

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

December 12, 2006

I. Call to Order:

The Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order at 6:02 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

Mr. David Cruise. (Arrived at 6:10 p.m.)

II. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Jhomphy Ventura made a motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2006.

and second by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr and unanimously approved by the board.

III. Schedule of Bills

Ms. Mary Lou Perez made a motion to approve the schedule of bills of October, 2006 and the schedule of bills of November. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board.

IV. Communication

Ms. Mary Lou Perez said that the Board received a letter from Rhode Island Council 94 on behalf of Local 1627 to notify its intention to commence negotiations for a successor agreement to the present agreement between the Union and the School District.

V. Reports

a. Administrative Report.

The Superintendent had the Commissioner's review team at the high school with 30 people as visitors. They started at 6:30 a.m. and ended up at 6:30 p.m. The first day consisted on meeting with teachers to

look at student work, and meeting with individual departments. On the second day consisted of assignments throughout the day, and student advisories. Every student who attended this the first day were there the second day and if they noticed that someone of their group was missing, they expressed disappointment.

Dr. Holland mentioned that Mr. Bob Murray is back from his medical leave due to a surgery and that we are glad that he is back to the office.

b. Chairperson: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales took a few minutes to reflect on the last Board meeting of the year 2006. Ms. Cano mentioned that it has been quite a year, especially for the last six months, but she is encouraged by the work that everybody does every day. Also Ms. Cano mentioned that we have a new Board, the majority of the members are new, and therefore we have a new way of doing business. We have a new leadership at the superintendent level. We have been privileged to have Dr. Holland. We have new expectations across the board; we have a new legal counsel, Steve Robinson. We have a search team for a new superintendent that is underway. We are going to have guidance from Mr. Magee, as well as Dr. Holland, hopefully we will have a new superintendent in 2007. We have a high school/direction plan that will come to life soon and that is something that we are looking for.

Ms. Cano also thanked the staff, faculty, parents, media, people that really cares about what happens in the district. Also mentioned that

Ms. Perez, Ms. Rosado and she attended a conference sponsored by Providence School Dept., and it was about reform and leadership.

c. Other: None

VI. Personnel Matters .

Appointments:

Kerri Cockcroft – Head Teacher at Veterans School effective November 2006.

William Volpe – Assistant Coach Girls' Indoor Track for 2006-2007 season.

Elaine Ferrante – 1:1 Teacher Assistant for the Sergeant's Rehabilitation Center effective November 20, 2006.

Maria Gomes – 1:1 Teacher Assistant for Calcutt Middle School effective 11/27/06

Louis Goff – Part-time bus driver district wide effective 11/9/06

RESIGNATION:

Diana Waters resigned from her position as a Math Teacher at Calcutt

Middle School effective December 6, 2006.

Heather White an English Teacher at Calcutt Middle School, has submitted her resignation her last day of work will December 21, 2006.

Teresa Rodriguez a teacher assistant at Calcutt Middle School has submitted her resignation from her position effective December 21, 2006

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Luz Mejia – has requested a parental leave of absence from her position as teacher assistant at Ella Risk School effective November 2006.

VII. Approval of Appointments and Resignations

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado motioned to approve the appointments and resignations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jhomphy Ventura and unanimously approved by the Board.

VIII. New Business:

a. Superintendent Search.

Dr. Holland mentioned that the search for a new superintendent is underway. Dr. Holland presented to the Board of Trustees and to the public a packet, which included a list of priorities gathered from meetings with administrators, parents and teachers and also with a list of people who been asked to serve on the search committee and prototype advertisement. The Superintendent search will be conducted by Dr. Holland and consultant James Magee and this will begin on January 8, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. The new search committee which includes the following people: Senator Dan Issa, Ewa Pytowska Assistant Superintendent, Jane Sessums President of C.F. AFT Union, Walter Hourahan H.S. AFT Union Representative, Lamont Gordon Brown University Center for Urban Education, Sharon Cabral, Robertson Elementary Principal, Fidel Estrada, PTO President, Leslie Estrada, Parent at Large. Augusto Cookie Rojas, Vice President of Public Relations, Mary Canole, RIDE, Keith Oliveira, RIDE is scheduled to have its first meeting at the high school cafeteria on January 8th. The meeting will be followed by an open meeting with parents and teachers at 7:00 p.m. The search committee will select the finalist and forward the names to Mr. Magee, Dr. Holland and the Board of Trustees for a final interview. All this information will be available at the Central Falls School District website.

b. Policy Manual Development.

Dr. Holland mentioned that Ms. Mary Lou Perez and Ms. Pat Morris

met with Vicki Bejma a Research Specialist in General Law and Communication to discuss the proposed updating of the Central Falls School District Policy Manual.

IX. Executive Session:

At 6:25 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jhomphy Ventura to move to Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado. A roll call vote was taken and so it was unanimously approved.

Ms. Ana Cano-Morales reconvened the public meeting at 7:26 p.m. The motion to reconvene the public meeting and to seal the minutes was made by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr and seconded by Mr. David Cruise. A roll call vote was taken so it was unanimously approved.

Note: Mr. Jhomphy Ventura left after the Executive Session.

(New Business – continue)

c. High School Attendance Policy

Dr. Holland presented to the Board and the public a proposal for the new Central Falls High School Attendance Policy in which he emphasized the importance of regular attendance. In this document he mentioned that there is a positive correlation between good school

attendance and academic success. Absences disrupt the continuity of the learning process and to ensure that students are receiving optimal benefits from time spent in Central Falls High School the following policy is in place to govern attendance and tardiness:

Absences are excused with required notes from parents/guardians for the following reasons: Illness, religious holiday, serious family matters, medical appointments, medical dismissal by school nurse, required court appearance, school approved field trips, student college visits and any circumstances deemed extenuating by administration.

Unexcused absences are as follows: Truancy, dismissals (non-medical), family vacations.

Loss of academic credit: A student will lose ten points on their final grade if they have more than five unexcused absences in one semester and more than ten days unexcused absences in a full year course. Prior to loss of academic credit, a return receipt letter will be sent to parent notifying them that their child is in danger of losing academic course credit for semester courses.

Attendance plan: A combination of excused and unexcused absences could result in a loss of considerable class time

Unexcused absences: Family vacations

Tardiness: Continued tardiness to school can result in unexcused absences. Students will be allowed three unexcused "tardiness" to school during a semester.

Class Cutting: A student who cuts class will receive a zero. A class cut is defined as attending less than 50% of a class without an

excused absence.

Truancy Court: Excessive unexcused absence where school intervention has not been successful will be referred to the Truancy Court.

Attendance Law: Students have an obligation to attend school until they are 18 years old unless withdrawn by a parent when they turn 16.

Disenrollment of Non-Attending 16 and 17 years old: can be disenrolled after 10 days or more consecutive days of absence if the parent has not contacted the school.

Truancy Court: Excessive unexcused absence where school intervention has not been successful will be referred to the Truancy Court

Right to appeal: Student and parent will be given the right to appeal and opportunity to view student records.

X.Public Comments

Ms. Cano-Morales thanked the principals for sending the SIT notes. They are very informative she said.

Ms. Debbie Goods made a comment on Veterans School. She said that for parents who do not have access to the internet to check the school calendar, every month students are given a copy of the month calendar to take home and that this is in English and Spanish, so parents will know all the events that are going on at the school. Also, there will be an update on school uniforms in early 2007.

XI. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.