

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

**October 09, 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 – arrived at 6:08 p.m.**

**Ms. Sonia Rodrigues**

**Mr. David Cruise**

**Not present: Mr. Jhomphy Ventura**

**II. Recognition:**

**a. College Fair –Guidance: Ms. Cano-Morales thanked the HS guidance department for their early college fair which drew recognition from Mt. St Vincent College New England Admissions.**

**Ms. Cano-Morales said that we need to recognize our children thirst for education beyond high school and that many consider colleges all over the world.**

**b. Upward Bound Report: The Board recognized our students who participated in the Upward Bound Program this summer. There were ten students juniors and seniors who received recognition from RIC for their achievement in Chemistry, Swahili, Japanese, Advanced literature and Writing, Trigonometry, Reading Mastery, Human Anatomy and Algebra.**

**c. New England Dairy & Food Council's 07: Sonia Rodrigues was present at the Healthy Schools Breakfast and witness the \$5,000 check presentation to Aramark Food Services for Expanding Breakfast Award from the New England Dairy and Foods Council for the Central Falls High School's breakfast program. Ms. Cano-Morales thanked Dennis Gomes from Aramark for all his leadership and all the work that he had provided to CF Schools.**

**d. Dacia Pray Memorial Foundation Walk-a-Thon. The Board thanked the people who put together the Dacia Pray Memorial Foundation Walk-a-thon. Dacia Pray was a teacher's aid at Veterans Memorial School who passed away last year. At this first Walk-a-thon \$15,000 was collected.**

**Ms. Cano-Morales also said that tonight is Mr. Angelo Garcia's last Board meeting and will not be participating in Executive Session. Angelo has been a faithful servant to CF for many years and in particular to the CF Schools. Angelo will be missed but Ms. Cano said that they will look forward to innovative partnership with charter**

**schools and in particular with Segue, a charter school that is under Angelo's leadership and guidance.**

**The Board also acknowledged that the term for Mr. Jhomphy Ventura another Trustee has expired and he will not be submitting a request for renewal. The Board actually is in the process of identifying candidates to replace Mr. Garcia and Mr. Ventura. They will bring these candidates to RIDE, the Commissioner and the Board of Regents for approval in November and it is imperative that the rest of the Board members attend the next Board meeting for a quorum and hopefully by December the Board will have these two new members. Mr. Garcia thanked every body. He said that it was a wonderful experience and very educational.**

### **III. Policy and Planning:**

**a. Permission to organize trip to Italy during February Vacation by Stefania Groenendyk and Margie Cruz: Ms. Groenendyk, Italian teacher and Margarita Cruz, Home School Liaison, proposed to organized a trip to Italy for a group of not more than 20 students during the February vacation. The cost of the trip would be carried by the student's parents. Students will be doing fundraises to help pay for this trip. This trip would satisfy the following Foreign Language Standards:**

**2:2 (Culture) students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.**

**5.5 (Communities) students use the language both within and beyond the classroom.**

**3.2 (Connections) students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through foreign language and its culture.**

**Ms. Goenendyk said that the students will see first hand how the people live and interact. Students will use what they have learned of the language to ask for what they need while in Italy and students will be immersed in the Italian language in the cradle of its origin. There were some questions from the Board regarding health insurance and time out of school. Ms. Goenendyk said that she will check into it.**

**b. Presentation by NRIC: Mr. Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr. Executive Director at the NRIC gave a presentation on the NRIC History, Budget process, Surplus Controversy, the new Vision/Mission and an Overview of Services:**

**NRIC History: It was established in 1986 by RI Legislation RIGL 16-3.1.8 and it was the first Collaborative in Rhode Island. They were succeeded by the Sirocco Southern Collaborative, the East Bay Collaborative and the West Bay Collaborative. The Bylaws were approved by the Commissioner of Education in 1987 and managed by the Regional Board of Superintendents.**

**Budget: The budget operates on a fee for service especially for the Special Education Program tuition and related services. The budget is approved yearly by the Regional Board of Superintendents. The budget is also audited yearly and reviewed at the Annual Meeting in March.**

**Surplus Controversy: It was created by misinformation, misinterpretation and sensationalized reporting. The NRIC Surplus**

was created through entrepreneurial efforts of the Administration and Board. –Opened classroom seats to non-member districts –Managed educational grants –Expanded services increased revenues. One of the things that the Surplus is generated from if we go back to 1998 were potential loss of parochial classrooms –would drastically impact programs. Loss of Central Office Lease and this would impact Professional Development –Math, science, adm. and leadership –Continuation of the strategic plan and –Operating Fund Account must have 12% reserved to cover operating fluctuation.

**Audited Revenue Surplus:** The Operational revenue surplus of FY 99, 00, and 01 identified by the yearly audits was dedicated by the Board for a building (school and/or Office Complex for PD). This created a 501 (c) (3) Holding Co. The Board of Superintendent s decided that they will build this complex for the amount not to exceed \$4 million. The \$4 million was generated in the years of 88, 89, 90 and 00.

**Surplus Revenue after FY 2001:** From FY 2002 to present revenue surpluses identified through the certified audit was used to offset rising tuition cost. Each LEA district realized a cost savings. The collective amount given back by Board vote exceeded \$2.1m through FY 2007 so now this combined with the offset for the FY 2008 budget is in excess of \$3.2m.

**Impacts to Central Fall 2004-2007:** As a member district, Central Falls has received \$156,550 in tuition cost reductions from 04-07. Actual tuition savings realized by using the NRIC vs. another Private Special Education School is \$1,918,800. For FY 2008 the actual savings is \$200,000.

**NRIC Past, Present and Future: Historically the NRIC has been a Special Education Program option for the member LEA's –Severe/Profound and/or Autism Spectrum Disabilities –Behavior Disordered/SED Disabilities –Provider of Related Services to the LEA's –Professional Development-Sped Focus.**

**NRIC Goals as developed by the Regional Board of Superintendents was to maximize NRIC resources, to increase cooperative purchasing, to reduce funding costs to LEA's, to support the professional development needs of the collaborative communities, to develop the capacity to address the identified needs of the eleven LEA's by continually enhancing present operations or developing new programs.**

**New vision: The NRIC is an Education service agency, dedicated to supporting member school districts in meeting the need of their educational communities.**

**NRIC Services FY 2008: Related Services- Speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and Adaptive PE. Technology- IEP Management, compass learning, dyslexia and program management. Consultation- clinical psychological, positive behavioral supports, private school, special ed/regular ed. team building, mediation, legal consultation, RIDE school support preparation, summer eligibility teams, transportation, out of district placement analysis, LEA program development. Grants- RIDE early childhood, disproportionality, NIMAC, RIRC, ORS, Transition employment center, EAST-STEM initiative and Legislative Technology.**

**NRIC Programs FY 2008: Programs developed or planned for school districts. SAP (PS-Elem-MS-HS integrated, Preschool LEA, Multi-disabled, language disabled, RAP (PS-Elem-MS-HS integrated, SED/BD, MS-HS language disabled, transition employment center, school to career, MTTI alternative, apartment-life skills, ESL-ELL, vision, NIMAS,RI-IRC, orientation/mobility, assistive technology, virtual learning academy, virtual high school, compass/odyssey, program IEP/data, management, HIPPI, RI school for the deaf-oral deaf program, cooperative purchasing.**

**NRIC Leadership FY 2008: HS principal reform seminars, curriculum leadership team, principal leadership –SREB training, special education director leadership series, superintendent leadership series, RIDE program support and intervention, HS reform training, information technology seminar series.**

**NRIC Technology FY 2008: Computer assisted instruction, assistive technology, program management, IEP data management, VLA, VHS, compass learning-odyssey, dyslexia and purchasing.**

**Questions: Are the Board members suppose to be the leaders of this collaborative, why is it that only superintendents exercise this authority? –The operation is managed by the Board of Superintendents. The Board of Superintendents act as the agent of each of their respective schools. The Regent Board of Superintendents is the actual managers and they report back to the school committees. The by-laws are approved by the commissioner of education and this is what we use to operate. The Superintendent of the school should report any activity to the committee.**

**How the collaborative interfaces with the rest of the municipals which are Lincoln, Central Falls, North Providence, Smithfield, North Smithfield, Burrillville, Foster Gloucester, Johnston, Woonsocket and Pawtucket? Mr. MacDonnell said that they have the largest spread in diversity urban people.**

**c. Presentation of Revision to Attendance Policy by Larry DeCoste:**

**The attendance policy that Mr. DeCoste was referring to was the High School Attendance Policy. Mr. DeCoste mentioned some of the differences in this policy and they were as follows: There was an error when the handbook was published; they left out a couple of absence reasons. They are: serious family matters and student college visits as excuse absences. The major point in the policy is loss of academic credit. As a way of encouraging students to attend school, the principal will be raffling a computer system for students who last year achieved perfect attendance.**

**Consequences of excessive unexcused absences are: any student who misses a test must attend the next Saturday School session and take a test in place of the one missed. This will be a one opportunity unless the student's parent provides proof of an excused absent for the Saturday. Any student who has 3 unexcused absences in any one class in a semester will be given a note to take to his/her parent informing that the student must attend the Saturday School. Any student who continues to be absent without an accepted excuse and achieves a total of 5 unexcused absences in any one class in a semester will be socially suspended for the rest of the semester. The student is dropped from all athletic teams and barred from attending**

dances, proms, clubs, and trips of the remainder of the semester.

-Except for the purposes of prosecution in the Truancy Court, every student starts new in the second semester at the end of January with a count of no unexcused absences.

**Class cutting:** A student who cut class will receive one unexcused absence for the purpose of the policy.

**Disenrollment of Non-Attending 16 and 17 year olds:** In order for a 16/17 year old child to leave high school there has to be unanimous agreement among the student, parent/guardian and the school administrator.

Mr. DeCoste mentioned to the Board that every Tuesday they have Truancy Court and that any members who want to attend are more than welcome.

Mrs. Cano-Morales requested a motion to take the agenda out-of-order and go into Personnel Appointments. The motion was approved by Mr. David Cruise and it was seconded by

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board, 6-0.

#### **IV. Appointments:**

Giovanna B. Venditti, new Director of Finance for the Central Falls School District effective by the end of October.

Ms. Cano-Morales requested a motion to approve Giovanna B. Venditti as the new Director of Finance for the Central Falls School

**District. The motion was approved by Mr. David Cruise and it was seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board, 6-0.**

**Ms. Cano-Morales thanked Mr. Robert Murray who is leaving the position as Director of Finance for the wonderful job that he did here in the CF District.**

**V. Continuation on Policy and Planning:**

**a. Review of Bus Transportation: Dr. Gallo mentioned that at an earlier meeting they took a vote that the district will not privatize transportation and Dr. Gallo said that she is not suggesting that they do. What she is suggesting is that in the past month and half, since the District has been in session, they continue to have issues with transportation. Dr. Gallo will like to reach out to First Students who was the highest bidder when the District was looking for privatization. Dr. Gallo will ask First Students if they can house the District buses at their site and utilize a small space in their office for our dispatcher. Question: Is the money coming out of the budget? Yes.**

**b. Review of Athletics Policy Handbook: Dr. Gallo said that during the last meeting regarding this policy, she and the Board wished the overall passing of 60 % to be increased. Ms. Kathy Luther, e-mailed Dr. Gallo if the Board will approve passing 75% of their class. Students take four classes on each semester. Dr. Gallo suggested to**

**Ms. Luther that the students must maintain an average of 75% on each class. If this is approved, it will start at the second semester which starts in January.**

**VI. Public Comments:**

**No Public Comments.**

**VII. Consent Agenda:**

**a. Approval of minutes: Motion to approve the consent Agenda was made by Mr. David Cruise. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado. Ms. Cano-Morales asked for any comments and Dr. Gallo said that on the appointments, the Board needs to approve the individuals that are receiving tenure.**

**-The following employees received tenure status this academic year and they are as follows:**

**Diane Suneson**

**Brian Crooks**

**Melissa Arnold**

**Michele Pearson**

**Terri Anderson**

**Justin Drzal**

**Vilma Restrepo**

**Carl Africo**

**Kevin Drolet**

**Denise Perron**

**Jessica Goldstein**

### **Continuation of Appointments:**

**Ms. Linda Poidomani appointed for the physical education teacher at the high school.**

**Ms. Krystal Vento –Grade 6 ESL Teacher at Calcutt Middle School. Her effective date is August 28, 2007.**

**Ms. Erika Jackson –Cheerleading Coach at Calcutt Middle School.**

### **Resignation:**

**Ms. Paula Cummins has submitted her letter of resignation from her position as Teacher Assistant at the M.I. Robertson School. Her resignation is effective October 5, 2007.**

**Ms. Cano-Morales requested a motion to approve, Tenure Teachers, appointments and resignations. Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado made a motion to approve the tenure teachers, appointments and resignations. The motion was second by Ms. Mary Lou Perez and unanimously approved by the Board, 6-0.**

### **VIII. Action Items:**

**a. Possible action to support First Student Service. Mr. Angelo Garcia made a motion to support First Student Service. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues and unanimously approved by the Board, 6-0.**

**b. Approval for trip to Italy. Ms. Sonia Rodrigues made a motion to approve organization of a trip to Italy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado. Discussion: The Board wanted to know if**

**the students were going to use any school days for this trip. Ms. Margie Cruz said that this trip will be done during Spring Vacation. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board, 6-0.**

**IX. Superintendent's Report:**

**Per Dr. Gallo and Mr. Robert Murray the District has a deficit of \$0.00.**

**X. Future Meeting:**

**Next Board of Trustees meeting will be on November 13, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.**

**XI. Executive Session and Adjournment of public session:**

**Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 42-46-5 (a) 1&2 of the Rhode Island General Laws.**

**(Personnel) (Collective Bargaining) (Grievance) (Litigation). A roll call was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.**