

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

March 13, 2007

I. Call to Order:

Chairperson, Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present were: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairperson

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr

Mary Lou Perez

Mr. David Cruise

Not present: Mr. Angelo García

Mr. Jhomphy Ventura.

Mrs. Cano-Morales started the meeting by sharing sad news to the public. Mrs. Kathleen Rainone had passed away. Mrs. Pytowska said a few words regarding Mrs. Rainone.

Mrs. Rainone was a wonderful teacher, a union leader and mentor. She worked as a teacher in Central Falls for 31 years. During that time she held multiple positions with the Central Falls Union, including President and C.O.P.E Director. She also helped to develop the CFTU Mentoring Program. Along with the late Paula Akers, she founded the Committee to recognize amazing personnel for the Central Falls School Department. She will be missed.

Mrs. Cano-Morales asked for a moment of silence.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. David Cruise made a motion to approve the minutes of February 13, 2007 and seconded by Sonia Rodrigues-Carr, and unanimously approved by the Board. Ms. Mary Lou Perez mentioned that an edited copy of the February 13th minutes would be included in the next packet.

III. Schedule of Bills

Mrs. Cano-Morales mentioned that she had a question that had already been taken care of. She also reminded everyone that Mr. Cruise and Mr. Ventura would run the finance sub-committee. Mr. David Cruise made a motion to approve the schedule of bills and the motion was seconded by Sonia Rodrigues-Carr and unanimously approved by the Board.

IV. Communication

None.

V. Reports

a. Administrative:

- **Status of Superintendent and High School Principal searches**

Dr. Holland mentioned that they are now down to two finalists, Mr. Gene Chasin from Storrs, Ct, and Mrs. Frances Gallo from West Warwick, RI. Mr. Chasin was here last Thursday, March 8th for a whole day visiting the main office and the schools. The same day he had a public forum where he answered questions by parents, students and faculty staff. Dr. Holland also mentioned that he had contacted the media (Projo/Pawtucket Times) and utilized Connect-Ed to increase advertisement for the next meeting that will be held March 15th, since we did not have a lot of people attending the first forum.

Dr. Gallo will be in C.F. on 3/15/07 to visit the schools and main office.

A public forum is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on that day.

- **High School Principal search**

We are purposely waiting for the new Superintendent so that way he/she will be involved in this search. Last night the principal search committee met and they will meet again on April 5th. The following people are in this committee: URI-David Byrd, George McLaughlin, Cliff Sylvia-Facilitator, Sue Cranston, Norberto Hernandez, Dolores

Grant, Bob Scappini, Jorge Torres, James Bernier, Steve DeLeo, Jackie Wilson-Parent and a student named by Mr. Sylvia.

- **URI/CFHS Partnership update**

Both internal URI campus and C.F. high school had met a couple of times. The URI technology met with Ann Mariano. We are also waiting for responses of a survey sent out to the HS faculty to identify immediate actions that need to be looked at and any long-range goals that could support our school improvement efforts. On May 1st we will be back at the Regents to vote for the partnership and then a contract will be signed.

- **RFP outsourcing:**

Dr. Holland said that the time line that they have to meet, if in fact we are outsourcing, would be for January rather than September. Dr. Holland asked Mr. Bob Murray for a quick update on the RFP outsourcing. Mr. Murray said that the bus RFP was finalized today and that our legal counsel has reviewed it, copies were made and it will be mail out tomorrow to six vendors. All these vendors are located in Rhode Island. The dead line for the bids is April 25th. A question was asked: what is going to happen with the drivers, bus routes, etc. Dr. Holland said that they would meet with the vendors to go over the routes and see if they will hire our drivers. Dr. Holland said that they would have a special meeting to review this whole outsourcing process.

- **Introduction to interim administrators at High School and Veteran's Elementary**

Dr. Holland introduced Lory DeConte, Interim Principal at Veteran's

Elementary. Mrs. DeConte is a 33-year veteran, retired, teacher/administrator, serving 32 years in the Johnston School Dept. Mrs. DeConte also was a diagnostic prescriptive teacher and adult education director. We are very happy to have Mrs. DeConte at Veteran's.

Mrs. Jo-Ann Fielding, Assistant Principal at the High School with 23 years of experience. She worked for the Warwick School Department. She worked with the members of the department to improve student achievement and delivery of services. She also worked in the department of budget development.

Mr. Cliff Sylvia, Interim Principal at the High School. Mr. Sylvia has been a mentor to Mr. Kennedy and he is helping and assisting him until we hire the new principal at the High School.

- Status of FY 08 Budget**

Dr. Holland mentioned that he would be testifying Friday at the House Finance hearing. One of the issues is the request to reduce the 1 million (2%) that the governor has asked. The city said that they don't have the money.

b. Chairperson

Mrs. Cano-Morales said that she is very impressed with the search of the new Superintendent. She thanked everyone who has been involved in this process. Also Mrs. Cano-Morales wanted to invite everyone to attend the next forum that will be held Thursday, March

15th with Dr. Gallo and ask questions or concerns that they might have.

VI. Personnel Matters

Appointments:

Gregory Bishop has been hired as a teacher assistant for Ella Risk School. Mr. Bishop began working on February 13, 2007.

RESIGNATION

Vielka Rollins, Principal of Veterans Memorial School submitted her letter of resignation effective February 23, 2007.

VII. Approval of Appointments

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr motioned to approve the appointments. The motion was seconded by Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board.

VIII. New Business:

a. 2007-2008 School Calendar

Dr. Holland gave the Board members a copy of the 2007-2008 school calendar for their approval.

Mr. David Cruise made a motion to approve the 2007-2008 school calendar. The motion was seconded by Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board.

b. Advanced Placement Program.

Mr. David Adams from the College Board made a presentation regarding the Advanced Placement Program.

Mr. Adams said that their mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. They are a not-for-profit membership organization committed to excellence and equity in education.

PSAT/NMSQT – Benefits to Central Falls HS

- Performance comparison on state and national scale**
- Question analysis in critical reading, mathematics, and writing**
- Early wake-up call**
- Connect assessment to learning/instruction**
- PSAT/NMSQT skills aligned with RI grade span expectations**

AP Potential

- Identifies diamond-in-the-rough AP students, and indicates AP courses for which they might be suited**
- Promotes equity**
- Helps CFHS find candidates for AP courses**
- Provides useful lists for principals and counselors to: Expand AP programs, add courses, increase enrollment in current AP courses**

AP and College Success

- Participation in AP or other rigorous courses is a stronger predictor of success in college than test scores or grade point average
- The impact of this curriculum on college completion rates is especially profound among Latino and African-American students

Impact of AP on 5-year College Graduation Rates

Student Group AP Exam Grade of

3,4,5 AP Exam Grade

Of 1,2 Took AP course

But not exam

African-American 28% higher 22% higher 16% higher

Hispanic 28% higher 12% higher 10% higher

White 33% higher 22% higher 20% higher

Low-Income 26% higher 17% higher 12% higher

Not Low-Income 34 % higher 23% higher 19% higher

PSAT/NMSQT Student Connection

- Complete, personalized item analysis and skills feedback
- Enhanced learning via complete answer explanations
- Tips on how to improve
- Initial guidance on education plans
- Personalized SAT Study Plan

Opening the door to college opportunity PSAT/NMSQT & AP potential

b. Public Comments:

Mrs. Pat Labelle, CF school bus driver said that she is very concern not only for the job but also for the children of Central Falls. Mrs. Labelle mentioned two things that she wanted to bring up

1. We do not own our buses. She doesn't understand why you don't buy the buses and look that up as an alternative instead of outsourcing

2. She just wanted to tell the Board that they only have 13 drivers if the other company is thinking of hiring these drivers she is pretty sure that half of those drivers will not go. They will stay with the city and bump other positions that they are qualified for.

Mr. Pat Whalen asked the Board if they have seen the RFP that came out today. The Board said no. Mr. Whalen asked if he could have a copy of this RFP to give to Senator Tassoni, so they can go over it and see if there is something in it that is not supposed to be there.

Mr. Whalen also asked who reviewed this document. Mr. Murray said that the legal counsel has reviewed this document and that he will release a copy of this document to the Union after it is been formerly published as an RFP Document.

IX. Executive Session / Adjournment.

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado made a motion to move into Executive Session and adjourn the public meeting. Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr

seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved, 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.