

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

March 11, 2008

I. Call to Order:

Chairperson, Mrs. Anna Cano-Morales called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Present were: Ms. Anna Cano Morales- Chair Women

Ms. Mary Lou Perez, clerk

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues

Ms. Leslie Estrada

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Mr. David Cruise ----- Late: 6:10 p.m.

Not present - with excuse: Mr. Vladimir Ibarra

II. Pledge:

Ms. Edda Carmadello led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Recognition:

Ms. Cano-Morales said that last Sunday marked the conclusion of Julia Steiny's three part series on Calcutt's implementation of a serious disciplinary procedure system that is changing the face of the school. The Board is proud of the work going on at Calcutt and is cognizant of the efforts of Principal Elizabeth Legault, her faculty and the staff. The behavior specialists have certainly made a difference at the school.

IV. Policy and Planning:

Ms. Cano-Morales and the Board moved into the next agenda item and welcomed Principal Edda Carmadello and the faculty, staff, and students of Captain Hunt. This was the second of a multi-part series of the Central Falls Schools as they become more aware of each of CF schools and their unique qualities.

a. Captain Hunt Informational presentation: Ms. Edda Carmadello presented the following PowerPoint to the Board of Trustees and to the public:

Ms. Rosa Morel, Captain Hunt's school liaison, gave a brief summary of what her roll is when she visits the homes of the students who are having some kind of problem at school. Ms. Morel said that she explains to the parents the kind of problems their child is having and gives some samples of the materials that they are using in school. Also, Ms. Morel said that she encourages parents to go and visit the school and see for themselves what their child is doing.

Ms. Sarah Rodriguez-Beerman told the Board that she attended a conference in Tucson, Arizona regarding the Nurtured Heart Approach.

The Nurture Heart Approach teaches significant adults how to strongly energize the child's experiences of success while not accidentally energizing his or her experiences of failure. Most approaches, because they were designed for the average child, get stretched beyond their capacity when applied to challenging children.

Traditional approaches for parenting and teaching can easily backfire with challenging children: they inadvertently reward children by providing more energy involvement and animation when things are going wrong. Challenging children wind up being very confused because they perceive a high level of incentive for pushing the limits and for negative behaviors, and little incentive to make successful choices. The harder adults try applying these normal methods, the worse the situation becomes, despite the best of intentions.

At the end of Ms. Carmadello's presentation a group of students from Ms. Marybeth Brigidi's class did a small presentation. Children sang and dance the "Hop Onboard The Train To Success".

b. Larry DeCoste – Residence Policy Updates: Ms. Cano-Morales said that Mr. DeCoste was at this meeting to present an update to the Central Falls Residency Policy. This is a first reading of a proposed change or clarification.

Mr. DeCoste said that he will postpone his presentation until the next Board meeting due to the fact that the Board did not receive all the documentation for this meeting.

The Board agreed and will be an item on the next Board meeting on April 8, 2008.

c. Discussion & Vote on alternative High School Proposal from UCAP:

Ms. Cano-Morales said that Mr. Rob DeBlois from UCAP visited last

month and made a strong proposal to continue the development of the UCAP into the High School here in Central Falls. Ms. Cano-Morales said that at this time, the Board should voice their concerns or considerations of this project. Ms. Cano-Morales asked that others bring up the new consideration of an alternate school for troubled and adjudicated youth sponsored by the community for the community in partnership with DCYF and Patricia Martinez. Ms. Mary Lou Perez moved that the Board not support an independent alternate High School at this time and that our schools actively pursue collaboration with DCYF and other community partners in the development of a community based alternate middle and high school program for the most at risk sub group of our youth and perhaps those of our neighboring communities. Ms. Cano-Morales said that the Board is not ready to make a vote. Mr. David Cruise said that he will like to table the motion and at some point down the future the Board could discuss it again rather than take it and make a proposal. Mr. David Cruise made a motion to table the proposal of an alternative high school from UCAP. Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board. 6-0.

d. Presentation of draft 2008-2009 School Calendar:

The draft calendar has been included for the perusal of the Board only. Ms. Cano-Morales mentioned that the Union has not found the time to comment on it and work with Dr. Gallo to bring this to completion. Ms. Cano-Morales asked Dr. Gallo to get this done in a timely manner, as it is our obligation to inform the state of our 08-09

calendar by May. Dr. Gallo said that she spoke to Jane Sessums, President of the Union, and will be meeting soon to discuss the 08-09 school calendar.

e. Request for approval from Don Blais, Grand Canyon:

Mr. Blais showed the Board members their mission statement, as well as, some photos that were taken from last year's trip. Mr. Blais said that they were at this meeting to ask for approval so they can move on and continue to do what they did last year and get to the Canyon.

Some questions the Board had were as follows:

Financing: Mr. Blais said that the trip is pretty much paid by fund raising and from a grant. The students still have \$1,000 to pay for insurance and meals. Ms. Rodrigues asked Mr. Blais to explain what he meant by a grant. Mr. Blais said that it came from SCOPE

Policy regarding permission slips: Mr. Blais said that all paperwork was done by an attorney and that he had signed copies from the parents granting permission to the students.

How many Students: There will be 13 kids attending and around 8 adults.

What is expected to be achieved: Mr. Blais' comment was that the Canyon is one of the greatest wonders of the world and will like the kids to see that. Mr. Blais received an e-mail from Abu Bakr, URI, where he has pledged to support them educational. Mr. Bakr is connected with some Geology and Geography teachers at URI that will help the kids to write some curriculum and that response will be placed in their portfolio.

Ms. Rodrigues mentioned that she was surprised that they did not

have a curriculum done before they planned for the trip. Mr. Blais said that they will work on one soon and will be submitting it before next year's trip.

Mr. David Cruise made a motion to approve the Grand Canyon trip. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mary Lou Perez and unanimously approved by the Board. 6-0.

f. Chess Program: Mr. Frank DelBoines coaches Chess at Calcutt. He gave a brief explanation to the Board members about all the championships the Chess team have been through. The reason for Mr. DelBoines to be at this meeting was to ask if he can request an approval on the next Board meeting to take the Chess Team to Atlanta. This item will be on the next agenda for 04-08-08 meeting.

V. Consent Agenda:

Ms. Cano Morales asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 19, 2008 as well

as, routine personnel action, resignations, rescissions and other routine matters. Ms. Sonia Rodrigues made a motion to approve the minutes of February 19, 2008, routine personnel action, resignations, rescissions and routine matters. The motion was second by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

Discussion: Ms. Mary Lou Perez will get in touch with Ms. Patty Moreno regarding one of the resolutions for correction on the vote.

VI. Superintendent's Report:

Due to time, Dr. Gallo did not give her report.

VII. Public Comments:

There were no public comments at this meeting.

VIII. Next Board Meeting:

Next Board meeting will be held on April 8, 2008.

IX. School Board Comment/Communications:

There were no comments or communications from the Board.

X. Executive Session pursuant to chapter 42-46-5 (a) 1 and 2 of the RI General Laws (Personnel Matters) (Litigation).

Ms. Cano-Morales asked for a motion to move into Executive Session. Ms. Sonia Rodrigues moved, under the RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (1), that this body convenes in executive session to discuss the job performance of certain employees. These persons have been notified in writing that the public body intends to convene in executive session to discuss his or her job performance and he or she has declined to have this discussion take place in open session. Ms. Rodrigues further move, under the RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) 92) that this public 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 bargaining and

litigation.

The motion was second by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board

6-0.

A Roll call was taken.

XI. Adjournment:

Public Session was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.