

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

**January 9, 2007**

**I. Call to Order:**

**Chairperson, Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.**

**Present Were: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairperson**

**Mr. Angelo García, Vice-Chairperson**

**Ms. Mary Lou Perez, clerk**

**Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado**

**Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr**

**Mr. Jhomphy Ventura**

**Mr. David Cruise. (Arrived at 6:07 p.m.)**

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

**Mr. Jhomphy Ventura made a motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2006,**

**Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado seconded the motion and unanimously approved by the board 7-0.**

### **III. Schedule of Bills**

**Ms. Cano-Morales asked if there were any questions regarding the bills and Mr. Garcia had one regarding payments that are made to charter schools. Mr. Garcia mentioned that there is a percentage that is paid directly to charter schools and that there is a percentage that the Department of Education pays. Do we reimburse this? Mr. Bob Murray answered that each school is responsible for the local share and the local share is what we are paying to the charter schools. The charter schools also get funding directly from the Department of Education and we have a local share and that is what is included in our budget. Mr. Murray also said that it is unique in our district because we receive 100 percent of our funding so we do not go through a formula, but charter schools receive their funding from the Department of Education through a formula and then there is a percent set aside. Regarding special education in some cases we may be providing special education services and that is not a direct payment to the charter school and that is part of the salary. Ms. Cano-Morales mentioned that she received another bill that was not included in the packet and the bill was for \$210.00 for Johnson and Wales University.**

**Mr. Angelo Garcia made a motion to approve the schedule of bills. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr and unanimously approved by the Board 7-0.**

#### **IV. Communication**

**None.**

#### **V. Reports**

##### **a. Administrative Report.**

**Dr. Holland mentioned that two interim administrators have been hired. Ms. Lori DeConte will be serving at Veterans school for a month or so, Mrs. Vielka Rollins is on sick leave. Ms. DeConte is an ex-principal of Johnston; she is also a certified director of special education. Ms. Joann Fielding will be working at the high school; she is an ex-principal from Vets high school of Warwick. She will not be starting until January 23rd.**

**Dr. Holland also mentioned the precautions that the schools are taking regarding the health scare (mycoplasma pneumoniae) that happened in Warwick, West Warwick and Coventry. Dr. Holland mentioned that messages have been sent by Marie Grist, head nurse of the district to parents via memos and connect-ed, both in English**

and Spanish, as well as, installing alcohol gel hand dispensers in all C.F. schools. In the protocol action plan, there are 7 or 8 points that are being reinforced by teachers

Dr. Holland also mentioned that on January 4, 2007 the Community Task Force met again and that they started to look deeper on the issues of attendance and failure. They have created three subcommittees. On the first subcommittee, they are going to invite three or four students some that might have poor attendance, second is going to be parent engagement and third will be incentives.

**b. Chairperson:**

**Ms. Anna Cano-Morales** took this time to mention four things and they were as follows:

1.. On behalf of the Board she wanted to say publicly that they are very committed to the district and that they are here to serve.

2.. **Ms. Cano-Morales** wished **Dr. Holland** a happy new year and a well deserve time off. **Dr. Holland** will be in Florida for a month. We will miss him, but we will be in touch by e-mail and phone calls.

3.. **Ms. Cano-Morales** said that the Superintendent's search committee had their first meeting yesterday and that she was very excited and wanted to thank the media and public for attending to this meeting.

4.. **Ms. Cano Morales** also mentioned that she was very proud to read an article on the Pawtucket times regarding **Kim Alix**, a fifth -grade teacher at **Veterans Memorial Elementary School**, the answer is

## **Veterans Memorial Elementary School.**

**This year, for the second year in a row, Alix has nominated pupils to participate in the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C., an annual leadership skills primer for children between grades six and eight, founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.**

**Of this year's five nominees, fifth-graders Jennifer Kalbourji and Stephanie Pratts will be attending the 2007 forum in September**

**c. Other: None**

## **VI. Personnel Matters .**

### **Appointments:**

### **PERSONNEL:**

**Amy Garcia has accepted the position of school secretary at Veterans Memorial School effective December 19, 2006.**

**Mario Valdez has been hired as a part-time bus driver; his appointment is effective December 7, 2006.**

**Christopher Cruz was hired as a 1:1 teacher assistant at the high school effective January 2, 2007.**

**Serena Swartz has accepted the librarian position at Capt. Hunt and Jump Start; her first day of work will be January 22, 2007. Ms. Swartz holds a B.S. in education from Barry University in Florida and a Master's degree from Nova Southeastern University.**

**Jennifer Martin has received her certification to teach ESL Math teacher at Calcutt Middle School. Ms. Martin has been a substitute teacher at Calcutt for two years. Her effective date is August 31, 2006**

**Amy Crookes has been appointed to fill a job share position at Ella Risk School. Ms. Crookes has been a substitute in the district for 3 years, her effective date for this position is January 2, 2007;**

#### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

**Roberto Cano is requesting a personal leave of absence from his position as a Teacher Assistant at the high school, from January 8 – April 4.**

#### **VII. Approval of Appointments and Resignations**

**Mr. David Cruise motioned to approve the appointments and resignations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jhomphy Ventura and unanimously approved by the Board 7-0.**

## **VIII. New Business:**

### **a. Commissioner's Review of Central Falls High School.**

**Ms. Mary Canole from RIDE presented to the Board and public a 33 page state Department of Education report on how well Central Falls High School has implemented the corrective action plans it drafted last year. Central Falls has made substantial achievements in the past three semesters. Fifteen specialists who spent two days at the school in December compiled the report. They did interviews with administrators, teachers, students and parents, who represented Jump Start Academy, ESL, Special Education, and PBGR programs. Ms Canole met with teachers on January 8th to talk about the report. Ms. Canole congratulated the faculty and mentioned that there is no doubt in her mind that they have laid the foundation that will enable them to go forward with this, but also said that there is a great deal to do as well. Ms. Canole also mentioned that the Education Department agreed to support the school to build leadership build capacity of administrators and teachers, address the needs of diverse learners, strengthen family and student engagement, and implement the PBGR and policies that promote better student behavior and safety. In the report it mentions that many students ignore, or resent the new graduation requirements and it is attributed to the district's**

relatively late start on PBGR implementation. The report recommended that the district should create opportunities for in-classroom professional development, create a culture of high expectations and accountability for all students, raising students' expectations for the level of rigor and effort required to learn, make sure they know what to do in order to graduate. Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr made a comment where she said that if teachers did not raise their level of expectations for their students it would be pointless to make changes. Dr. Holland said, that in order to raise expectations, you need to show the teachers how to get their students to perform at a higher level, in order to introduce teachers to new teaching practices, you need to let them work it out in the classroom and provide them with constructive feedback, the demand for creative teaching in urban schools districts is incredible. Ms. Canole said that over the next couple of weeks the Education Department would meet with school administrators and central office and start adjusting the action plan. Dr. Holland will have to decide the fate of the high school by the end of the school year and mentioned that he was very impressed by the report's emphasis on professional development, but also indicated that there is a long way to go and that it was a wonderful experience for the students.

#### **b. Superintendent search timetable**

Dr. Holland said that search timetable will be on the website. There was a meeting last night where a lot of information was distributed.

Dr. Holland talked about the search timetable; we have 10 members

that are representing the community. Dr. Holland feels that this is an exceptional group based on last night's meeting. People who attended felt very positive about the openness of this process. The timetable has already begun. Most of the advertising will take place from now until February 5th. As of now, we have 10 to 12 candidates and we expect to have a large applicant pool, and time will tell. Last night's meeting was an orientation by the search committee and we are going to have another meeting to know exactly what candidate we are looking for, what is the best match. Prior to February 10-28 the search consultant will recommend the semifinalists for an interview. From February 28th through March 15th the search committee will select the finalists then they will announce them to the public. From March 15th through March 30 final interviews will be conducted.

#### **c. High School Attendance Policy**

Dr. Holland said that there were some grammatical changes made from last time and also mentioned that he will not be surprised if they will meet again in June for some short revisions.

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr made a motion to approve the High School Attendance Policy as amended and seconded by Mr. David Cruise. A roll call vote was taken and so it was unanimously approved 7-0.

#### **IX. Public Comments**

Mr. Michael Bedard, head bus driver for C.F. district wanted to address a couple of issues:

a.. He feels that the drivers and the monitors are not being justified

**for their positions.**

**b.. The question regarding outsourcing transportation. They want to know if it is going to happen. As of now they have 14 drivers and 6 lease drivers and they are short 4 monitors. They feel that the kids are part of their family, they take good care of them and that these kids are very accustomed to them so they feel that if they outsource the transportation, the district will be doing harm to these children, because these children are used to the bus drivers and monitors.**

**Ms. Crystal Smith also asked what is going to happen next year. Are they going to have jobs?**

**Ms. Cano said that as of now they don't have an answer that they are looking to see what is going to happen, but she knows that they are doing an excellent job with the kids.**

#### **X. Executive Session:**

**At 7:45 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Jhomphy Ventura to move to Executive Session and adjourn the meeting to the public. Ms. Mary Lou Perez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and so it was unanimously approved 7-0.**