

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

November 23, 2004

Call to Order

Chairperson, Mr. Canavan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present were: Robert Canavan, Chairperson,

Joel Roseman,

Mary Lou Perez,

Joseph Faria

Gus Silva

Ana Cano-Morales

Ana Cecilia Rosado

Call for Executive Session

Motion by Ana Cecelia Rosado, seconded by Gus Silva to move to an executive session pursuant to chapter 42-46-5 (a) 1&2 of the General Law of the State of Rhode Island.

Roll call vote was taken all members approved 7-0.

Public Meeting Reconvened

Chairman Robert Canavan reconvened the public meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Public Comments

Mr. Canavan announced that public comments will be addressed at the end of the meeting.

Current Business

Minutes – Joseph Faria motioned to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2004 Board of Trustees meeting, Gus Silva seconded the motion, and so it was voted 7-0.

Executive Session minutes – Joseph Faria motioned to accept the executive session minutes, Gus Silva seconded the motion, and so it was voted 7-0.

Schedule of Bills – Joel Roseman stated that he had reviewed the schedule of bills and motioned to accept, Joseph Faria seconded the motion and so it was voted 7-0.

Communications

Paulette Gazaille, school secretary at Calcutt Middle School requested a personal leave of absence from her position until the end of the school year. Mary Lou Perez requested to place her letter on file, Joseph Faria seconded the motion and so it was voted 7-0.

Sub-committee Reports

No reports were given

Administrative Report - Dr. Watkins, Superintendent of Schools reported that Supplemental Services would begin on Saturday and had an enrollment of 300 students with 60 children on a waiting list. The Superintendent also reported that back in October 2002 the department of education mandated Personal Literacy Plans (PLP's) be implemented for all students, she was delighted to say that Central Falls has completed the process and would be requesting a waiver for each student that tested below level.

Personnel Issues

Dr. Watkins asked that the following appointments be made: Jennifer Barber, Secondary Special Education Teacher retro to October 12, 2004, Jose Aica – Assistant Coach Girls' Volleyball, effective 2004-2005 season, Patricia Everton, Lunch Aide, Calcutt Middle School, effective November 22, 2004, Joanne Lopez, SCOPE Site Monitor – Registration Center, effective November 29, 2004. Gus Silva motioned to accept the recommendations, Ana Cecelia Rosado seconded the motion and so it was voted 7-0.

Dr. Watkins made the recommendation that the following contracts not be renewed for the fiscal year July 1, 2005: Linda Celona, Business Administrator, and Kenneth J. Gilbert, Coordinator of Computer Technology, Joseph Faria, motioned to accept, Gus Silva seconded the motion and so it was voted 7-0.

Chairperson's Report

Robert Canavan, Chairperson, commented on Governor Carceiri's recent visit to the school districts in Rhode Island that have shown improvements with their test scores. Mr. Canavan did say that with the help of principals, support staff, teachers, and union members we can achieve improvements with our students.

Old Business

Budget Issues: Dr. Watkins reported that she had received a report from Rhode Island Department of Education and that the shortfall is approximately \$3.9 million for this year. The district will have to review expenses, revenues, salary and strategies to address the deficit. The district is looking at a \$6.5 million short fall for next year. Dr. Watkins also went on to explain that the budget process needed to be done again. Also mentioned by the superintendent was the possibility of looking to the city council for some money. The Board of Trustees and Dr. Watkins did acknowledge that Carolyn Diaz, Finance Director from RIDE had worked very hard and that her office had done a fantastic job to get to the bottom line.

Attorney Services: After reviewing the proposals for attorney services, Joseph Faria motioned to accept Sciacca & Piccirilli of Cranston, Discussion: Joel Roseman asked if the hourly rate included travel time and Robert Canavan responded that it was strictly meeting time only, he also stated that references have been checked, Ana Cano Morales seconded the motion and so it was voted

4-3 with Ana Cecelia Rosado, Marylou Perez and Gus Silva opposed.

New Business

Student Expectations: Mary Lou Perez voiced her concerns about student's expectation not being high enough. She questioned what challenges are in place for students. Elizabeth Legault, Principal of Calcutt Middle School, said that she is planning a new procedure for moving students from 8th grade to the high school and that she is also working with the elementary principals on transitioning the 5th graders to Calcutt. Ms. Legault mentioned that attendance rates and the number of students on the honor role increased this year at Calcutt Middle School. Dr. Watkins suggested that the principals report their plans to the Board of Trustees in January.

District Wide Assessment: Dr. Watkins, reported that the GRADE Reading Assessments have been concluded and that all the information is being analyzed to make the needed adjustments for students.

Administrative Evaluation Instrument: Dr. Patricia Watkins asked board members to review the new administrative evaluation that will be implemented in the district. She acknowledged Dr. Lora Kosten and Patricia Morris as the administrators who created the instrument. Dr. Watkins stated that administrators have not been evaluated for many years and that this instrument is needed.

Communication Committee: Mario Papitto, Grants, Outreach Services, Title I & Media Relations Coordinator spoke about a recent survey that was sent home asking parents how they obtained information on the schools. Mr. Papitto said that 49% of the people responded and that they are very interested in what is happening in the schools. The committee's recommendation is that a calendar or notice of meetings time and dates be sent home to inform them of what is happening in the school district.

National School Board Association: Robert Canavan asked board members if anyone would volunteer to be the representative for the for the National School Board Association. Joel Roseman volunteered.

Release to Media: Dr. Watkins had proposed that a new policy be implemented regarding information released to the media. It was discussed that articles should appear in English as well as Spanish. Mr. Faria also interjected that the school district also advertise in the Portuguese Times published in New Bedford. Ana Cecelia Rosado motioned to accept the new policy, Joseph Faria seconded and so it was voted 7-0.

Public Comments:

Gus Silva reminded the Board and the Superintendent that the mayor will have to contact the city council before a decision can be made on money from the city.

Ms. McGlaughlin asked a question on the deficit as to how long it has been going on, and who was responsible for such a mess. She went on to say that the taxes in Central Falls can not continue to up because someone did not do their job. She voiced her concerns that some children do not live in Central Falls and that cut needed to be made before the school district asks the city for money.

Ken Gilbert spoke with concerns of his contract not being renewed.

Ms. Sevard said that the state took over the schools for a reason, and that the city was strapped and the fact that the school district was considering asking the city for money would not go over very big.

Adjourn

Mr. Canavan adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.