

Central Falls School District
Board of Trustees
Minutes
6:00 PM

January 13, 2009

I. Call to Order:

Chairperson, Ms. Ana Cano-Morales called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Present were: Ms. Ana Cano-Morales, Chairwoman
Ms. Sonia Rodrigues, Vice Chairwoman
Ms. Mary Lou Perez, Clerk
Ms. Leslie Estrada
Mr. David Cruise

Not Present: Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado
Mr. Vladimir Ibarra

II. Pledge:

Ms. Cheryl Lafond led the Board in the Pledge of Alliance.

III. Recognition:

Mr. David Cruise was recognized and thanked for his service on the Board of Trustees.

IV. Policy and Planning:

A. Restraint Policy – second reading

The Board noted that the recommended changes from the first reading were made to the policy. There were no questions or further comments.

Action: Motion to approve made by Mr. David Cruise and seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodriguez. Approved, 5 to 0

B. High School Graduation Policy Addendum – first reading

The addendum to the high school graduation policy would allow students, who transfer into the high school in their junior or senior year and have not had the opportunity to acquire portfolio pieces, to complete a rigorous senior project in order to show their proficiency.

The Board discussed the addendum as presented by Principal Mario Andrade and requested that some clarifications and changes be made.

Action: Reviewed and revisions suggested.

C. Speech and Language Policy – first reading

A Speech and Language Policy for entrance and exit criteria that are in line with the national standards was presented to the Board. The procedures, which were also included with the policy as a support document, have been in place this year and were worked on with Futures. The speech and language pathologist will be convening in a month to review the work and see what needs to be included and/or excluded.

The Board discussed the policy as presented and requested that some additions and changes be made.

Action: Reviewed and revisions suggested.

D. Kids In The Canyon – discussion

Mr. Donald Blais presented the documents that would align the Kids In the Canyon student trip to the Performance Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR), included was also a 15 hour community service component.

The trip will be from April 10 to April 17, 2009.

Action: Approved, 5 to 0

E. TALL University – discussion

Ms. Elizabeth Keiser requested permission to take a group of students in the TALL University program to Minneapolis for a conference where she and the students will present some of the concepts of the program to the attendees. They will present research and resources on the academic benefits of integrating art into classrooms. They will show techniques for engaging teachers in changing their classroom practice and show how to build awareness of what their students face. The trip would also serve as part of the students' portfolios.

The trip will be in May of 2009.

Action: Approved, 5 to 0

V. Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mr. Cruise and seconded by Ms. Perez. The consent agenda was approved by the Board 5-0.

VI. Superintendent's Report:

21st Century Community Service Grant that was presented in the previous month's meeting was complete and would be submitted on time.

The State budget is a concern. In the upcoming hearings, Superintendents will be speaking out against any kind of change in the COLA retirement for the targeted April date. They are organizing so that people can attend hearings in cadres.

Ms. Julia Steiny, a columnist for the Providence Journal, has been visiting with the sixth graders at Calcutt Middle School every Wednesday on an ongoing basis. Ms. Steiny met with Dr. Gallo Principal Elizabeth Legault and Assistant Principal Frank Devall to discuss how to use the classroom as a way to get students to understand problem solving and conflict resolution in a circling technique. It aligns with what is already being done at the middle school and has recently been introduced at the high school. Feedback will be gathered from administrators, guidance and support staff and then a professional development can be done with all staff if it is amendable to the group. It is the idea of restitution. Respectful classrooms began in the summer and many elementary, middle school teachers have asked for more, and it is just beginning at the high school. First 20 minutes of the day is spent discussing topics in circle. This helps personalize the advisory program. It has proven effective at the middle school with many relationships being built between the teachers and from classroom to classroom. Ms. Steiny's suggestion would be an extension to what is already in place.

The Learning Strides continue. They have been very successful and positive. Classrooms are participating and there is much evidence of the literacy strategies that Joanne Angelini has been bringing to the district on a monthly basis.

The Superintendent met with Tom Kenworthy and Rick Richards of RIDE, who are in charge of scheduling the Commissioner's visits. In lieu of SALT visits, the district is scheduled for three Commissioner's visits in April. The visits will be held at Ella Risk for one day, Calcutt for one day and the High School for two days. Mr. Kenworthy would be meeting with the Principals to set an exact date. The visits are now fully collaborative. The district will provide 8 to 10 team members from our teachers as well as consultants or administrators. RIDE would send a team made up of people from their departments as well as people from their higher education partners; this way there would be about 20 to 25 people visiting every room. Transition will be highlighted and the focus is literacy instruction because it was a staple of the corrective action plan. Central Falls has also served on other visits in other districts. Principal Legault was part of a Commissioner's visit to Providence.

The Education Summit save-the-date cards had been sent out and responses were beginning to come in to gauge about how many people might attend. A letter of invitation will be going out next.

VII. Public Comment:

No public comment.

VIII. Next Board Meeting:

Next Board meeting will be held on February 10, 2009

IX. School Board Comment/Communication:

Ms. Cano-Morales had comments and questions about School Improvement Team (SIT) meeting notes, specifically around the high school Art Academy and proficiencies. Principal Andrade provided clarification.

Mr. Keith Oliveira from RIDE spoke to Mr. Cruise's accomplishments while on the Board of Trustees and thanked him for his service on behalf of the Commissioner and Board of Regents.

X. Executive Session and Adjournment of public session:

Ms. Cano-Morales asked for a motion to adjourn and no Executive Session was held. Mr. Cruise motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Perez seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.