the group that tested last year in NECAP reading. That is where we had our highest reading scores in history, in our school. The highest growth in the state if you recall. It was a cohort of students that were doing really well and hopefully we will see that trend with our freshman and sophomore classes when they get up to that level as well.

Mr. Traficante stated – Ok.

Ms. Ferris stated – I want to point out that we are still seeing in these graphs here, what is included in this data are students per grade level that are in reading also. It has doubled. So they are sitting in ELA class and their scores show up there but also in their reading classes it shows up as an ELA score. We are getting double hit with reading scores. That will get cleaned out and I would like to have that dialogue at the district level about STARR so that maybe that message can get back to STARR so that maybe the message can get back to STARR. That is probably easy enough to put in a formula for them to be able to clean that up so that we are not hand tabulating everything.

Moving on to State Standardized testing. We started this conversation before the meeting but we had successful administrations of PARCC and NECAP. I can say honestly that it was frustrating running 2 different tests at the same time, 2 different rules, 2 different technical issues with it and it served for a slight confusion

**for kids. I bolded it in this report here that it interrupted instruction for 2 solid weeks. We were testing nonstop for the past two weeks. I know that Judy has gone to meetings and the Superintendent's were extremely vocal about this.**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – They have told us now that PARCC will only be given once and they talked to us about whether when to give it in the Spring because depending on when you give it, depends on when you get the results back. If they are not going to use them then why are we doing this? Do we push it back as far as we can into May so we are not doing it? When you do the testing earlier, you are testing on things you may not have covered the material yet.**

**Mr. Santangelo stated –That is what happened this time.**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – That was the feedback that we gave Mary Ann Snider and the group at RIDE. They listened but whether they are going to move forward with that, I don't know.**

**Mr. Santangelo stated – My plans are done to the end of the year so I know exactly where I am going by the end of the year and what I have to cover. I was roaming around today as they were taking the test and I looked over their shoulders as they were taking it to see what is going on. A good amount of the questions that they were being asked is material that is scheduled to be reviewed in the next couple of weeks. They are being tested on stuff that we have not gotten to**

yet. You can visually see some frustration on the kids' part. Seeing things like pencils being grinded into paper because they are irritated with the questions and sometimes totally giving up. It is frustrating to watch and my concern is that many of them are already turned off to education and it is just going to make that even worse, especially with my subject which is math. The test is difficult and we didn't get through all the curriculum yet and they are being tested on it. Do we wait until September to get the results or get them by June? I don't know.

Dr. Lundsten stated – I know it is a discussion for another day about when are they really usable.

Ms. Ferris stated – As an asterisk for this topic also we won't be using the data that comes out of this first testing to make decisions. This is a first round. There is a lot of getting use to it.

Dr. Lundsten stated – Tell me what you all think about the Commissioner's report. Did you see the Commissioner's memo that came out on Friday?

Mr. Santangelo stated – No I have not.

Dr. Lundsten stated – In one of the sections it looked to me like she was dancing like don't expect the scores to be high as it is just the first year and a baseline. I felt like there was a little tap dance going

on there behind the scenes. You read it and see if you get the same message that I got.

Ms. Ferris stated – I think traditionally across the country it dropped 40 points on average. We are going to get our scores but we are not going to be making huge decisions based on them.

Mr. Santangelo stated – I hear their message, it's a new thing, it's this and that but in the meantime we are talking about kids lives here. We talk in 7th grade all the time about we have a tough decision to make because our recommendations in 7th grade set the kids math path throughout their high school careers. You are either going to stay in the general math section and stop there or you are going to Algebra I in 8th grade, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry, Calculus, etc. We are not even teaching a full grade 7 curriculum anymore because Common Core has really turned that upside down. I think this is just the tip of the iceberg. I think we are going to see all kinds of crazy stuff happen over the next 4-5 years.

### **Staffing Update**

Mr. Curran stated – As we talked at our last meeting we are going to continue with the staffing plan that we have in place this year with some hopes and optimism that our numbers will be healthy again in September. This part of the next topic which is enrollment, we are projecting that we will open with about 150-155 students in

**September. That projection is based upon what we have for hard numbers right now. We know historically what happens between now and August or September in this case. We typically in June, July and August will get a lot of queries, people walking in off the street, contacts from other schools so we will be picking up more students as the next 3 months roll on. Our staffing plan is going to be held harmless right now based upon what our historical numbers have been and also some of the initiatives that we are doing right now. Let me talk a little about those right now.**

**We have two programs that we are targeting, two schools that we are targeting right now....Bain and Park View. At Bain, we have an initiative going on with the ESL program where we are trying to capture a group of 8th grade ESL students that the district feels (through Kristin Ward the ESL Coordinator) would best be served by coming to our school. These are students that are limited in English proficiency and the feeling is that by the ESL team at Bain and also by Kristin Ward that these students would be well served coming here and getting a diploma from our school and possibly going into the construction field. We are going to be working with that group of students and parents over the next couple of weeks to show them what the school has to offer them. Last week we made phone calls to the parents in their native languages. There are 15, 8th graders at Bain in the ESL program that the staff think would benefit from coming here. We have identified those kids and those are the ones that we are targeting for this promotional activity that we are doing.**

**In those 15, half of them are Spanish speaking, there is a Creole speaking student, an Arabic student, and there are 3 Portuguese students and a Nigerian student. We contacted those families in their native languages last week with interpreters to explain about our school and tell them about an open house that we are having next week. We are having an open house specifically for those 15 students and families. Our plan is to actually go to Bain at 6 o'clock on that night, meet them there, the principal will be there, and their ESL teachers will be there. Then put them on a bus and transport them over here to our school so that they can take a tour of our building, our staff will be here, the interpreters will be here as well and we will explain in detail what our program is, take them out to the construction lab and really show them what the benefits would be for them to come here. Hopefully out of those 15 students, we can capture at least 1/3 of them. We are hoping that if we can get 5 of those students here, that is good. We need more bodies and specifically we need Cranston students at our school.**

**The other initiative that we have is with Park View. Next week I have a meeting here with the guidance counselor from there and the Assistant Principal. A couple of those people have never been to our school so we are going to bring them in and show them what our school has to offer. My charge to them will be go back to Park View and identify at least 5-8 students that you want to target to come to this school. Right now we have no students from Park View in our 9th grade enrollment next year. Typically we get about 8-10 students**

**from Park View.**

**These are two concurrent initiatives that we have going on that I think will pay dividends for us and I am hoping from those efforts we get at least 10, if not 15 students out of those 2 schools.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Dennis you mentioned that there were some new students that already signed up this year.**

**Mr. Curran stated - Yes, in my report I mentioned that in the last couple of weeks actually we have enrolled about 8 new students from Cranston High School West and East that we thought they wanted to come in September, but actually wanted to come now and we are not going to turn them away. We picked up about 8 students from East and West in the last couple of weeks. Good students. We are happy to have them and they are happy to be here. Typically what has happened is students in 8th grade think they want to go to East or West and then they get in and it is not the right fit for them. As you know there is 1500 students in each of those schools and when I saw to those students and parents “why now, what brought you here” and they say that someone recommended a smaller school. They come over, shadow, spend the day and they say can I start now. I think it is good they start now even though it is late in the year because it will give them ease with our school so when they come back in September they are ready to go.**

**Mr. Santangelo stated – Equally as important, they are Cranston kids.**

**Mr. Sabitoni stated – Is there any trouble transitioning?**

**Mr. Carrant stated – No. We don't have many course offerings as the larger high school, but we are able to match up their credits and schedules pretty well. Typically we get them in their sophomore/junior year. We do not get a lot of freshman and we get a sprinkling of seniors from time to time. They are usually sophomores and juniors and we are able to match up their courses.**

**Enrollment – See handout B attached.**

**Mr. Curran stated – Good news on the enrollment front we also have two demonstration days on June 2nd and 3rd here we are going to have the construction lab open and we will bring all those students that we know want to come next year, 8th graders and other grades. They can go out to the construction lab, they can visit our classes and they can actually do some of the construction work that our kids do. We want them to get a feel for what it is going to be like in the construction program here and also introduce to them those new modules that we are putting in next year so they will get excited about that. We have a good contingent coming from Central Falls on those days as well. Segway Charter School is sending 8 students to us next year. We are working with different middle schools on those demonstration days. I think when we meet again in June for our last**

**meeting of the year; we will have some good hard numbers that I think we will be very comfortable with.**

**Ms. Corcelli stated – Do you think you could advertise in the Herald about the demonstration days and maybe some people from the public might want to join?**

**Mr. Curran stated – We can do that. You might even get somebody to come who does not have a kid in school but might know of someone else.**

**Mr. Sabitoni stated – Dennis, I am looking at my training schedule and although the guys have not requested any help, I think I could give you some help.**

**Mr. Curran stated – I will talk to you about that before you leave today. That would be helpful. If we get a good swell of kids, we will need some more hands.**

**Mr. Santangelo stated – One last thing before you move off of Enrollment, are we still relatively balanced across the board or are we getting heavy in one grade and light in another.**

**Mr. Curran stated – Right now we are pretty close to each grade level. I would say that the average is about 38 per grade level. Our largest group is still the junior class as they came in as a big bubble a couple**

of years ago. Physically on this level we can house 192 kids in the terms of the size of our classrooms that is the maximum. Right now that is what we are set with RIDE. Right now we are at 145 kids so we would be happy to get 47 more kids, but I would sleep well at night if I had 160 kids here.

**Mr. Traficante stated – What time on Tuesday?**

**Mr. Curran stated – The demonstration days are whenever the schools can get here but we are ready to go at 8 o'clock.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – So it's during the school day?**

**Mrs. Ferris stated – They have to be back for lunch.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – How did Central Falls find out about this?**

**Mr. Curran stated – I outreached to all the Charter schools in the state and let them know after the lottery date, which is March 1st every year that most of the kids that apply to Charter schools do not get in. There are not enough spots. I reached out to the Charter schools and told them if they have some disappointed families; please let them know that we have some openings in the 9th grade and even the upper grades. We have a nice ground swell of recommendations.**

**Mrs. Ferris stated – They already came to the open house, the parents**

**have all been there. They are solid.**

**Mr. Curran stated – They definitely want to come in and see those demonstration days. We are feeling pretty confident right now; we just have to keep working at it.**

**Ms. Ferris stated – Can we go back to Jay for a minute.....what kinds of help are you talking about?**

**Mr. Sabitoni stated – People. People to expend on the demonstrations that Mike and Ray thought they were going to be able to show. If I bring them one or two of my instructors, that is two more demonstrations.**

**Ms. Ferris stated – That would be great.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Dennis, in your conversation with Park View and Bain, did you make some arrangements with them that any potential kids that may want to come here may want to come to the demonstration day.**

**Mr. Curran stated – Definitely. That is part of what we were planning. Whether they have signed up to come or not, we want them. If they are at all interested to get on a bus, let's get them over here.**

**Mr. Santangelo stated – Ask Leslie at Park View.**

**Ms. Ferris – That is the key piece after Leslie is gone.**

**Mr. Curran stated – The 8th grade counselor is new to counseling as she was a classroom teacher and she has never been in this school so that is why I am getting them in next week.**

**Mr. Santangelo stated – That might be why your number from Park View right now is nonexistent.**

**Mr. Curran stated – I think you are right.**

**Before I get into the Budget, let me report back to you on the Fair Funding Formula Committee that we talked about before. The issue there is the report finally came in. I am not going to pass it around because it is quite voluminous, but it is 51 pages. In a nutshell the Commission reported back to the Senate that the Fair Funding Formula needs to be revised. They had some recommendations in their report, which you can see online if you go to the RIDE website. Essentially I think the crux of it is that they believe that there are some things in the formula that work against school districts in favor of Charter Schools. Some of those things are legacy costs that districts have that Charter Schools do not (i.e OPEB “Other Post Employment Benefits”, health benefits for retirees, early childhood education- Pre-K, late adult education) then a myriad of other things that some schools have that Charter schools do not. Their position**

seems to be that right now the Fair Funding Formula gives Charter schools the per pupil expenditure from the district. Whatever the district pays in per pupil expenditure, the Charter School gets the same for money. The position from this Commission is that formula needs to be changed because those costs should be extracted out and what is left should go to the Charter Schools. Obviously the Charter School league, which there are 24 schools position is that we agree that the Fair Funding Formula needs to be reviewed. It has been around for many years, 5 or 6 and needs to be reviewed and probably revised. There should be some real earnest discussion and dissection of the Fair Funding Formula, rather than just simply come up with these suggestions. My feeling is the Senate is not going to do anything with it this year and hopefully cooler heads will prevail and that kind of a thorough study will be done before any changes happen to it. We know changes are going to occur, we just want them to be appropriate and not tragically detrimental to Charter Schools.

The other thing I wanted to say is that in the report there is a letter from Andrea Castaneda who is second in command at RIDE. She is the Chief of the Division of Fiscal Integrity and Statewide Efficiencies. She was on the Commission. She has a letter to the Commission in which she very clearly states that the Committees work was faulty. That it was largely tainted by passion as opposed to facts and that the Committee itself was very biased in its inception.

Mr. Traficante stated – The legislature is loaded against Charters.

**Mr. Curran stated – I will give you a copy of the letter before you leave. It is only a one page letter but she nicely framed the discussion about why the Committees work was faulty and why there should be a moratorium on this discussion until we can have a better analysis of the formula before we make any changes to it. It is always difficult for a district charter school to be in this kind of discussion because we know that on the district side there are things and changes in the formula that are going to be helpful on the charter side, it won't be helpful at all. We are probably the only school in the state that is in this very unique position. Although there are two other district charter schools, they only service Providence kids. Any change to the formula will not affect those two schools, but could affect us.**

**Mr. Santangelo stated – That is why we need to find a way to ramp up our Cranston kids and be less dependent on the outside districts.**

**Mr. Curran stated – All these ratios are interconnected and I just try to keep you apprised of them as they come up.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – I sent a copy to Armand. He probably has not read the whole thing but he asked if we could kind of summarize the report for him as to what Andrea Castaneda had to say and what the impact of the study will have in the future. They want to establish 4 sub committees in the report. Am I correct?**

**Mr. Curran stated – I didn't finish reading it myself yet.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – They indicated that there are 4 areas that should be studied.**

**Mr. Curran stated - Lastly before Carol gives her report, last night at the School Committee meeting a new Assistant Superintendent was appointed. Her name is Norma Cole who is principal at Stone Hill Elementary School. I wanted you to know that. We have one more meeting with Judy in June and then her replacement will be Jeannine Nota-Masse who was approved by the School Committee this month also.**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – I would suggest that for the next meeting that Jeannine come. She and I had a brief conversation this morning about starting to transition to some of those board positions.**

**Mr. Santangelo stated – Could we invite Norma as well? Will she be relieved of her duties?**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – We can get someone to cover for her to come.**

**Mr. Curran stated – That is a great idea. For your information, our graduation is on Friday, June 5th at 6:30 p.m. at Hope Highlands Elementary School. In addition to Judy, Jay and Mr. Traficante being at the podium with me, this year we have Armand Sabitoni as well as**

**the Governor. If you could attend, it would be appreciated.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Make sure you contact Gina from the PR Department to make sure the Cranston Herald and the Providence Journal know that the Governor will be speaking.**

**Mr. Sabitoni –Gina usually does the introductions for me, so make sure you give her a list of speakers for me.**

**Budget - See handout C attached.**

**Ms. Corcelli stated – This is the April report. We are going over two things today, one is the April year-to-date report and one is the Budget Adjustment. The first one is my report out as of April 30th. It is pretty atypical of where we stand year to date. We have received 87% of our revenue budget. Our three primary sources are the State aide, which is now direct deposited and it is coming in with not a problem. Our City aide is right now at 100% funded so we are up to speed on that. Our out of district tuition is now at 85% and in May we have received more than half of what was remaining. We are in really good shape as far as what our incoming revenue stands. Our expenditures are at 79% of our budget. Right now even though we have a positive variance right now, it is just a snapshot in time. When I go over the budget adjustment, I will go over the news of where we will stand year to date. We did grants in the fall with the jewelry teacher. It is called Project Jewelry. It was a \$700 grant to make**

**jewelry with the students and she is doing beautifully with the students. They are enjoying it. They will make it and sell it during lunch or in the community. That is going well. We have a verbal approval on the Summer Youth Grant. That is the one that Jay provides in-kind services for the certificate program for the students.**

**Looking at the April year-to-date, it is just very atypical. I do not want to labor too much time on it. If you have any questions on that, let me know. I would rather jump to the budget adjustment for quarter 4. That was in your hand out with the agenda. The first page is the narrative. On that back page is the actual budget. If you turn to the budget, which is on the back page it might be easier for discussion purposes. We did anticipate the enrollment as we had budgeted. We are seeing almost \$87,000 decrease from the city aide of city enrollment and then about a \$77,000 decrease in aide from out of district. The \$14,000 in credit recovery was a program transfer that is with the district and then we had the infusion of the \$63,000 of the Phase I of the industrial arts expansion. With that being said, we have a short fall of \$115,000 of our revenue for this year. I then tried to look at the expenditures where we could shave off on them and I was able to decrease salaries because when this was originally made, this was prior to the new hires. I was able to shave off some salaries of about \$50,000 and that was credit recovery, the subs, social studies, english, science, tech. We did have a slight increase of \$12,000 in the salaries due to some additional work and math teachers.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – When we projected the salaries, did we not add 1% because before the contract was ratified.**

**Ms. Corcelli stated – I was not sure of the positions of the new teachers. I knew that.**

**Mr. Santangelo stated- Wasn't this also done prior to the Jamboree process last year?**

**Ms. Corcelli stated – Yes. I was able to decrease benefits in the retirement's, health benefits and decrease in purchased services which was reduction of some bussing, reduction of some repairs, reduction of printing, math testing, some advertising. The increase in maintenance of \$12,000, that is part of the Industrial Arts equipment infusion to upgrade our cameras and wiring.**

**Mr. Curran stated – that \$109,000 at the bottom.....do you think that is pretty hard number now?**

**Ms. Corcelli stated – The increase in the \$35,000 that you see in capital, again that is the purchase of the industrial arts equipment. That is being compensated by the \$63,000 in the revenue that you see. It is a reimbursed fee. That \$6,000 basically is all I was able to shave off after everything. With that being said, \$109,000 would probably be the worst case scenario of what we would be anticipating**

knowing all the revenue has come in, knowing we froze all the expenditures. We still have yet to put in the district reduction that we share with AEP and other expenses.

Mr. Traficante stated – The \$41,000 we just received from the Laborers' that is not included?

Ms. Corcelli stated – No that is separate discussion. I was hoping to go into next fiscal year because the purchases are going into next fiscal year. I was going to talk to Jay about that.

Mr. Curran stated – One point I wanted to make is that earlier I referenced that we may have 7-8 kids from East and West and after the meeting you might reflect about it being more money. Yes, it will be but not now. We are only allowed to bill quarterly and the last time we billed was April 1st. On April 2nd and any time after that, any student coming to the school we get no money for them for this school year. They are basically coming for free.

Ms. Corcelli stated – However, we do have to pay for their bussing. If they are out of district, we are paying for their transportation.

Mr. Curran stated – August 15th is the next time that we can bill. We hope that if a kid came on April 2nd, they come back on September 1st.

**Mr. Traficante stated - They are all Cranston kids, correct?**

**Mr. Curran stated – No. Some of them, but there are other towns as well.**

**Mr. Santangelo stated – So at least some of the money is still in the district.**

**Mr. Curran stated – Yes.**

**Mr. Santangelo stated – There lies the problem with Charter schools. At least part of the money stays in the district.**

**Mr. Curran stated – Charter schools are in a very precarious position.**

**Dr. Lundsten stated - To that point I think it is important because I went to one of those Commission meetings and just sat in the hearing room and listened to it because I knew we were walking a fine line being a public Charter. I think that if this comes up again it would behoove this Board to have one or two people go and testify. They did listen. What would be the downside? If they come in on April 2nd, I don't think they heard that information. They assume that the day the kid walks in, the money follows.**

**Mr. Santangelo stated – I think the only difference with the other**

**Charters is they are maxed, correct? They are not bringing kids in after April 1 because they are already busting at the seams. In our case, we are trying to get them in.**

**Mr. Curran stated – In most other Charter schools, they don't have a statewide catch like we do. If you have a Charter school in Central Falls, that is only for Central Falls students. They don't pay for bussing. We pay for bussing to several other towns.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – I have two things. Based on what the majority leader is saying, the piece of legislation that is being introduced by Hannah Gallo regarding Special Education money, would be a plus for the Cranston School Department. Legislation indicates that any Special Education student that comes to this Charter school from outside the district, the sending district must pay the special education rate. In the past we have lost that money and the legislation would now be a help. Based on what I know, it looks very favorable to pass. The second thing, based on your enrollment figures, we should have a further discussion on whether that \$43,000 goes to next year's budget or in this year's budget.**

**Mr. Curran stated – Certainly between now and June, I think we should. The numbers will be become clearer and harder and we will have that discussion at our last June meeting.**

**A motion to accept the Executive Directors report 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**

### **Business**

**No. 5-1-15 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the Board of Directors approve the QTR4 adjustment to the current 2014 operating budget of the NEL/CPS Construction and Career Academy.**

**A motion was made to approve by Mr. Wall; seconded by Dr. Lundsten. All were in favor.**

**Public Hearings on Non-Agenda Items – none.**

**Announcement of Future Meeting – June 16, 2015**

### **Adjournment**

**There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sabitoni; seconded by Mr. Wall. All were in favor.**

**The meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michael A. Traficante**

**Chairperson**

**HANDOUT A**

**Date of Board of Directors Meeting: May 19, 2015**

**Department/Committee Reporting: Student Performance**

**Author: Carolyn Ferris**

**Approved By (Executive Director): Dennis Curran**

**Key Topics for Consideration**

**STAR Reading and Math Assessments:**

**We have completed our third assessment of the year for STAR Math and ELA. Attached is an analysis of the data desegregated by grade for both achievement and growth.**

**Overall our school-wide data is as follows:**

	<b>Proficiency Rate</b>	<b>Student Growth</b>
<b>Percentile:</b>		
<b>Math:</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>61 SGP</b>
<b>ELA</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>50 SGP</b>

**The data for this year will serve as the baseline data and will be analyzed looking for trends over the next few years. Data from STAR assessments will be used to determine which students need math or**

**reading intervention support.**

**State Standardized Testing:**

**We have completed all EOY PARCC testing and Science NECAP and scores will be received next fall. There were no technical issues. Students conducted themselves in an appropriate manner and took the assessments seriously yet it must be noted that testing disrupted instruction for two solid weeks.**

**As we debriefed and assessed the process, we found that having two completely different assessment formats testing during the same time period, along with a very narrow window between PARCC PBA and EOY assessments made for a certain level of confusion for students as well as creating a feeling of saturation for state standardized testing.**

**Recommendation to the Board:**

**STAR:**

**Continue to monitor student performance looking at Student Growth Percentile and compare this year's data to next.**

**Monitor student data for increase/decrease of intervention support needed as we move forward.**

**PARCC:**

**Monitor process as we progress into year two of PARCC. Analyze baseline data when received in the fall.**

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## **HANDOUT B**

**Date of Board of Directors Meeting: May 19, 2015**

**Department/Committee Reporting: Enrollment/ Recruiting**

**Author: Dennis Curran**

**Approved By (Executive Director):**

### **Background/ Context:**

**Recruitment has been active this past month. In the last few weeks we have enrolled 8 new students from CHSE and CHSW. We have also interviewed 5 eighth graders from various towns who want to come in September.**

**Our outreach to ESL students and families at Bain is underway. Calls have been made in native languages to invite them to our Open House on May 27. That evening there will be a tour and demonstrations in the Construction Lab. Interpreters will be on hand as well as teachers from Bain and C&CA.**

**Demonstration days are planned for June 2 and 3 in the Construction Lab. Our plan is to have the 8th graders who are signed up for**

**September to come to see the school and the construction program.  
We are working with several middle schools to plan this event.**

**Key issues for consideration:**

**We will continue to aggressively market the school and find new ways to get the word out about our programs. The advent of new construction topics next year will go a long way in reaching new populations of students.**

**Recommendation to the Board:**

**Continue to support these efforts.**

**HANDOUT C**

**Date of Board of Directors Meeting: May 19, 2015**

**Department/Committee Reporting: Financial Development**

**Author: C. Corcelli**

**Approved By (Executive Director):**

## **Background/ Context:**

### **Operating Budget as of 4/30/2015**

#### **Revenue:**

**As of April 30, we have received 87% of overall revenue budget. The three primary sources of the school's revenue is as follows: state aid continues to be received in a timely fashion (direct deposited); city aid is 100% funded; and out of district tuition billing is at 85%. The New England Laborers' donation of \$63K for Phase 1 of 2 is dedicated towards industrial arts equipment purchased to date.**

#### **Expenditures:**

**As of April 30, we have expended 79% of budget expenditures with a positive variance resulting from timely receipt of the majority of QTR 4 tuition revenue, 85%, and of reimbursed fees. The majority of expenditures are consistent with previous year's spending. At this point, with most revenue having been anticipated, non-essential expenses will be frozen throughout the remainder of the fiscal year. A budget adjustment has been presented for board approval effective May.**

#### **Key issues for consideration:**

- Project Jewelry Art - From the Art Teacher, Jenn DeGregorio..."So far a few of the students have started creating sketches and jewelry made out of clay, more students are going to start in the upcoming**

**week. We also put a business component in the lesson, the students researched what artists are creating today and how they're selling that work. The students are using examples from Etsy to help them gather what handcrafted jewelry is being sold for and what is trending.”**

**• In Process – Workforce Solutions Providence/Cranston Summer Youth Grant**

**Recommendation to the Board:**

- Continue to support funding formula for charter schools through any means available**
- Assist in recruiting efforts through word-of-mouth to various groups**