

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

**June 10, 2008**

**I. Call to Order:**

**Chairperson, Mrs. Anna Cano-Morales called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 5:55 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**

**Mr. Vladimir Ibarra**

**Mr. David Cruise**

**II. Executive Session:**

**At 5:58 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Leslie Estrada to move under R.I.L Gen. Laws 42-46-5(1), that this public body convene in executive session to discuss the job performance of certain employees.**

**Executive Session pursuant to chapter 42-46-5(a)(9), that this public body convene in executive session to conduct hearings and hear grievances filed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues. A roll call vote was taken and so it was voted 7-0 in favor of the motion.**

**Ms. Sonia Rodrigues made a motion to reconvene into public session at 6:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mary Lou Perez and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.**

**Mr. David Cruise was excused from reconvening into public session.**

### **III. Pledge:**

**Ms. Sharon Cabral led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

### **IV. Recognition:**

**None**

### **IV. Policy and Planning:**

**a. Margaret Robertson School informational presentation by Ms. Sharon Cabral.**

**Ms. Cabral gave a detailed Power Point presentation on Margaret Robertson School, as well as a full explanation on how the school runs and activities that they do throughout the year.**

**Mr. Jeff Soares, Science Specialist at the East Bay Educational Collaborative, said that they have a team of 11 science mentors who work in the schools and bring kit-based science to them. Mr. Soares said that science inquiries are not something new. A few years back they used a program called IPS or physical science at the middle school level. Now at the Collaborative they have lots of programs and studies in science to bring kit-based hands on, minds on science to students and this is basically what the CF students are getting at the elementary level. This kit will allow students the ability to think for themselves and to problem solve. Mr. Soares said that this is not just problem solving in a science kit, it is a skill that applies to all subject areas. Mr. Soares and Mr. Booth always tell and encourage teachers to integrate math, literacy with science because it works the same strategies and skills used in all subject areas.**

**Mr. Jim Booth did a Power Point presentation regarding some of the work that he has done with El Centro College in CA. Mr. Booth explained to the Board and public that by using the Kit-based science in El Centro the scores for students went up dramatically in reading, writing and math. Robertson School had a science night event where parents came to school and were giving an explanation in English and Spanish on why science is being taught that way. At this science night event, the kids showed their parents what they have done with the experiments and what the conclusions were. Mr. Booth is very proud of all kids in CF.**

**Dr. Gallo told the Board and public that Robertson School met all of its AYP targets and now comes off of “Watch” status.**

**b. SCOPE, Nellie Mae Grant**

**Ms. Christine Gingerella, Director of SCOPE, and Ms. Cathy Carvalho, teacher at Calcutt Middle School gave a detailed Power Point presentation on SCOPE and the Nellie Mae Grant to the Board. Ms. Gingerella told the Board of Trustees that back in April, Dr. Gallo gave SCOPE the opportunity to propose their summer school idea to the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.**

**The Central Falls School District received a check in the amount of \$50,000 to support Calcutt’s COOL Summer as part of the RI Summer Learning Working Group.**

**Dwight Palmisciano, a student from Calcutt, was an active participant**

**at the Channel One Youth Summit, and told the Board his experience during the Summit.**

**At the end of Ms. Gingerella's presentation, Jose Cintron, a high school student, showed a slide show of his trip to Washington. He also shared how he met senators, especially Mr. Patrick Kennedy and Senator Jack Reed and how he advocated for the importance of the summer program.**

#### **V. Consent Agenda**

**Ms. Cano-Morales asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes of May 13, 2008, personnel actions, resignations, rescissions, and other routine matters, as well as the following retirements and recommendations for appointments:**

## **Retirements:**

**Ms. Linda Rice-Mosher submitted her letter of retirement from her position as math teacher /math department chair at Central Falls High School, effective June 2008. Ms. Rice-Mosher has been employed by the school district for 30 years.**

**Ms. Denise Garvey submitted her letter of retirement from her teaching position at the Veterans Memorial Elementary School, effective the end of the 2007/2008 school year. Ms. Garvey has been employed by the school district for 35 years.**

**Ms. Patricia Eddins submitted her letter of retirement from her teaching position at Robertson School. Ms. Eddins has been employed for 27 years.**

**Ms. Catherine J. Allen submitted her letter of retirement from her teaching position at Captain Hunt School.**

**Ms. Christine M. Cianciolo submitted her letter of retirement from her teaching position at Captain Hunt School.**

## **Resignation:**

**Wendy Cribb resigned from her teaching position as a grade 6 teacher at Calcutt.**

**Terri Anderson resigned from her teaching position as a .5 resource teacher at Capt. Hunt School effective June 2008.**

**Ann Marcaccio resigned from her teaching position as a grade 4 teacher at Veterans Memorial School.**

**Ms. Arlene Garrison resigned from her position as Director of Student Services for the Central Falls School District effective June 6, 2008.**

**Ms. Alyson L. Roslonek resigned from her position as a special educator in the Central falls School Department.**

**Appointments:**

**Mr. Joe Rousseau, has accepted the position of Assistant Principal at Calcutt Middle School effective July 1, 2008.**

**Ms. Maria SanMartino has accepted the position of Assistant Administrator of Secondary Reform Initiatives effective July 1, 2008**

**Ms. Mary Lou Perez made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes of May 13, 2008, personnel actions,**

resignations, rescissions, retirements, routine matters and appointments. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.

#### **VI. Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Gallo mentioned that the Youth Summit and the TALL Parade were phenomenal events for the city of Central Falls. At the Youth Summit every student were surprised to have been invited and allowed to share their thoughts. The TALL parade was an example of what the program is about and the district expects this to grow by next year. Ms. Elizabeth Keiser will be putting on the CF web site short movies that students have done so far. Also this summer and throughout August, students who will be entering PK-3 will be doing some activities at the schools and with the help of fourteen teachers; they will be working in literacy and mathematics. Dr. Gallo mentioned that she received a report from the Ella Risk Librarian regarding the circulation of books at the school. The Ella Risk librarian said that 91% of the students met their quarterly reading requirements that were set for them with 23,087 books being circulated and read this year.

PD Calendar: The calendar will be sent to the Board of Trustees soon. The district has Professional Development throughout the summer at the high school and a week long of professional development for the elementary schools.

#### **Commissioner Letter:**

**a. May 27th letter: Follow up to the face to face meeting that took place a few days prior to that date at the RI College. Many things were reviewed including the latest NECAP where the district learned that the Robertson school met all their targets and that the rest of the schools continue to miss their performance targets.**

**The Commissioner said that he will give additional support to the schools and had asked the district to modify their current corrective action plan to reflect the changes. Dr. Gallo said that now Ella Risk is partnering with the Sherlock Center in a two year term for inclusion practices and that Feinstein and Captain Hunt are partnering with the Learning Community Charter School for literacy.**

**Also in the May 27th letter the Commissioner refers to an ongoing communication and engagement with the community. Dr. Gallo said that she met with Denise DeBarros and has planned an outstanding engagement meeting with parents and part of this will be the orientation for the upcoming year.**

**b. June 3rd letter: Response to the May 27th letter from the Commissioner where Dr. Gallo wrote that the district is working very hard to establish an opportunity for a bond where the district will be reimbursed by the state for any money lost.**

**c. June 9th letter: The Commissioner responded by settling the disagreement of what is a volunteer to the HS teachers and wrote that**

**a “Volunteer” is: A teacher who volunteers to be part of a Lower House team may do so on the basis of any valid teaching certification he/she holds. Volunteer will not be limited to the use of the certification area that they currently are using.**

**Also Dr. Gallo said that the Commissioner clearly indicates that the district must make mega changes in the Special Ed. department. Presently the district is re-organizing the entire Special Ed. Department and will be moving into a much more inclusive environment. The Commissioner also said that the CF district over identified special need students and by Dr. Gallo reviewing this with Ms. Lory DeConte, she said that five hundred referrals that went through early childhood of intervention were sent to special education. Dr. Gallo said that it is not the intent at the Child Outreach to do this, and that the district should not be labeling the youngest students but rather to offer them the intervention needed.**

**The Commissioner also presented a list of professional practices in a form of a re-commitment pledge and he expects each of the Central Falls high school teachers to commit to this.**

## **VII. Public Comments:**

**No Public Comments were made.**

## **VIII. Next Board Meeting:**

**Next Board meeting will be held on July 8, 2008.**

## **IX. School Board Comment/Communications:**

**Ms. Sonia Rodrigues asked Superintendent Gallo to start sending bi-weekly reports again to all of the Trustees. Also Ms. Rodrigues asked if she can get a school activity calendar.**

## **XI. Adjournment:**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Ana Cecilia Rosado at 8:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.**

**A roll call was taken.**

## **XII. Executive Session.**

**A motion to move into executive session was made by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado at 8:42 p.m. The motion was second by Ms. Mary Lou Perez and unanimously approved by the Board 6-0.**

**A roll call was taken.**