

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

April 10, 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

Mr. Angelo Garcia, Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Mary Lou Perez, clerk

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr

Mr. David Cruise

Not present: Mr. Jhomphy Ventura

Chairperson, Ms. Cano-Morales started the meeting by welcoming Dr. William Holland and his family. Also present were: Deputy Commissioner Todd Flaherty, Mary Canole, Keith Oliveira, and Mayor Charles Moreau. Kind words marked former Interim Superintendent

William Holland's last School Board meeting.

Ms. Cano-Morales said that Dr. Holland was handpicked by state education officials to put the struggling Central Falls School District back on track. Ms. Cano-Morales and the Board thanked Dr. Holland for all his support and guidance that he gave the C.F. School District in the eight months that he was here with us. Dr. Holland gave a heartfelt speech. Several people shed tears. Dr. Holland said that he graduated from college forty-seven years ago, and since then has been continuously involved in education. In that time, Dr. Holland said that he have dealt with hundreds and hundreds of school boards, but this group, ably led by Anna Cano Morales, is one of the finest, if not the finest, group he have ever worked with. In honor of Dr. Holland's service, he received a gift basket and a bouquet of balloons. A group of dancers from Veterans Elementary School performed a traditional Puerto Rican folk dance; young actors from Veterans' Arts Literacy program performed a skit entitled "Lessons We Learned," and students from the high school's Human Creativity Program, an extended day arts program funded by SCOPE (Schools and Community Organized to Promote Excellence), performed traditional West African and Salsa dances.

Mr. David Cruise made a motion to resume with the meeting at 7:04 p.m. and seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. David Cruise made a motion to approve the minutes, including the executive session minutes, of March 13, 2007 and the edited version minutes of February 13, 2007, seconded by Mr. Angelo Garcia and unanimously approved by the Board, 6-0.

III. Communications

Ms. Mary Lou Perez mentioned that the Kids in the Canyon would be leaving this weekend for the Grand Canyon. Her daughter is one of the students who will be going to this trip. Ms. Perez wished them a safe trip and also asked to add the Kids in the Canyon to the next Board agenda for an update on their trip.

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr mentioned that the Community Task Force met last month. This community started in November 2006 to go over the attendance policy. Last month at the meeting principals, and high school students were present to look over the attendance. Ms. Rodrigues-Carr mentioned that now they have some sub-committees.

A.) to look over attendance related strategies, B.) health and wellness. This committee will meet on May 23rd and at this meeting they are going to start to write a policy for the health and wellness program.

IV. Reports

a. Administrative:

- **Reflections and updates from initial days**

Dr. Gallo mentioned that she had visited all the schools prior to her officially coming on board and wanted to say that she has found creative students enter school life, and thinks that we just need to focus a little bit more clearly. Dr. Gallo explained to the Principals the other day, “discipline people, discipline thoughts, discipline actions this come from a Tom Collins book and she thinks that if we do that discipline we are going to see a big difference here.

Dr. Gallo congratulated Feinstein teachers for the reflection, care and absolute concern on the kids. Dr. Gallo also wanted to congratulate Mrs. Karen Langellier for a job well done and asked the Board if we can do a formal citation on the next Board meeting.

- **University Academy Planning and Process**

Dr. Gallo mentioned that she had extensive meetings with the high school and those notes were included in the Board packet. Dr. Gallo said that meetings regarding the high school and the partnership with the university have been meeting extensively, she will be glad to share the most recent work. Dr. Gallo said that they are meeting in 3-hour sections this coming week with Dr. Carothers to really flesh out the actual formal agreement and that really is coming forward.

- **High School Principal Search Update**

We have several candidates, Dr. Gallo said. The search committee met today to formalize the questions. The committee will be doing the paper screening this week and we are scheduling the interviews immediately following the closing on the 24th. We will have a second interview on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd and then bring to the Board the final recommendations so that way the Board will be able to appoint the new principal on May 10th.

The committee is really hoping to bring somebody on board ready and committed to stay in Central Falls.

Dr. Gallo also mentioned that in the packet there is a letter from Todd Flaherty and she will like the Board to pay special attention to that letter. This letter gives you several plans that Dr. Gallo will like to review with the Board and ask if they can put aside a retreat day in either May or June. She thinks that they need to get going on some aspects, the one that she is aware of is assessments, to really understand what assessments is all about, what are our scores, what are they looking for, where are the gaps and what are we doing about them. These are the kinds of information that feeds the strategic plan and the next time we meet we really need to work on the strategic plan itself.

• House Finance Meeting of April 5th update:

Mrs. Cano-Morales said that is going to be an extremely difficult year.

A lot of attention is being placed on Central Falls.

The question on the city's contribution is definitely being asked many times and the city of Central Falls will not give this contribution.

There seems to be a little discrepancy as to who pays what. In Mrs.

Cano-Morales' testimony she made it clear that they are representing the district not the city of Central Falls.

b. Chairperson

Mrs. Cano-Morales congratulated Mrs. Karen Langellier for a great job and also congratulated Ms. Maureen Azar for being such a great model to all the teachers at Feinstein. Also, Mrs. Cano-Morales said that she is very happy to have a new Superintendent and thanked Dr. Gallo for accepting the position as the new Superintendent of Central Falls School District.

V. Personnel Matters

None

VI. New Business:

a. Proposed Segue Institute for Learning Center.

The founders of the proposed Segue Institute For Learning, a middle school-level charter school currently under review by the State Department of Education, made a brief presentation to the School Board. A copy of the proposal was enclosed in the Board packet for their review.

Mr. Angelo Garcia, board member and city department head, and two of his co-founders, Ana Soares and Melissa Lourenco, explained that the new school would: alleviate overcrowding at the Calcutt Middle

School; provide parents with school choice; tailor its curriculum to the learning style of each student; prepare students for college by offering advanced courses usually only available at the high school level; require parents to donate their time and energy to benefit the school; and create a Parent Resource Center that would provide parents with GED classes and job placement services, direct social services, referrals, etc.

Although DOE's review process is not dependant on the General Assembly's decision, the current moratorium on new charter schools, Segue won't be able to open its doors until 2009 if the legislative effort to lift the moratorium fails.

b. Overview High School attendance and student suspension data.

Ann Mariano, director of technology, introduced the School Board to the district's new Tienet computer database program.

Ms. Mariano said that Tienet lists every aspect of student performance - including Special Education and ESL students - and automatically calculates correlations, patterns and comparisons between individual students and desegregated groups of students. The idea is to provide teachers with the information they need to reverse negative trends and propagate positive ones.

b. Public Comments:

None.

X. Executive Session / Adjournment.

Mr. David Cruise made a motion to move into Executive Session and adjourn the public meeting. Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously approved by the board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.