

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

February 19, 2008

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- Chair Women

Ms. Mary Lou Perez, clerk

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues

Mr. Vladimir Ibarra

Ms. Leslie Estrada

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Not present - with excuse: Mr. David Cruise

II. Pledge

Mr. Dan Davis led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Recognition:

Ms. Cano-Morales said that even though there is no official recognition at this meeting tonight, she would like to recognize an article in the Providence Journal about the Central Falls High School: a URI Academy. Also, Ms. Cano-Morales mentioned that great work is taking place at the high school. The press conference last week also demonstrated the wonderful work of Artist Elizabeth Keiser and fellow artists in influencing classroom instruction to embrace the Arts while helping children to be courageous.

Last Friday, February 8, 2008, the school nurses, parent liaison, COZY volunteer moms, transportation staff and Aramark all collaborated on the most successful Smiles event Central Falls has had. Fifty six children went to the Blackstone Valley Community Health Dental Center at 210 Main Street in Pawtucket and received cleanings, fluoride treatment, sealants and fillings for free. The children, who were not serviced that day, have been scheduled for the end of February. Another 13 children were seen in the dental offices of Dr. Phillip Barr at the 247 South Main Street, Providence. CF school nurse, Ms. Joanne Roberts, reported how she was touched by the kindness and patience shown to the CF children, also these children received complete dental services including extractions.

Ms. Cano-Morales said that the Board wants to recognize the work of every collaborator and especially note that once again the CF nurses bring out the best in everybody.

VI. Policy and Planning:

a. Rob DeBlois, UCAP

About UCAP

UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program located in Providence, Rhode Island. UCAP is a small, independent public school that serves students from grades 7, 8, and 9th. UCAP is working to intervene in the lives of at-risk adolescents in order to help them find success in school and beyond. UCAP provides a one or two year program during which middle school students who have fallen behind their grade level accelerate in order to rejoin their peers as they enter high school. It is the school's goal for students to return to mainstream public or private schools having accelerated to an age appropriate grade level.

All school-day operations are funded through tuitions that are paid by the participating school districts for each student from their respective district. In addition to tuition, UCAP raises private funds from individuals, foundations, businesses, and fundraisers more than \$200,000 per year.

Initially, money raised by the Fund will be used for short-term, year-to-year needs of the Urban Collaborative. The single greatest use of such funds will be for costs associated with Beyond School programs at UCAP. In the past 10 years, the Urban Collaborative has

raised more money for Beyond School programs than has been needed to fund these programs each year. Surplus funds have been held by the Urban Collaborative with the effect of increasing the reserve fund to its current level of \$1.8 million. All of this activity – fundraising, disbursement of funds, investing of funds, and building an endowment – will be shifted to the Fund for UCAP.

Why Beyond School Programs are Essential

The effects of out-of-school-time programs have been well documented, and demonstrate that these programs can have positive effects on achievement of low-achieving or at-risk students in reading and mathematics. Students have better grades, work habits, emotional adjustment, and peer relations as a result of participating in these programs. Results from an American Youth Policy Forum national research show that out-of-school-time programs are an essential component in any strategy to improve the life chances and outcomes for youth, particularly disadvantaged youth. In Rhode Island, according to the most recent Census based indicators, only 26% of students from in Central Falls are English language learners, while 41% of children live in poverty. In Providence, only 28% of students meet the 4th and 8th grade math standards. Cranston overall fares much better than UCAP's other two collaborative partners in all areas, but has taken the pro-active step of referring students who have been retained to UCAP.

SALT Report and Assessment Data

UCAP was among the first schools to be evaluated under the SALT program.

Mission Statement

UCAP seeks to intervene in the lives of at risk young adolescent, to help them attain the academic and social skills necessary for success in high school and in life. UCAP stresses the importance of taking responsibility, working hard, setting goals, taking risks and having fun.

The Mission Directives at UCAP are as follows:

- 1. To serve at-risk students who are likely to drop out of school in the absence of concentrated efforts that affect their unique needs.**
- 2. To build a school which engenders and relies upon individuals who respect each other, appreciate diversity, and who share a commitment to community.**
- 3. To guide students toward academic achievement that allows students to advance in grade at an accelerated rate, and assume more responsibility for their own education.**
- 4. To help students succeed by extending the influence of the school to the students' families, and beyond the traditional boundaries of school.**
- 5. To establish the school as an institution that readily seeks partnerships with community based organizations, businesses, foundations and other groups who have a stake in the success of at-risk youth in inner-city schools.**

6. To establish and sustain, among staff, a commitment to school-based management founded upon shared decisions making, exploration of innovative ideas and practices and experimentation.

V. Consent Agenda

Ms. Cano Morales asked for a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2008 as well

as, routine personnel action, resignations, rescissions and other routine matters. Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2008, routine personnel action, resignations, rescissions and routine matters. The motion was second by Ms. Mary

Lou Perez and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

VI. Contract non-renewal notices for tenured, non-tenured faculty, administrators and

staff:

Ms. Rosado read the following resolutions pertaining to non-renewal due to emergency certifications, bumping, uncertainty of funding, temporary employees, better teachers, eliminations of programs for tenured and non-tenured faculty, administrators and staff.

Resolutions:

1. Emergency Certificates – (Tenured)

WHEREAS, the district sought certified personnel for specific positions, and was unsuccessful in its search; and

WHEREAS, the district applied to the Rhode Island Department of Education for emergency certification for specific positions; and

WHEREAS, an emergency teaching certificate has been issued by the Rhode Island Department of Education for the 2007-2008 school year only

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contract of the following named personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2007-2008 school year, effective the last day of school in June, 2008.

Ms. Mary Lou Perez made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

2. Emergency Certificates – (Tenured)

WHEREAS, the district sought certified personnel for specific positions, and was unsuccessful in its search; and

WHEREAS, the district applied to the Rhode Island Department of

Education for emergency certification for specific positions; and

WHEREAS, an emergency teaching certificate has been issued by the Rhode Island Department of Education for the 2007-2008 school year only

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contract of the following named personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2007-2008 school year, effective the last day of school in June, 2008.

Ms. Mary Lou Perez made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

3. Temporary Employee for Teacher on Leave of Absence

WHEREAS, positions become available in the Central Falls School District due to teachers going on leave; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement, the District is required to fill said positions with temporary employees; and

WHEREAS, the senior staff members who are on a leave of absence are expected to return in September of 2008 and are entitled to such

positions; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contracts of the following named personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2007-2008 school year, effective the last day of school in June 2008.

Ms. Mary Lou Perez made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

4. More Qualified Individuals

WHEREAS, the school district always seeks the best individuals available for all certified positions;

The level of total funding for 2008-2009 is uncertain; and

FURTHERMORE, it is anticipated that it will be necessary to eliminate or consolidate positions or programs which will result in a lack of positions; certain teaching positions may be affected by the application of the bumping process of the collective bargaining agreement in the event of a reduction in staff due to a shortage of funds.

FURTHERMORE, it is believed that there are better teachers available to fill certain positions;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contract of the following named personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2007-2008 school year, effective the last day of school in June, 2008.

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

5. Temporary Employee Hired After the Thirteenth Day of School – (Non- Tenured)

WHEREAS, positions become available in the Central Falls School District after the thirteenth day of school; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement, the district is required to fill said positions for the remainder of the school year only; and

WHEREAS, other people currently employed by the school district and people on recall are entitled to bid on said positions.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contracts of the following named personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2007-2008 school year, effective the last day of school in June, 2008.

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

6. Temporary Employee Hired After the Thirteenth Day of School - (Tenured)

WHEREAS, positions become available in the Central Falls School District after the thirteenth day of school; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement, the district is required to fill said positions for the remainder of the school year only; and

WHEREAS, other people currently employed by the school district and people on recall are entitled to bid on said positions.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contracts for such personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2007-2008 school year, effective the last day of school in June, 2008.

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues and approved by the Board 5-1.

7. Uncertainty of Funds and Bumping (Non-Tenured)

WHEREAS, the school district has in the past applied for and received various federal, state, and local funds; and

The level of total funding for 2008-2009 is uncertain; and

FURTHERMORE, it is anticipated that it will be necessary to eliminate or consolidate positions or programs which will result in a lack of positions.

FURTHERMORE, certain teaching positions may be affected by the application of the bumping process of the collective bargaining agreement in the event of a reduction in staff due to a shortage of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contracts of the following named personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2007-2008 school year, effective the last day of school in June 2008.

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

8. Uncertainty of Funds and Bumping (Tenured)

WHEREAS, the school district has in the past applied for and received various federal, state, and local funds; and

The level of total funding for 2008-2009 is uncertain; and

FURTHERMORE, it is anticipated that it will be necessary to eliminate or consolidate positions or programs which will result in a lack of positions.

FURTHERMORE, certain teaching positions may be affected by the application of the bumping process of the collective bargaining agreement in the event of a reduction in staff due to a shortage of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contracts of the following named personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2007-2008 school year, effective the last day of school in June 2008.

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

9. Uncertainty of Athletic Funds

WHEREAS, the school district has in the past applied for and

received various federal, state, and local funds; and

The level of total funding for 2008-2009 is uncertain; and

FURTHERMORE, it is anticipated that it will be necessary to eliminate or consolidate positions or programs which will result in a lack of positions.

FURTHERMORE, certain athletic coaching positions may be affected due to a shortage of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the coaching assignments of the following named personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2007-2008 school year, effective the last day of school in June 2008.

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

10. Uncertainty of Funds Bumping and Program Elimination (Tenured)

WHEREAS, the school district has in the past applied for and received various federal, state, and local funds; and

The level of total funding for 2008-2009 is uncertain; and

FURTHERMORE, it is anticipated that the district may find it necessary to eliminate or consolidate positions or programs which will result in a lack of positions.

FURTHERMORE, certain teaching positions may be affected by the application of the bumping process of the collective bargaining agreement in the event of a reduction in staff due to a shortage of funds or the elimination of programs.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contracts of the following named personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2007-2008 school year, effective the last day of school in June 2008.

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

VII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gallo made it very clear that is not the District's intent to eliminate any of the coaching positions that the District currently have or any other sports. In terms of the elimination of programs, the District has looked at some of the elective programs where student selections are extremely minimum and where other students were placed in class with no interest to take the class, etc. This school administration has

taken a careful look at those programs and has recommended some reductions. This is based on the opportunity to offer more electives that are more appealing to students without compromising the graduation requirements.

Dr. Gallo said that the District continues to have face to face meetings with the Commissioner. Mary Canole from the Commissioner's office visits the district on and off to make sure that the district is making their expectations. The District has created a scorecard and has also created a very simple matrix where it asks if they are meeting their expectations, if they are moving forward or falling behind, etc.

Dr. Gallo also mentioned that last week the District had a very successful summit and that they are looking in the next few weeks to re-calling some of the members so they can once again talk to the expertise in around the community and without partners as they move this district forward so this will be something that the district is looking forward in the next few weeks.

VIII. Public Comments:

Marcela Garces, Spanish teacher (Calcutt Middle School). Ms. Garces said that she was making a public comment tonight because a couple of weeks ago some teachers were informed of the possibility of the elimination of foreign languages at the middle school level. Teachers are very disappointed and broken hearted. Ms. Garces has been teaching Spanish for the past six years and voiced out her concerns regarding the elimination of the foreign languages from the district.

IX. Next Board Meeting:

Next Board of Trustees meeting will be on 03-11-08

X. School Board Comment

The Chairwomen invited nominations for the election of Vice Chairperson. Ms. Mary Lou Perez proposed that Ms. Sonia Rodrigues be elected to the position of Vice Chairperson. This was seconded by Ms. Leslie Estrada and unanimously approved by the Board.

Vice-Chairperson, Sonia Rodrigues said that she is looking forward to great teamwork.

XI. Executive Session:

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues made a motion to move, under the RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (2), that this body convene in executive session to discuss certain matters are the subject of collective bargaining and litigation, and to conduct work sessions pertaining to collective bargain and litigation. Ms. Rodrigues further moved, under the RI General Laws 42-45 5 (a) (9), that this public body convenes in executive session to conduct hearings and hear grievances filed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement. The motioned was seconded by Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

XII. Adjournment

Public Session was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

