

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

February 10, 2009

I. Call to Order:

Chairperson, Ms. Ana Cano-Morales called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Present were: Ms. Ana Cano-Morales, Chairwoman
Ms. Sonia Rodrigues, Vice Chairwoman
Ms. Mary Lou Perez, Clerk
Ms. Leslie Estrada (6:34 PM)
Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado
Mr. Vladimir Ibarra
Mr. BK Nordan

II. Pledge:

Ms. Loriann Mardo-Zayat led the Board in the Pledge of Alliance.

III. Recognition:

The National Art Education Association selected Ella Risk Elementary School Art Teacher Loriann Mardo-Zayat as the 2009 Rhode Island Art Educator of the Year.

Central Falls High School students Juan Pena, 12th Grade, Gold key for Portfolio; Funsho Solaco, 12th Grade, Silver Key/Mixed Media; Angel Vigo, 10th Grade, Silver Key/Apparel Design, Silver Key Painting; and Stephanie Agudello, 10th Grade, Silver Key/Jewelry Design received awards for their artwork, which was also exhibited at Rhode Island College and Rhode Island School of Design.

IV. Policy and Planning:

A. High School Graduation Policy Addendum – second reading

The Board noted that the document had changed significantly from the first reading. There was a brief discussion as well as clarifications. It was requested that one phrase be added.

Action: Motion to approve made by Ms. Perez and seconded by Ms. Rodriguez.
Approved, 7 to 0

B. Speech and Language Policy – second reading

The board was briefly updated on the three speech and language pathologist meetings that were held to review the exit and entrance procedures. They were informed by Superintendent Gallo that

modifications were made and that they would have a copy of those procedures at next month's meeting.

The Board noted that their requested changes had been incorporated into the policy. There was Board discussion regarding the period a student would enter and exit, specifically whether it would be a quick transition or if it would be gradual.

Action: Motion to approve made by Ms. Perez and seconded by Ms. Rodriguez.
Approved, 7 to 0

C. Reconfiguration of Schools – High School Academy Expansion, Feinstein Elementary Closing

Superintendent Gallo explained to the Board that there had been discussions to close a number of classrooms due to declining elementary enrollment in the Feinstein district sector.

It was noted that Feinstein currently shares a Principal that is shared with Robertson School. Also, there are only 150 students and in order to keep the district's contractual obligation of balanced classes students are being bused to the school. If the school were to close, the district would not lose the building. The building is needed to expand the high school academy model by allowing one of the four academies to be located there.

There was discussion on how the closing and expansion would affect teachers and the community. The Superintendent had already spoken with the Feinstein teachers, had been in communications with the Union, and was waiting for the Board's endorsement before communicating with parents.

The Board wanted to know if Mr. Alan Shawn Feinstein had been contacted and what his reaction was to the proposal. He had been contacted and did not have a problem with the change because the building would continue to be utilized and carry his name, for example the Feinstein Global Studies Academy.

The timeline was discussed and it was expected that the school would reopen as a high school academy in September 2009.

There was discussion in regards to how the closing and expansion would save the district money. It was clarified that there would be no bussing, existing staff would be moved into other schools so there would be no need to hire, and there would be no expansion cost because it is an existing building. The transportation policy was discussed briefly as well in order to clarify which students would be walking if Feinstein were to close.

Dr. Gallo asked the Board to endorse closing the Feinstein Elementary School and the expansion of the High School Academy. The full Board gave their endorsement, 7 to 0 and asked that in moving forward there also be communications with the Mayor and City Council to alert them of the changes.

D. University of Rhode Island Science and Engineering Challenge – Discussion

Mr. Michael Bento could not attend the meeting but was requesting that the Board allow him to take middle school students in the Science and Math Integrated Learning Experiences (SMILE) Program to the University of Rhode Island Science and Engineering Challenge on March 6 and 7. The students would spend both days including one night at the university.

Approved, 7 to 0

E. Chess Tournament – Discussion (not originally on agenda)

The Board was informed that six players at the Warwick Chess Tournament represented Veterans Elementary School on Saturday, January 31. Students from Robertson Elementary School attended as well. That the Central Falls teams did very well and won trophies as well as winning a 5 minute tie-breaker.

Mr. Frank DelBonis requested the Board's approval to travel to Nashville, Tennessee with the students in the Chess Club to participate in the Super Nationals Tournament in April 3-6. He also announced that the Rhode Island State Championship would be on Saturday, March 21.

Approved, 7 to 0

V. Public Comment:

Carlos Ocampo, Central Falls Streetworker, Topic – Introduction of Streetworkers to the Board
Francisco Ofrey, Parent, Topic – High School Portfolio
Margarita Germoso, Parent, Topic – Special Education High School Portfolio
Liz Ramirez, Parent, Topic – Special Education

VI. Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Ms. Perez and seconded by Ms. Estrada. The Board approved the consent agenda, with edits to the minutes, 7 to 0.

Layoff notices were read as follows:

CENTRAL FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
February 10, 2009
RESOLUTION

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 2008-2009 school year only.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contract of the following named personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2008-2009 school year, effective the last day of school in June, 2009.

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 2008-2009 school year, effective the last day of school in June 2009.

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 2008-2009 school year, effective the last day of school in June, 2009.

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

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 2008-2009 school year only.

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 2008-2009 school year, effective the last day of school in June, 2008.

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

The level of total funding for 2009-2010 is uncertain; and

FURTHERMORE, it is 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 and terminated at the close of the 2008-2009 school year, effective the last day of school in June, 2009.

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 2009-2010 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 2008-2009 school year, effective the last day of school in June 2009.

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 2009-2010 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 2008-2009 school year, effective the last day of school in June 2009.

Melissa Desmarais	Special Education	Capt. Hunt
Stephanie Maggiacomo	Special Education	Capt. Hunt
Alison Desmarais	Special Education	Capt. Hunt
Jennifer Martin	Math	Calcutt
Bridget Hueston	English	Calcutt
Amanda Bento	Special Education	Capt. Hunt
William Dyer	Music	Calcutt
Maureen Dolan	Math	High School
Marcella Garces	Foreign Language	High School
Jeffrey Grifka	Social Studies	Calcutt
Terry Anzaldi	English	High School
Andrea Hobbs	Math	High School
Jen Banos	Kindergarten	Ella Risk
Alyssa Silva	Grade 5	Veterans
Ann Bednarski	Special Education	Calcutt
Cory Beltram	Music	District
Kelly Flynn	Title I	Feinstein
Sandra Choquette	Kindergarten	Robertson
Elizabeth Haveless	K	Capt. Hunt
Kerin McPherson	Pre-K	Capt. Hunt
Judith Dyer	Special Education	Capt. Hunt
Timothy Carpenter	Math	Calcutt
Diana Martufi	Social Studies	Calcutt
Katie Vespia	Grade 6	Calcutt
Kerri Steinkemp	Special Education	High School
Lauren Tomasso	ELA	Calcutt
Cathy Cabral	Science	Calcutt
Samantha Filippo	Math	Calcutt
Heather DosSantos	Special Education	Calcutt
Jordana Ruggeri	Special Education	High School
Robert Anastasi	Librarian	District
Marilyn Cooney	Social Studies	High School
Nicole Arena	Special Education	Calcutt
Troy Silvia	Health	District
Melissa Cardillo	Art	District
Rosemarie Sousa	Science	High School
Krystal Vento	Grade 4 ESL	Ella Risk
Joshua Karten	Social Studies	High School
Courtney Connelly	Special Education	Veterans
Nicholas Lafreniere	Physical Education	District
Mary Sue Mulligan	Reading Specialists	High School
Sarah Sellers	Special Education	Veterans
Nancy Durst	Grade 1 ESL	Feinstein
Dana Skroupa	Intensive ALP	Robertson
Hope Evanoff	Foreign Language	High School
Paul Auger		High School
Pam Harley		Capt. Hunt

Amy Crookes	Veterans
Stacey Calderone	Capt. Hunt
Jose Dajer	High School
Rosa Garcia	High School
Robert Marchand	Boy's Soccer
Carl Africo	Boy's Soccer, Boy's Basketball
Mike Swain	Girl's Soccer, Boy's Indoor Track
Kirk Hamel	Girl's Soccer
Jeffrey Lapierre	Football
Anthony Ficcoelli	Football
Jeff Schanck	Girl's Cross Country
Matthew Kelly	Boy's Cross Country, Boy's Indoor Track
Richard Sousa	Volleyball
Jorge Torres	Volleyball
Brian Crookes	Boy's Basketball
Barbara Duffy	Girl's Basketball
William Volpe	Girl's Indoor Track, Baseball
Amanda Rowley	Swim
Nicole Arena	Cheerleading
Nicholas Pagliaro	Softball
Tina Plante Jancef	Softball
Rick Blanko	Boy's Basketball
Amy Joyce	Girl's Basketball
Kathy Luther	Softball
Josh Karten	Wrestling

Action: Motion to approve made by Ms. Rosado and seconded by Ms. Estrada with two abstentions from Ms. Perez and Mr. Nordan. Approved, 5 to 0

VII. Superintendent's Report:

A State Level Title III ELL Monitoring visit was completed recently. Individuals who are not from the district spent time looking through records, speaking with staff members and visiting the schools. Dr. Gallo thanked the ESL Director, Pat Morris, for her work as well as many of the ESL teachers. The report was positive. The Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) training also received accolades.

Dr. Gallo informed the Board of the district's NECAP testing results. She went through the data points with the Board so they could better understand the results. She went over a math score composite and let the Board know that the scores were flat, but that in Robertson School math scores increased 7-percentage point s. The same test results declined at Veterans and Ella Risk. Dr. Gallo emphasized that the importance of the data was to help the district see where the weaknesses are so that principals along with teachers and coaches could earmark the improvements areas and plan accordingly. There was discussion in regards to how newcomer students are tested and how that reflects on the scores and how to best review the data so that there are true comparisons.

The last topic of the report was the academic calendar for the 2009-2010 school year. Dr. Gallo notified the Board that she and the Union President had begun the conversation; but they basically

were at a standstill with several options on the table. Per the contract, the district teachers must have calendar that accounts for 185 days. The three options under discussion are:

- Option 1: Professional Development for Teachers on August 31 and September 1
Students start on September 2 and end on June 17
Twelve (12) hours in 2-hour blocks monthly
- Option 2: Four (4) professional days August 24-27
Students start on August 31 and end on June 14
Parent Conference Week in the second week of November
- Option 3: Professional Development for Teachers on August 31 and September 1
Students start on September 2 and end on June 21

VIII. Next Board Meeting:

Next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009

IX. School Board Comment/Communication:

Ms. Cano-Morales announced that the second annual Education Summit was very well attended. She thanked all of the presenters. She commented that much of the feedback she received was positive and of people wanting more of this type of interaction. She also thanked Dr. Gallo and Yaviri Grosso for handling the details and logistics of the event.

Ms. Cano-Morales encouraged people to attend the District Learning Strides. She had attended one earlier that day at the high school and informed the Board that on the walk they were joined by Commissioner McWalters, Mr. Ron DiOrio, the Director of the International Charter School (ICS) Julie Nora as well as two fellows from Uruguay that were in Rhode Island for two weeks and being hosted by the International Charter School.

X. Executive Session and Adjournment of public session:

Ms. Cano-Morales asked for a motion to go into executive session pursuant to 42-46-5(a)(1), 42-46-5(a)(2), 42-46-5(a)(9) for hearing on employee grievances and termination hearing. Ms. Rodriguez motioned to executive session and Mr. Ibarra seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and was unanimous, 7 to 0.