

**Central Falls School District
Board of Trustees
Minutes**

September 21, 2004

Call to Order

Chairperson, Mr. Canavan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present were: Robert Canavan, Chairperson,

Ana Cecilia Rosado,

Mary Lou Perez,

Joseph Faria

Gus Silva

Absent: Joel Roseman

Public Comments

No public comments.

New Business

It was requested that the bond issue be moved to the beginning of the meeting.

Bond Issue: The city did not send a representative to the meeting but Mr. Collins, Supervisor of Building, Grounds and Transportation did

explain that the school district could receive 1.5 million dollars for capital improvements out of the 10 million the city could be receiving through a bond. It was discussed that if this money is issued, it would be used for sprinklers in the district schools. Mr. Faria said that he will work on the bond issue to get the sprinklers in the school and asked if letters could be sent home to keep parents informed about the bond. Mr. Faria also requested a list of school improvements that were done district wide over the last 4-5 years and charged to capital improvements. Mr. Faria motioned to support the bond, Gus Silva seconded and so it was voted 5-0.

Current Business

Minutes – Joseph Faria motioned to accept the minutes of the August 11, 2004 Board of Trustees meeting, Gus Silva seconded the motion, 5-0.

Schedule of Bills – Mr. Canavan signed the schedule of bills in Mr. Roseman's absence, Joseph Faria motioned to accept the schedule of bills, Ana Cecelia Rosado seconded the motion and so it was voted 5-0.

Communications

The following items were presented: Arelys Figuereo resigning from home visitor, Hippy Program, Debra Gorman resigning from part time secretary at Veterans Memorial School, Mario Andrade resigning from Resource teacher at the high school, Jamie Ryan resigning from

Music teacher at Calcutt Middle School, John Keefe, resigning from 2nd shift custodian at the high school, Jose Aica resigning from Assistant Coach for Girls' volleyball, Diane Pina, resigning as district speech and language pathologist, Leo Leclerc elementary guidance counselor retiring in June 2005.

Tanya Morales professional leave of absence. (Tanya was hired to work 3 days a week, she is requesting due to her class work that her schedule be reduced to one day until her classes are finished in December.) Mary Lou Perez motioned to place them on file, Gus Silva seconded the motion and so it was voted 5-0.

Sub-committee Reports

No committee reports were given.

Administrative Report - Dr. Watkins, Superintendent of Schools reported to the Board about the opening of schools, which began with a total enrollment of 3,513 students. She acknowledged that the beginning of the year went well and that it takes every staff member working together to make that happen. Dr. Watkins did mention that several members have been appointed to new committees, Mario Papitto, Head of Public Relations, Lora Kosten and Pat Morris to head a committee to implement administrative evaluations. The Superintendent thanked Mary Lou Perez and Robert Canavan for their attendance on orientation day.

Personnel Issues

Dr. Watkins asked that the following retirement be granted with deep regret, Leo Leclerc retiring at the end of the school year. Ana Cecelia Rosado motioned to accept, Gus Silva seconded the motion and so it was voted 5-0. Mr. Canavan commented on Mr. Leclerc's longevity with the district and that he will be missed.

Letters of resignation were presented : Arellys Figuereo, home visitor Hippy program, Deb Gorman, part time school secretary at Veterans Memorial School, Mario Andrade, Resource teacher, high school, Jamie Ryan, Music teacher, Calcutt Middle School, John Keefe, custodian 2nd shift, high school, Jose Aica, Assistant coach Girls' volleyball, Diane Pina, Speech & Language Pathologist, Gus Silva motioned to accept, Joseph Faria seconded the motion and so it was voted 5-0.

Appointments: Rosa Crowley – Temporary Spanish Teacher, High School, effective August 31, Maria DiNobile, district school psychologist effective August 31, Emilee Comeau – job share Calcutt Middle School, effective August 31, Janene Heaney – part time library secretary Capt. Hunt School, Cowden Street School effective September 9,

April Marquis – Temporary English teacher – high school, effective August 31, Rhonda Mitchell – Reading Specialist – high school, effective August 31, Christine Chalk, Teacher assistant Calcutt Middle School, effective September 13, Shannon Stanton – Temporary ESL

English – high school effective August 31, Carl Africo – ESL Science – high School , effective August 31, Andrea Geremia – job share Calcutt Middle School – effective August 31, Brian Crookes – ESL teacher, Calcutt Middle School, effective August 31, Patricia Flaherty, Reading Specialist, Feinstein School, effective September 20, Kristen Lucas, Music teacher, Calcutt Middle School, effective September 9, Pierrette Robert, substitute clerk, district wide, effective September 15, Angelica Meerbott, home visitor, HIPPY program, effective September 20, Brenda Magill, home visitor, HIPPY program, effective September 14, 2004. Gus Silva motioned to accept the appointments, Joseph Faria seconded the motion and so it was voted 5-0.

Professional leave of absence: Tanya Morales requested that her schedule be reduce to one day per week, Ana Cecelia Rosado motioned to accept, Gus Silva seconded and so it was voted 5-0.

Chairperson Report

Mr. Canavan reported that the bid for attorney services for the school district had been received and that Board members will need to discuss the results.

Old Business

Board of Trustees' Vacancy – Mary Lou reported that interviews were held at Calcutt Middle School on Sept. 13 & 14, Ana Cano-Morales is the candidate that the Board will submit to the commissioner for approval and so it was voted 5-0, role call vote was taken.

New Business

Budget Report- Mr. Canavan announced to the Board members that there is a financial problem facing the school district. He has met with the Superintendent and Linda Celona, Business Administrator and that it is almost impossible to determine the shortfall with the documentation that the finance office has . Mr. Canavan said that the budget that was submitted to the Department of Education without the Superintendents' knowledge did not have a breakdown. He then continued to state that Ms. Celona has had a great deal of time to gather the information needed but that she has not done so as of yet. Mr. Faria stated that the Board of Trustees was put in place for accountability. He then voiced his concern with the fact that it appears that the fund balance will be depleted during the 2004-2005 fiscal year resulting in a deficit for the district. Mr. Faria then recommended that the Auditor General come in to investigate the potential 2.5 million dollar shortfall that the school district may be facing. Mr. Canavan interjected that a letter will be sent to the Commissioner of Education and the Auditor General asking them to intervene on the school districts' behalf.

Executive Session

Mr. Canavan, Chairperson motioned to move to executive session pursuant to Chapter 42-46-5(a) 1 & 2 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island at 7:50 p.m.

Ana Cecelia Rosado motioned, **Joseph Faria** seconded and so it was

voted 5-0

Robert Canavan motioned to reconvene to a public meeting at 8:19 p.m. Joe Faria seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0.

Adjourn

Mr. Canavan adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.