

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

June 16, 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 12:06 p.m. with the following members present: Chairman Traficante, Mr. Jay Sabitoni, Dr. Lundsten, Mr. Wall, Mr. Cardi and Mr. Santangelo.

Call to Order – Public Session. The roll was called; a quorum was present.

Minutes of Previous Meeting Approved – May 18, 2015

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2015 meeting by Mr. Cardi; seconded by Mr. Wall. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Public Acknowledgements/Communications - None

Chairperson's Communications - None

Board Members Communications - None

Executive Director's Communications

Mr. Curran stated – I am passing around the latest Charter newsletter that is produced by the Laborers' for us. It talks about some of our programs for next year and some status updates where we are at this time and where we have gone this year and how we have approved in all our metrics. I also wanted to give you an update on what is happening in the legislature around us and we discussed this at the last meeting as well. There are two bills in the legislature, a House bill and a Senate bill. There is some overlap between them and there are some differences in them as well. In a nut shell, they are both aimed at reducing the impact of Charter Schools in Rhode Island, largely for financial reasons. Without going into the detail we discussed in May, many districts and many towns do not want to pay any tuition out to Charter Schools. They feel it is a drain on their municipal resources. That legislation that will be heard today in the Senate is aimed at reducing any expansion of mayoral academies. There was one that was approved last week by RIDE, called Rise Academy. This will impact Burrillville, Woonsocket, North Smithfield and Cumberland. It is all set to go, they have funding, a building, parents have purchased uniforms and this legislation if it passed

ultimately will not allow that school to open. This is a major concern. For us, the impact would not be there, it would be more in the area of the finances that districts pay out to Charter Schools could be reduced by those "legacy" costs that those districts have. Retirement benefits, preschool education, post high school education for adults, all those things that Charter schools don't deal with. They want to reduce their tuition to any Charter School by subtracting those percentages out, which means the amounts we get would be reduced. The third thing that will really impact us as well would be one piece of the legislation that states that before a Charter School could be opened, even if approved by RIDE, it would have to be approved by any district that children would come from. We are a state-wide catch all so if that legislation were in affect right now and we tried to open this school, we would have to have 39 towns approve it and any 1 town could deny it. This goes for expansion as well. Right now we are approved for 192 students, if we were someday going to expand from 192 to 220, if that legislation was active, we would need the approval of all 39 towns or it would not go forward. You can see the impact this would have. There is a very good editorial in the paper today that says all of this legislation that is in the House and the Senate right now, primarily would stunt the growth of Charter Schools in Rhode Island. Although there are financial issues that we are all aware of, that would in effect a death to the future of Charter Schools in Rhode Island. This is an update of where we are now. The League of Charter Schools, which we are a member of, have been working very hard with contacting legislators

in districts where Charter Schools reside and other that do not to try and encourage our legislators to take a hard look at what this will do. From what I can see from around the country, there is not a state that has taken drastic moves like this. It is a very serious issue for the Charter school right now.

Mr. Traficante stated – Dennis, what is the status of the Senate bill that I talked to Dom Ruggiero and Hanna Gallo about with respect to the Special Education tuition?

Mr. Curran stated – There is a piece of legislation that Hanna Gallo proposed but it is on hold right now for further study. What it says is that special education students that go to Charter Schools would be funded by the District in which they live. That would be good for Cranston in that their special education students come from all over Rhode Island, but we do not get a penny for those costs. It is all borne by the Cranston Public Schools.

I have one more thing under Communications; we would like to recognize Dr. Lundsten for her service to this Board for the last three years with a plaque.

It was moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to:

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

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

A motion to adjourn Executive Session was made Mr. Santangelo; seconded by Mr. Wall. All were in favor.

Adjourn to Public Session

A motion was made to seal the Executive Session minutes of June 16, 2015 by Mr. Wall; seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Chairman Traficante stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session

Student Performance

Ms. Ferris stated – There is no handout today. We had put together most of the student assessment data at our last meeting. The only update that we have is we are currently using the STARR data to place students into intervention classes next year. The District math supervisor has already sent out to every school all the students that need intervention for next year. We are two steps ahead of the game of where we usually are. Right now the districts marker is anyone that has not hit the 40% mark will be in an early intervention class.

Mr. Curran stated – Just wanted to give you a PARCC update. One of the major complaints were the two tests and now they have decided

to go to a one test format next year that will be given in late April. We will not get this year's test results back until October or November. Depending upon how our kids did, will have some impact on our focus status.

Staffing Update

Mr. Curran stated – I gave you an update in Executive Session. We have a good solid staff coming back next year and we are pleased we didn't have a lot of turnover.

Enrollment – See handout A – attached

Mr. Curran stated – We have some exciting news here.

Ms. Ferris stated - You will remember in May we were at a point where we had approximately 27 applications in and only 4 from Cranston. That was a concern and we were about to ramp up our efforts so we had demo days for two days in June. We had approximately 50 students from Park View and Bain here. It was a fantastic day. We have received applications every single day since then. As you can see, the numbers have doubled. Park View has really come through. The guidance counselor and I went to the schools and really built up those relationships with the departments. I can't say enough.

We had a great turnout for our ELL night. We have 3 ELL students, two from East and one from out of the district. It takes a little bit longer with the paperwork. We are anticipating having a nice start up program. We have 53 applications and we are taking the approach that these are fairly solid. We tend to have an issue in the summer time where we have a healthy number in June and by September there are no shows and we end up in a situation where it can have negative ramifications financially. We are being a little bit more diligent on that at this point to make sure we are solid. I am predicting that we will start the year around 168. We are in pretty good shape as far as recruitment and enrollment goes.

A quick update on our focus status, RIDE sent out an email his week telling us they are at the end of their process for their flexibility system. This is how the schools get rated and classified. They had to go back to the US Department of Education to change it. They have rewritten it and had a conference call with the US Department of Education this past Monday and feel confident that by the end of the month they will get this passed. The way it will move forward is everyone that is classified will stay classified through 2015. We will remain in focus at least until 2015. Once the PARCC scores come in, it could shift things. We discussed this the last time that we are not anticipating that the PARCC scores are not truly reflective to where anyone is in any school out there.

Mr. Wall stated – Didn't the Commissioner say that there will be no

schools named in intervention?

Ms. Ferris stated – No new schools.

Mr. Curran stated – We have talked about this before how we are stuck in limbo here even though all our markers were good, because they are revising the accountability system with the feds, they are keeping focus on priority schools. The only thing that could get us out of this is if our PARCC scores are really good. Nobody is predicting that the scores are going to be good throughout the state. If we stay in focus the next year, that would be good.

Ms. Ferris stated – The only good thing that came out of this is when you are in a classification or priority or in focus, there has been a grant funding through RIDE and the Transformation office, which is how we paid for Agile Mind. That was Race to The Top Money. We had been calling this year to see if there was any more money and they said there wasn't. We got a call last week saying there was a little bit left and for us to write them up something and send it in. They gave us \$1,800.00.

Mr. Curran stated – Last year we got \$28,000 as a focus school, this year we got \$1,800.

Budget - See handout B – attached

Mrs. Corcelli stated – This is a brief report. Last month we had the revised year-to-date. This is May 31st report which is very standard to where we usually are. Next month’s report will be the finalization where we close out the year. We have received 96% of our overall budget. There is one check that is in the mail and will arrive by the time I close out the year. As far as expenditures go we are at 90% of our budget expenditures. This is just a snapshot in time as we still have the month of June for salaries, benefits and purchased services. We still have overhead, which includes transportation, bussing, and graduation expenses. There is a possibility of a negative variance coming in next month, but we are hoping that it is well under \$100,000. I will report out next month.

We have completed our Project Jewelry Art which we got from the Rhode Island Foundation. The art teacher and the students were really excited, exceeded expectations and created about 80 pieces of jewelry with the students.

We ended our Rhode Island Work Immersion Grant with our CCRI intern. We will continue that next year as soon as funding comes in.

We are also working on the Summer Youth Grant.

Mr. Curran stated – In mid July we will have the hard numbers and at the July meeting we will have the final?

Mr. Traficante stated – We will have both, the finalization of this year’s budget and next years. We don’t know what teachers we will have and what steps they will be at.

Mrs. Corcelli stated – We are waiting on the State Aide as well.

A motion to accept the Executive Directors report was made by Mr. Santangelo; seconded by Mr. Wall. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Public Hearing

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

Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda

Action Calendar/Action Agenda

RESOLUTION

Business

No. 6-1-15 Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the Board of Directors approve the 3-year extension of the following contract with a 2% raise. (Fiscal Impact Analysis attached)

Cynthia Grady, Assistant Principal

NEL\CPS

Contract Effective date...July 1, 2015

Fiscal Impact Analysis Attached

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Wall; seconded by Mr. Santangelo. The roll was called; all were in favor.

No. 6-2-15 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, the Board of Directors approve that said certified personnel be recalled from layoff, and;

Be it further RESOLVED that the Executive Director notify these individuals of the committee's actions.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Wall; seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Public Hearings on Non-Agenda Items – None

Mr. Traficante stated – Judy, we thank you for your service to the Board. Be safe, stay healthy. I wanted to announce that Judy is going on to be Superintendent of Block Island. We wish her well.

Announcement of Future Meeting – July 21, 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 12:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Traficante

Chairperson

Administrator's Compensation Schedule

Fiscal Year 2015-2016

NAME POSITION SCHOOL ANN

SALARY HEALTH DENTAL LIFE PENSION SURV

BEN OASDI MEDICARE TOTAL Fringe Sal & Fringe

Cynthia Grady Ass't Prin Charter 90,023.00 14310 1035 25 14,413

96 0 1305 31,184 121,207

Administrator's Compensation Schedule

Fiscal Year 2016-2017

NAME POSITION SCHOOL ANN

SALARY HEALTH DENTAL LIFE PENSION SURV

BEN OASDI MEDICARE TOTAL Fringe Sal & Fringe

Cynthia Grady Ass't Prin Charter	90,023.00	14310	1035	25	14,413
96 0 1305	31,184	121,207			

Administrator's Compensation Schedule

Fiscal Year 2017-2018

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	ANN	SALARY
HEALTH	DENTAL	LIFE	PENSION	SURV
BEN	OASDI	MEDICARE	TOTAL	Fringe Sal & Fringe

Cynthia Grady Ass't Prin Charter	90,023.00	14310	1035	25	14,413
96 0 1305	31,184	121,207			

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HANDOUT A

Date of Board of Directors Meeting: June 16, 2015

Department/Committee Reporting: Enrollment/ Recruiting

Author: Carolyn Ferris

Approved By (Executive Director):

Background/ Context:

We have had a busy and successful month for recruiting:

ESL Open House: We had approximately 20 family members with interpreters. Staff from our school, as well as Bain, were on hand to answer questions and add support. Families enjoyed the tour, the pizza and asked lots of questions.

Demo Days: June 2nd and 3rd we hosted Demo Days for Cranston Middle School Students from Park View and Bain. We had 50 students with support staff attend the event. We had 4 stations in the construction lab as well as a World of Work station set up in the cafeteria. It was a fun event and many students showed a strong interest in attending as reported below. Thanks to the following for their participation to make this event a success!

Mike Perrotta and Ray Johnson- Construction instructors (and their students)

Marilyn Coppola- Work of Work (and her students)

Trish Bouchard- Guidance

Enrollment for 2015-16 to Date:

For the May Enrollment Report Out: We had approximately 26 applications with only 4 applications in total coming from Cranston.

At this time: We have 53 applications!

Breakdown:

Park View: 13
Bain: 4 (3 ELL)
WH: 2
East: 8 (1 ELL)
Out of District: 26 (2 ELL)

Key issues for consideration:

There is an ebb and flow to this process. It is our goal to get a firm handle on the applicants and their intent on attending so as to better substantiate the budgetary implications for the fall.

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.

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Date of Board of Directors Meeting: June 16, 2015

Department/Committee Reporting: Financial Development

Author: C. Corcelli

Approved By (Executive Director):

Background/ Context:

Operating Budget as of 5/31/2015

Revenue:

As of May 31, we have received 96% of overall revenue budget. As of this writing, only one community remains with tuition outstanding. We are assured that the funds will arrive by June.

Expenditures:

As of May 31, we have expended 90% of budget expenditures with a positive variance. However, having received FY15 revenue, the expenditures remaining for month of June will consist primarily of salary, benefits, overhead, and purchased services (transportation and graduation expenses); thus the possibility of a negative variance will be determined by fiscal year end.

Key issues for consideration:

- Project Jewelry Art continues throughout May and as of this writing,**

concluded with approximately 80 pieces of created jewelry. Students were inspired by trending jewelry designs, created a business component, built displays for showcasing items, modeled jewelry during school days, and sold product during lunches. The handcrafted jewelry experience was well received and far exceeded artistic expectations.

- RI work Immersion for RI College Students Program reaches its final weeks. The CCRI college student selected worked in the capacity as a computer support tech intern during a 7 month internship. Assignments such as troubleshooting tech issues and monitoring the computer lab consumed most of the responsibilities. We look forward to continuing with the grant and selections process for the next school year.

- 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