

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

May 4, 2006

I. Call to Order:

The Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Robert Canavan.

Present were: Mr. Robert Canavan, Chairperson

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Ms. Ana-Cano Morales

Ms. Mary Lou Perez

Mr. Joel Roseman

Mr. Angelo García

Excused was: Mr. Jhomphy Ventura

II. Discussion of 2006-2007 Budget:

The Superintendent advised that RIDE would be meeting with the District tomorrow on May 5, 2006 to discuss the budget for next year. She briefed that the District anticipated receiving budget cuts during

that meeting, and she would email the results of that meeting to the board. After queries and discussion from Board members, the Superintendent advised that budget revisions would not be finalized until such time as we receive final numbers from the RIDE.

III. Discussion of 9th grade facility location:

Dr. Watkins said that the facilities committee would present the different possibilities and options. Dr. Watkins thanked teachers, parents, community, the Union leadership and the planning committee. She continued saying that she had different meetings with parents, teachers about the process to follow.

Mr. Mario Papitto did an introduction of what the planning team did in regards to the overcrowding at the high school. He also said that the recommendation that they would be presenting to the Superintendent is the option that they believe is the better of the three.

Option 1: Relocate high school students to either Veterans Memorial School or Ella Risk School.

Option 2: Introduce double sessions at the High School

Option 3: Utilize Cowden Street School as a High School annex.

Mr. Gerry Manning mentioned and explained the pros and the cons of the three possible solutions they had. The committee recommended

the Superintendent to adopt option 3.

Utilize Cowden Street School as a High School annex. The pros are:

- **Limits disruption of elementary schools**
- **Keeps families together**
- **Minor construction**
- **Create small learning communities**
- **Reduce bussing**
- **No leasing costs**
- **Provides room to implement new programs**
- **Process started to place Kindergarten in Neighborhood schools**
- **Provides more time to develop a long term solution**

Dr. Watkins said that she accepts the recommendation of the committee.

Ms. Katy Gaouette said to the participants that there were cards on the tables so they could write questions if there were some.

The cards were collected and answers were given by the committee.

Mr. Bob Murray said that now that we have a temporary solution, they have to think of a long term solution. It has to be a combination effort of the School Administration, School Board and the City. The financing will be discussed with the city.

Mr. Canavan thanked the committee, for their great job, on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Joel Roseman said that when the process started they said that we needed 20 classrooms and now not that many. Mr. Gerry Manning answered that the committee is looking at another direction.

Mr. Joel Roseman thanked the committee for the tremendous job they did. He also said that we have to look at a detailed plan, the cost of the move, timetable of the accomplishments, etc.

Dr. Watkins said that she will provide preliminary numbers and a draft.

Mr. Canavan suggested having the next board meeting at the High School.

III. Public Comments:

Ms. Debra Good spoke about her support to the Superintendent in all issues.

Mr. Felix Estrada, President of the PTO at the High School said that since 2002 we knew that the overcrowding was coming at the High School and something needed to be done and he wanted to know

where this issue had to be addressed.

Mr. Canavan explained the procedure to be determined.

Ms. Joan Samsom, teacher at Veterans thanked the committee for finding other options. She began the idea of the play ground at Veterans and through a power point presentation she showed everything they have done to accomplish this task. Her husband spoke about the donations they have received to build the play ground.

Mr. Joel Roseman congratulated them and also said that playgrounds make a great difference.

IV. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Joel Roseman and seconded by Ms. Ana Cano-Morales. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.