

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

September 19, 2006

I. Call to Order:

The Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chairperson, Ms. Anna Cano-Morales.

Present were: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairperson

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Ms. Mary Lou Perez

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr

Mr. Jhomphy Ventura

Mr. Angelo García

Absent: Mr. David Cruise. Mr. Cruise had a conference to attend. He e-mailed

Mrs. Cano to be excused from the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Mary Lou Perez made a motion to approve the minutes of August 15, 2006.

Mrs. Cano asked for any discussions and Mr. Jhomphy Ventura had one and it was as follows:

A correction on the item where it says 20 years of experience on page 5, it is supposed to be 12 years. Angelo Garcia made a motion to approve the August 15 as amended and second by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the board.

Ms. Mary Lou Perez made a motion to approve the minutes of August 29, 2006. Jhomphy Ventura motioned to approve the minutes and seconded by Sonia Rodrigues-Carr and unanimously approved by the board.

III. Schedule of Bills

Ms. Anna Cano-Morales mentioned that she had two topics for discussion the first topic was for Mr. Bob Murray regarding two large bills from Brown University that total over \$150,000. Mr. Murray explained that those bills were for Professional Development Contracts. The second topic, trips to Water country that cost \$ 3,500,00, the questions is what is the rationality on this versus education, what are they learning at water country. The answer was that it was a summer school, zoo, science field trips for

vocational inspiration. Also Mary Lou Perez mentioned that she is curious about the programs that we have, the grants that each group have, what are the criteria's of using that money and if they are taking advantage of that, that is her mayor concern when she goes through the bills, are we using the money properly. Dr. Bill Holland made a comment that a lot of paperwork goes through his office and is regarding field trips and that he approves those, Mary Lou Perez mentioned that field trips were updated and that they were suppose to be educational and needs to be approved. Mr. Bob Murray made a clarification that the after school programs are almost always covered by grants and is a combination of federal and state funding. Ms. Mary Lou Perez motioned to approve the schedule of bills. The motion was seconded by Angelo Garcia and unanimously approved by the Board.

IV. Communication

No communications.

V. Reports

a. Update on Status of Proficiency Based Graduation Implementation:

Dr. Holland explained a power point presentation on the enrollment for 2006-2007. Charts were distributed with explanation of enrollment.

Enrollment Trends 2003-2006

Oct-03 3611

Oct-04 3572

Oct-05 3579

Sep-06 3351

Central Falls Enrollment 2003-2004

October January June

Ella Risk 469 467 465

Veterans 492 503 513

Feinstein 234 231 233

Robertson 224 247 247

Capt. Hunt 204 218 229

Cowden 193 188 190

Calcutt 881 863 868

High School 914 892 880

Total 3611 3609 3625

Central Falls Enrollment 2004-2005

October January June

Ella Risk 461 455 445

Veterans 492 495 475

Feinstein 226 219 226

Robertson 216 227 236

Capt. Hunt 185 198 206

Cowden 144 147 151

Calcutt 870 858 845

High School 978 971 946

Total 3572 3570 3530

Central Falls Enrollment 2005-2006

October January June

Ella Risk 452 448 439

Veterans 452 446 454

Feinstein 224 233 228

Robertson 203 207 213

Capt. Hunt 187 192 194

Cowden 147 142 155

Calcutt 857 851 845

High School 1057 1023 976

Total 3579 3542 3504

Central Falls Enrollment 2006-2007

September

Ella Risk 454

Veterans 504

Feinstein 202

Robertson 209

Capt. Hunt 185

Calcutt 848

High School 949

Total 3351

Comments: We have a distribution problem.

b. Chairperson: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales thanked Dr. Holland, the faculty-teachers, administrators for the hard work to get school started. Ms. Cano also mentioned that Dr. Holland and her have been very busy meeting with individuals regarding the future of Central Falls and they want to keep everyone informed the fact that they started this campaign early in the summer. Ms. Cano also mentioned that they have been very busy with the budget and that she knows that Dr. Holland and Mr. Bob Murray met regarding this. Ms. Cano mentioned that she is going to keep her eyes and ears open to some of the changes to that particular place in the municipal level where we have a new state representative Mr. Gus Silva. Ms Cano said that the council is well informed of what our intentions are.

c. Other: None

VI. Personnel Matters .

Appointments:

Sonia Yount has accepted the position of Music Teacher at Calcutt Middle School effective September 6, 2006. Ms. Yount received her Bachelor's Degree from Montclair State University in May 2000, and her Masters Degree from William Patterson University in May 2004. Her prior experience includes an internship at Sony Music in New York City and a liaison with performers at Carnegie Hall. Ms. Yount's last teaching assignment was a temporary teacher for 6th, 7th and 8th graders at Kickemuit Middle School in Warren.

Marilyn Cooney was appointed to fill the position of ESL Social Studies Teacher at the high school effective September 11, 2006. Ms. Cooney has been a building substitute for Central Falls high School for the past five years. She is a 1978 graduate of Rhode Island College and has made teaching her second career.

Sarah Sellers has accepted the position of Temporary Special Education Teacher at Calcutt Middle School effective September 1, 2006. (She will be replacing a teacher who is out on a one-year leave of absence.) Ms. Sellers graduated from Rhode Island College in May; she did her student teaching at Robertson School this spring and in the past, we have employed her as a teacher assistant during school break.

Jorge Torres has been appointed to the position of Assistant Coach for Girls' Volleyball for the 2006-2007 season. Mr. Torres is currently an ESL Math Teacher at the high school.

Karminda Roche has been appointed to the position of Music Teacher at Ella Risk. Ms. Roche is bilingual, a talent musician, director and producer

Proficiency-Based Graduation Regulation (PBGR) Administrator

Dr. Holland recommended Ms. Sue Cranston for PBGR Administrator.

VII. Approval of Appointments

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado motioned to approve the appointments. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mary Lou Perez and unanimously approved by the Board.

VIII. New Business:

a. Update on Status of Proficiency Based Graduation Implementation. Dr. Holland explained that this is an introduction he received from the State Department of Education. They did a review of our components on implementation of the high school efficiency diploma system and on that review they indicated that we are behind the time table, that maximum support is needed. We were actually called to a meeting on October 17th at the State Department to discuss our progress or lack in progress. Since this review things has happened throughout the

state and a lot of the school districts got some critical reviews, however, because of the emergency nature of this and that we have to have our performance base diploma system in place for the class of 2008, there is a need for coordination for this whole effort through the high school principals in bringing all the pieces together to move this, and there is a reason for this recommendation. Dr. Holland introduced Ms. Sue Cranston and Jane who passed to the Board a couple of brochures and they were as follows:

- a. All kids well prepared for high performing bright futures
- b. Central Falls High School Portfolio Handbook.

Ms. Cranston did a presentation on these two brochures and what they are all about. There were some comments from the Board, are these brochures going to be sent out to parents with a letter, are they also going to be in Spanish or different languages, on portfolio are the student will be able to carry them if they move to another school. The Board invited Ms. Cranston to come back to talk more about this program.

b. Attendance Advisory Task Force

Dr. Holland explained the Attendance Advisory Task Force and the purpose of this and it is as follows:

1. Review attendance enrollment trends over the past few years and determine their specific correlation to the failure, drop-out , and graduation rates
2. Identify causal factors in Central Falls that contribute to poor

school attendance

3. Evaluate the current strategies used to improve school attendance

4. Research new strategies or changes needed in current strategies to improve attendance

5. Identify ways to gain the cooperation of parents and town officials in solving attendance problems by establishing a public relation's campaign aimed at improving school attendance and urging students to remain in school until graduation

6. Investigate other variables that relate to attendance such as:

- The effectiveness of discipline as a deterrent, the teacher's role in improving attendance, ID cards or badges, using other community agencies and resources, looking closely at academic readiness of 8th graders for high school work, etc.**

Attendance Task Force Representatives

Superintendent

Principals

Police Dept.

Teacher's Union(1)

School

Committee (1)

Truant Officer (1)

Home Liaison (1)

At Large

Community (1)

PTO (2)

High School

Students (2)

Comments from the Board were how come Guidance is not there and Dr. Holland said that he will put them in the chart.

c. Jump Start Academy:

Mr. Gerry Manning gave information on attendance on Jump Start Academy. The first day of school there were 47 students, the second day were 48 students, not a big difference but better. In the last twelve days of school, we averaged 72 students per day and taking that 47-48 into consideration, Mr. Manning thinks that it is pretty good. Since Labor Day, Jump Start Academy average 74 students and over the past five days our average is 78 students or 80% attendance. Mr. Manning attributes this to certain factors such as student motivation, students really see Jump Start Academy as a fresh start, new opportunity to recuperate some of their losses where they experience failure and the reason for this improvement is that we have had 15 home visits between Mr. Manning, Behavior Specialists and School Psychology. Jump Start Academy makes sure that all the participants understand that we are a community a family and that is

why Mr. Manning thinks that Jump Start Academy is very good to have. Mr. Manning invited the Board and everyone to go to Jump Start Academy and visit and see with their own eyes how the school looks. The Board agreed to go and visit.

d. FY 2007 Budget Update:

Dr. Holland mentioned that he had a meeting with the Board of Regents finance committee last Thursday, September 14, 2006. Dr. Holland asked a series of questions and he thought that it went very well. Dr. Holland said that they publicly released the fact that we are going to be asking for supplemental budget an increase of \$560,837.00 and that is a 1.3 million reduction from the 1.8 when Dr. Holland came to the District. Dr. Holland also thanked all the people that were patient and those who felt the pain through during this process. Dr. Holland thinks that we are in a zone where it is acceptable and we are going to push hard to get the \$560,837. Dr. Holland also mentioned that the Governor wants to have two budgets to be submitted to him and Mr. Murray have been working with the State Department and with our office and presented a projective budget, as you know , projective budgets are not meant to be exact, but we are at 8.1% increase. Mr. Murray gave a brief explanation on the budget and it was as follows:

a. Personnel-FYOA salary is 59.7%

b. Expenses 13.6%

c. Retirement 9.6% and that was the major factor increase in FY 07 because of the new pension requirements state level given you a total

personnel of 82.9%

d. Special Education is 7.7%

e. Facility is 3.6% and that is non-labor portion of it

f. Everything else is 6.8%

Mr. Murray said that this will give a little perspective on the overall budget.

e. Item not published:

Ms. Cano mentioned that there was another item but not published in the agenda. The item was the Non-Certified union and Mr. Piccirilli asked a recommendation to the Board to ratify the contract. Ms. Cano made a motion to ratify the contract and Mr. Jhomphy Ventura motioned to approve the ratification of contract and it was seconded by Sonia Rodrigues-Carr and unanimously approved by the Board.

f. Public Comments:

Mr. Fidel Estrada who is also PTO President made a comment on how to raise funds so students can go on field trips, he mentioned car wash as a way to make money for this funds.

IX. Executive Session:

At 9:15 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado to move

to Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr. A roll call vote was taken and so it was unanimously approved.

The Chair reconvened the public meeting at 10:13 p.m. The motion to reconvene the public meeting was made by the Chair seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr. A roll call vote was taken so it was unanimously approved.

X. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Jhomphy Ventura and seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr. The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 p.m.