

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

September 11, 2007

I. Call to Order:

Chairperson, Mrs. Anna Cano-Morales called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present were: Ms. Anna Cano Morales

Mr. Angelo Garcia, Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Mary Lou Perez, clerk

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues

Mr. David Cruise - arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Not present with an excuse: Mr. Jhomphy Ventura

II. Superintendent's Report:

The opening of school was exciting and smooth in every way except transportation. When we rejected privatization last year, we embarked on a voyage exploring new territory. We used the phone

system extensively to notify parents of the changes and wrote to the Charters and parochials regarding group stops as opposed to door to door services.

Our technology in the area of planning routes is still not operational; but we are working on it. Our employees tried to be very accommodating, actually too accommodating, by replacing numerous corner stops with door stops, delaying and confusing the situation. This happened repeatedly. Every stop adds about three minutes to a bus run.

The transportation situation was further exacerbated by the lack of clear and correct information about our special education students and their need for transportation. Several issues have been resolved in that department; nevertheless, these issues continue to plague the transportation system.

We currently have 11 runs. Two runs are in this city. They service each of our elementary schools. The remaining 9 bus runs service approximately 350 CF students attending 41 different schools: Davis, Community Prep, San Miguel, Pathway, N. Attleboro, Sergeants, Highlander, School for the Deaf, Goodwill, Bishop Keough, Lincoln School, Jewish Community Center, Moses Brown, St. Joan, St. James, St. Cecilia, St. Ray, St. Theresa, St. Leo, St. Mary, Spurwink, Viola Berard, Harmony Hill, Mt. St. Charles, The Learning Center Charter, Blackstone Academy, International Charter, Meeting St, Bradley, Valley Day, Woodlawn, 7th Adventist, UCAP, LaSalle, Mt Pleasant Academy, Groden Center, Providence Center, Providence County Day, St. Andrews, Our Lady of Fatima, Mary T. Dean. We

lease 14 busses and employ 11 drivers (with 3 positions unfilled at this time), 13 monitors, and one nurse for bus services alone.

While we are accounting for every dollar, we realize that appropriate services must not be lost. At the same time, we all must realize that when families are used to door to door services, corner stops will never meet their expectations.

It is important to note that we are operating within the bounds of the law.

Throughout this week, we will continue to iron out the wrinkles. Our expectation is that we prevail with corner and group stops. No child should be on a bus run in the city longer than 45 minutes.

Dr. Gallo said that she visits the schools on a daily basis and she sees teachers teaching, students reading. The over crowd at Calcutt has be released. Now we have Calcutt Too. I invite Tatiana Pina from the Providence Journal to talk to teacher and students and get the feed back from them.

III. Policy and Planning:

a. Central Falls School District Wellness Policy:

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues gave a brief presentation on the Well Policy that was included with the agenda and it is as follows:

CENTRAL FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT WELLNESS POLICY

The Central Falls School District is committed to providing students

with

a learning environment that supports and promotes wellness, including

good nutrition and an active lifestyle. There is a well-documented positive

relationship between wellness and the capacity of students to develop and

learn. The entire school environment shall be designed to promote health

and wellness and to positively influence students' beliefs and habits.

School staff shall be expected to model healthy eating and physical activity as a valuable part of daily life.

Children need access to healthful food and opportunities to be physically

active in order to grow, learn, and thrive.

Good health fosters students' emotional well-being, attendance, and education.

Obesity rates have doubled in children and tripled in adolescents over the

last two decades, and physical inactivity and excessive calorie intake are

the predominant causes of obesity.

Nationally, the items most commonly sold from school vending

machines,

school stores, and snack bars include low-nutrition foods and beverages such as soda, sports drinks, imitation fruit juices, chips, candy, cookies, and snack cakes.

Therefore, it is the policy of the Central Falls

School District that:

- The School District will engage students, parents, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing District-wide nutrition and physical activity policies.**
- Family and community education in nutrition and physical activity will be provided.**
- Nutrition education will involve sharing information with families and the broader community to positively impact students and the health of the community.**
- Healthy foods will be provided that reflect diverse culture, lifestyles, and preferences.**
- Students in grades Pre-K to 12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.**
- Foods and beverages sold or served in the school will meet the**

nutritional recommendations of the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA.

- **All foods and beverages made available in the school will adhere to food safety and security guidelines as required by the USDA and the Rhode Island Department of Health.**
- **Schools will provide nutrition education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity, and will establish links between health education and school meal programs, and with related community services. This will be in compliance with the Rhode Island Public Law Chapter 06-231, “An Act Relating to School Committees and Superintendents on Healthier Beverages and Foods.”**
- **Nutrition education will be integrated into other areas of the curriculum such as math, science, language arts, and social studies.**
- **Physical education courses will be the environment where students learn, practice, and are assessed on developmentally appropriate motor skills, social skills, and knowledge.**
- **Physical activity will be integrated across curricula and throughout the school day. Movement can be made a part of all core subjects.**
- **The school provides a physical and social environment that**

encourages safe and enjoyable activity for all students, including those who are not athletically gifted.

- Schools are encouraged to provide community access and encourage students and community members to use the school's physical activity facilities outside of the normal school day.**
- Time allotted for physical activity will be consistent with research, and national and state standards. Children should have several opportunities for physical activity approximately every two hours during the school day.**
- A daily recess period will be provided to all elementary students. Recess will not be used as a reward or denied as a punishment. Plan recess at times such as before lunch, since research indicates that physical activity prior to lunch can increase nutrient intake and reduce food waste.**
- The school environment is safe, comfortable, pleasing, and allows ample time and space for eating meals.**
- Drinking water is available for students at meals.**
- Food and/or physical activity is not used as a reward or punishment.**

This policy is designed to meet the requirements of the Child

Nutrition and

WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Section 204 of Public Law 108-265).

Some School principals mentioned that they are using the fruit that comes with the lunch as a snack for snack time.

b. First Reading Athletic Policy:

Under Eligibility item #5. Student must be passing 60% of their subject. The Board wants these to be re-written. Dr. Gallo said that she will contact Kathy Luther and the Principal at the High School to go over this item with them.

c. Budget Presentation:

Mr. Bob Murray started by saying that the District deficit is now \$700,000 dollars. Mr. Murray said that it will be very difficult to make further cuts without hurting programs or crucial positions. Mr. Murray also mentioned that he is preparing a supplemental budget request for the governor's office. Mr. Murray said that one way that the District was able to save some money was by having 12 special education students who were transported to an out of district school to stay in an alternative program in Central Falls. The District hired two Special Ed teachers but the savings came from not driving those students to various parts of the state. Mr. Murray also told the Board that by not hiring an assistant principal to the middle school and laying off teacher assistants they were able to save some money as well. Mr. Garcia asked Mr. Murray what would it take to get the

\$700,000 down to zero. Mr. Murray said that the District can not get it to Zero. Mrs. Cano-Morales asked if we had to, what would you do? “Anything not required by the Law”. A lot of the budget cost comes from personnel. Mrs. Cano-Morales also asked about health care that the district provides to the teachers. Mr. Murray said that the District pays less for medical premiums than the state. Under the current teacher’s contract, the district can buy- back health benefits that teachers do not use. Mr. Murray mentioned that the District will be negotiating a contract with the teacher’s union and that the buyback will be one of the things that will be on the table.

IV. Public Comments:

Mrs. Cano-Morales made a comment regarding a rumor that she heard where some individuals were saying that a Trustee was getting special treatment and support from the other Trustees. Mrs. Cano-Morales made it very clear that they are not using the Board to do anybody favors or allowances. Mrs. Cano-Morales was very disappointed when she heard these rumors.

V. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of minutes:

Mr. David Cruise made a motion to approve the minutes from June 12th, July 10th, and August 14, 2007. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ana Cecilia Rosado unanimously approved by the Board, 6-0. Ms. Sonia Rodrigues made a motion to seal the executive minutes

from June 12th, and July 10th. The motion was second by Mr. Angelo Garcia and unanimously approved by the Board, 6-0.

VI. Personnel Appointments:

Mr. Michael Lauro has accepted the position of CF:URIA Assistant Principal. Mr. David Cruise made a motion to approve Mr. Lauro's appointment as an Assistant Principal at the CF:URIA. The motion was second by Ms. Mary Lou Perez and unanimously approved by the Board.

VII. Action Items:

- **Transportation Policy:** Mr. Angelo Garcia made a motion to approve the Transportation Policy. The motion was second by Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board, 6-0.
- **Alternate Schools Philosophy:** Mr. David Cruise made a motion to approve the Alternate Schools Philosophy. The motion was second by Sonia Rodrigues and unanimously approved by the Board, 6-0.

VIII. Future Meeting:

Next Board meeting will be held October 09, 2007 at the Central Falls High School cafeteria.

XIX. Executive Session and Adjournment of public session. A motion to adjourn the meeting and move into Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 42-46-5 (a) 1&2 of the Rhode Island General

Laws. (Personnel) (Collective Bargaining) (Grievance) (Litigation)
was .made by Mr. David Cruise at 6:50 p.m. and seconded by Ms.
Mary Lou Perez. A roll call vote was taken and so it was voted to 6-0
in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.