

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

May 13, 2008

I. Call to Order:

Chairperson, Mrs. 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- Chair Woman

Ms. Sonia Rodrigues – Vice Chair Woman

Ms. Mary Lou Perez, clerk

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Ms. Leslie Estrada

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Not present: Mr. Vladimir Ibarra

Mr. David Cruise

II. Pledge:

Ms. Audrey Kilsey led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Recognition:

None

The Central Falls Board of Trustees, staff and public observed a minute of silence over the tragedy that occurred a couple of weeks ago, where CF lost one of their students.

IV. Policy and Planning:

a. Frank DelBonis - Chess Tournament:

Mr. DelBonis presented a slide show spotlighting the Chess Tournament event that was held in Atlanta.

b. Ella Risk informational presentation by Mr. Dan Davis.

Mr. Davis gave a detailed Power Point presentation on Ella Risk School, as well as a full explanation on how the school runs and activities that they do throughout the year.

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(OSS) Out of school suspension means: days students were sent home.

Ms. Susana Arenas, Home School Liaison, gave a brief explanation of what her job is about.

Ms. Arenas explained that on the first day of the school year, Ella Risk has an open house where parents come for coffee and donuts and to meet the teachers.

Also mentioned by Ms. Arenas was, that every month, parents are invited to see all the different activities that are going on in school, so they can see for themselves what the school is expecting academically from each student.

Ms. Connie Barekman, 3rd grade inclusion teacher, mentioned that the students are working together and really enjoying themselves.

Ms. Nancy Gray, 4th grade inclusion teacher, told the Board of Trustees that there are many versions of inclusion. Ella Risk has been experimenting with various models. Most classes are participating in a formal inclusion by mixing students from ESL and special needs with mainstream classrooms. Recently, teachers attempted to expand that model by mixing mainstream and self contained classes together for a subject or two a day. Ms. Gray said that total number of students was too large for the classrooms and it made it impossible to coordinate a mainstream class of 25 with an additional 10 students; special need students were often treated at their desks rather than a one classroom unit. Ms. Gray explained that through the leadership and support from Mr. Dan Davis, Ella Risk teachers were encouraged to adapt to full inclusion model. Last year Mr. Davis asked for teams of two teachers; one special educator and one mainstream teacher for any grade level to volunteer as a team for inclusion. A fourth grade team began their inclusion classes at the beginning of the school year, a third grade volunteered after and then a first grade team joined as well. Mr. Davis secured the district commitment not to exceed the maximum number of students for one classroom per teacher.

Ms. Barekman asked the Board and the public to repeat the following and said that this is what they believe and use every day.

Increased self-esteem, increases self-motivation, which in turn increases overall academic achievement.

Ms. Setaro, SIT member for the past two years told the Board, that she would like to see more parents attending the SIT meetings. The SIT team will try to accommodate all parents by alternating them. By attending these meetings, parents will see how much heart and soul goes to our children.

c. Teen Pregnancy presentation by Dr. Pat Flanagan

Dr. Pat Flanagan, Medical Director Outpatient Services Hasbro Children Hospital, thanked the Board for having her at this meeting.

Dr. Flanagan gave the Board members a packet containing data on the statistics of relevance to teen pregnancy in US, RI, and Central Falls (pregnancy, births, YRBS data on behaviors, CF specific data).

Dr. Flanagan asked why this issue is important for the Schools.

answer: Prevention of pregnancy.

What are some ways to become involved? answer: Optimizing educational outcomes for pregnant and parenting youth.

Dr Flanagan said that they know a lot more about what works. Comprehensive sexuality education in schools, homes and communities. Access to health care, including contraception if required. Youth Development: opportunity and hope are the best

contraceptives

Dr. Flanagan also asked: How can CFS address any of the above? Dr. Flanagan thinks that CF may have a role in all of the above. School-linked health clinics, evidence-based high quality sexuality education, real hope for real opportunity: high quality education, during and after school.

Dr. Flanagan said that getting pregnant and carrying to term at 15 years of age is not a random event. Poor educational experiences may be part of a pre-existing profile. Most girls, who are in school when they are pregnant plan to return to school post-partum, most do not. As soon as a pregnancy is identified, the young woman, her counselor, teachers, and parents need to start planning. These people need to know what is going to happen prior to going out to deliver, what will need to be covered during home instruction, who will be working with her, how often, where, how soon to begin after delivery, are there contingency plans for an early delivery or a medical complication. These are the things that the school should plan for these young girls. Another thing that the school should take into consideration is child care. Can they have it on-site or close to school? Can they link school credit to child development curriculum attached to day care/parenting? Flexibility for absences related to child illness.

V. Consent Agenda

Ms. Cano-Morales asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes of April 08, 2008, personnel actions,

ratification of retirement agreement, resignations, rescissions, and other routine matters, as well as the following retirements and recommendations for appointments:

RETIREMENT:

Mr. Paulo Silva, Ms, Patricia Marcotte, Ms. Mary Montgomery, Mr. Alan Cabral, Ms. Lois Petruccillo, Ms. Elaine Scott, Ms. Bernadette Anterni, Ms. Sabina Rei.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Louis Paquette to be appointed to the position of custodian 2nd shift at the high school effective May 15, 2008. Mr Paquette has been a substitute for the school district since October 2007.

Ms. Liz Legault submitted her recommendation for Frank DeVall Jr. Mr. DeVall is recommended to fill the position of Assistant Principal at Calcutt Middle School effective July 1, 2008.

Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes of April 08, 2008, personnel actions, and ratification of retirement agreement, resignations, rescissions, retirements, routine matters and appointments. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mary Lou Perez and unanimously approved by the Board 5-0.

VI. Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Gallo informed the Board of a situation that occurred a couple of weeks ago. It is important to know that Dr. Gallo has met with Angelo Garcia from the Community Center, George Ortiz from Progreso Latino and Teny Gross, executive director of the non-violence

institute to talk about what Central Falls School District can do to stop the violence in the city. Dr. Gallo mentioned that on today's newspaper, it talks about two street workers from the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence coming to work in Central Falls. These street workers will work with students in the schools and social agencies. Dr. Gallo said that Central Falls expects Channel One to have more after school programs. This will greatly expand the after school program for all of Central Falls youngsters and these programs will be available in September. CF will be able to offer new and different opportunities with the Title One dollars and help the community. Central Falls is planning the Youth Summit on June 2, 2008 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the URI campus. During the summit, they will be talking about the major issues that the youth are facing now. Transportation will be provided for those students attending this event. This Summit, will give students the opportunity to interact with just team adults and students will be allowed to write action plans.

Dr. Gallo said that the District is currently writing a grant with the College Crusade. If they were to receive this grant, for the next four years, Central Falls would be able to add a College Crusade advisor. This advisor will support and help the students to stay on the path to college throughout the school year.

Dr. Gallo also mentioned the following:

- August Board of Trustees meeting: the District will do a detailed**

budget presentation for the forthcoming school year.

- **Central Falls Public Schools has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the Nellie Mae Foundation to support Calcutt's COOL Summer as part of the RI Summer Learning Working Group.**
- **Dr. Gallo met with Toyota and they are extremely happy to partner with Central Falls and expect to have a long term (four or five years) relationship with the district. Toyota will be coming to help the district understand and learn what continuous improvement means.**
- **The State of Rhode Island sent a House Resolution requesting all the Rhode Island School Districts to permanently synchronize the April school vacation with that of Massachusetts public schools.**

VII. Public Comments:

No Public Comments made

VIII. Next Board Meeting:

Next Board meeting will be held on June 10, 2008.

IX. School Board Comment/Communications:

There were no comments or communications from the Board.

XI. Adjournment:

Public Session was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.