

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

May 12, 2009

I. Call to Order:

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

Present were: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairwoman
Ms. Sonia Rodrigues, Vice Chairwoman
Ms. Leslie Estrada
Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado (6:10 PM)
Mr. Vladimir Ibarra
Mr. BK Nordan

Not Present: Ms. Mary Lou Perez, Clerk

II. Pledge:

Pledge of Alliance

III. Policy and Planning:

A. Extended School Services – second reading

There was discussion on the proposed policy. Some minor changes were requested.

Action: Motion to approve with changes made by Ms. Rosado and seconded by Ms. Estrada.
Approved, 6 to 0

B. Formal Report on Facilities

Dr. Gallo stated for the record “they [District and Newport Collaborative] have been meeting continuously since the last time the Board was presented with the research material on the facilities. We are getting into Stage II [solutions and recommendations stage] and are zeroing in on particular alternatives and where we would like to see our schools go. We are in constant dialogue with RIDE and we are looking for funding in every direction. Mostly this summer we need at least \$2M to make renovations, which we would all consider emergency repairs such as heat at the Central Falls High School and at Ella Risk and a new roof at Calcutt Too. This is the next stage beyond the renovations this is actually how do we accommodate our 3,200 children now and in the next 5 to 10 years.”

Michael DeMatteo of the Newport Collaborative Architects introduced the start of what is the Stage II submission and mentioned that Stage I had been completed and submitted in April. Stage II has three parts: a feasibility study, which looks at all the existing facilities versus the population numbers for a five-year plan for the demographics that were determined in Stage I; preliminary schematics, which

identify which rooms work best and where adding additions to new or existing facilities; and updating cost estimates from Stage I. He spoke about four alternates on how to use the existing facilities that would best match the education program and the existing facilities. They are still fine-tuning the fourth alternate and are begun going into detailed space programming for the high school.

Dr. Gallo stated for the record, “I’ve actually reviewed these same alternatives at public forums and we passed the books around so parents could continuously be updated on what we were trying to do. Interestingly when we asked them to identify the areas of need and in which schools, 2 to 1 they hit head on the items we hit, really understanding where there were scheduling problems, where there are roofing problems, where there are heating problems.”

Mr. DeMatteo presented the feasibility study and went through each alternative that can be found on pages 3-13.

The Board had questions regarding the presentation and discussed the different alternatives. The discussion was regarding the possibility of moving the Feinstein playground unless community is using it, demographics, RIDE regulations, expansion, space availability, leasing space, additions vs. rebuilding, and funding.

Pre-kindergarten was briefly discussed in the context of how the number of students might change if it were to become universal— how it might affect facilities and what might be some solutions.

Also discussed was how students would be accommodated while major projects were taking place so not to impact instruction, for example Veterans (see slide on page 8). Mr. DeMatteo said that it would become a timing issue, especially if Feinstein can be vacated. He went into some different possibilities.

Mr. DeMatteo explained that they really reviewed the high school program (slides on pages 12 and 13) that has the lower and upper school with a projection number of 900. Some of the highlights of the lower school are similar to the team instruction model that is already occurring in the middle, which is the team teaching approach. Mr. DeMatteo further explained that each high school team would need to be in a definable area that could then be combined into larger group space for planning and/or instruction. Each classroom would incorporate a homeroom, technology and group learning.

Mr. DeMatteo explained that the next step would be to make sure that the entire administration had time to look at the information to make sure it does not miss the mark. If it were right, then they would have to look at what is currently available in the building and to see how it could best fit to try to minimize renovations.

Action: No action needed.



Central Falls RIDE Stage II Update

Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study - Alt 1

- Stand alone early childhood center for PK and K - new construction of 70,000 sf
- Elementary schools for 1-5 - additions & renovations totaling 62,536 sf
- Middle school for grades 6-8 - additions & renovations totaling 12,000 sf
- High school for grades 9-12 - 66,281 sf renovation and expansion

Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 2

- Stand alone early childhood center for PK and K -new construction of 70,000 sf
- Feinstein Elementary school –vacate the existing building
- Elementary / Middle schools for 1-8 –additions & renovations totaling 74,536 sf
- High school for grades 9-12 - 66,281 sf renovation and expansion

Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3

- Stand alone early childhood center for PK and K -new construction of 70,000 sf
- Feinstein Elementary school –vacate the existing building
- Elementary schools for 1-5 – renovations and expansions totaling 28,509 sf
- Elementary / Middle schools for 1-5 & 6-8 -renovations and expansions totaling 53,000 sf
- Middle school for grades 6-8 –minor repairs
- High school for grades 9-12 - 66,281 sf renovation and expansion

Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

Alternate 3A – District Composition

- Stand alone early childhood education center for PK and Kindergarten
- Elementary schools for grades 1-5
- Elementary/Middle school for grades 1-5 and 6-8
- Middle school for grades 6-8
- High school for grades 9-12

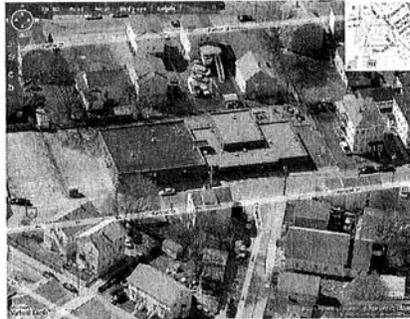
Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

PK and Kindergarten



Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

PK and Kindergarten –

- Construction of a new early childhood center for all PK and kindergarten classrooms
- This new facility will house a projected total enrollment of +/- 330 students and will require a facility of +/- 70,000 sq ft.
- Due to the large program area required for the PK and Kindergarten center, additional land in the area of the existing Captain Hunt School may be required between Kendall and Parker streets.

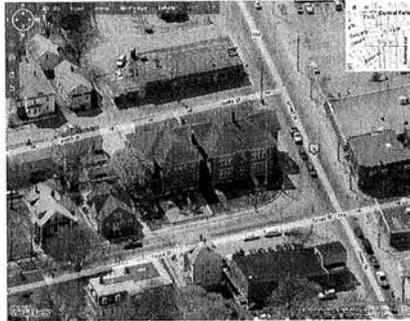
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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

Feinstein Elementary School



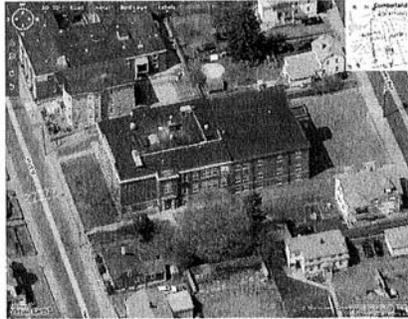
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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

Robertson Elementary School



Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

Robertson Elementary School –

- Option A - renovation and/or expansion of the existing building to house a two track elementary school for grades 1-5
- Option B - leasing space at 151 Hunt Street formerly used as prekindergarten facility may allow interior renovations to create larger spaces negating the need for an addition.

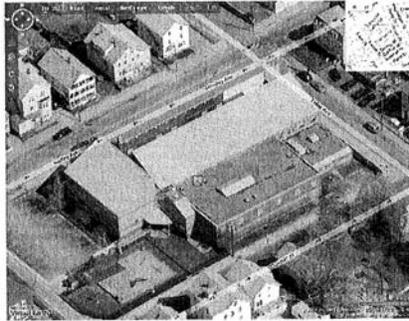
Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

Veterans Elementary School



Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

Veterans Elementary School

- Renovation and expansion of the existing building to house a six (6) track elementary school for grades 1-5 and a three (3) track middle school for grades 6-8
- Addition of +/- 53,000 sq ft.
- Expansion will require approval from the RIHPHC for the demolition of the existing Calcutt Too middle school.

Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

Ella Risk Elementary School



Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

Ella Risk Elementary School

- Renovation of the existing building to house a three (3) track elementary school for grades 1-5
- By reducing the number of classrooms required, existing classroom space can be renovated for larger cafeteria and gymnasium space.

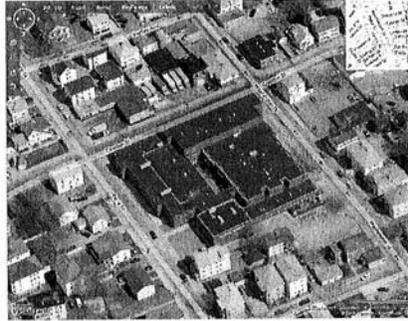
Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

Calcutt Middle School



Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

Calcutt Middle School

- Reuse of the existing building to house a seven track middle school for grades 6-8
- Minimal expansions may be required to accommodate an expanded library and cafeteria.

Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

High School



Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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Feasibility Study – Alt 3A

High School

- Renovation and expansion of the existing building to house grades 9-12
- The high school will house both a lower and upper school:
 - The lower school being comprised of the 9th and 10th grades in a team teaching environment;
 - The upper school, the 11th and 12th grades, divided between four academies.

Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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High School Programming

High School



Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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High School Programming

Lower School – Grades 9-10

- 450 students
- All students in team teaching approach
- Teams in 'arena' for personalization
- Ability to combine classrooms for multiple groups in single team to meet
- Larger gathering spaces for entire teams to meet

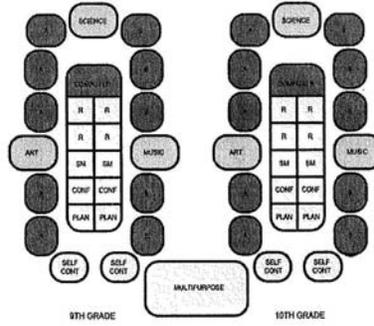
Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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High School Programming

Lower School – Grades 9-10 bubble diagram



Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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High School Programming

Upper School – Grades 11-12

- Science and Health Academy – 112 students
- Art Academy – 112 students
- Business Academy – 112 students
- Global Studies Academy – 112 students
- Total - 450 students

Central Falls Facilities Master Plan

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C. Board of Trustees' Meeting Calendar

The Board of Trustees' meeting calendar was discussed. Ms. Cano-Morales suggested meeting in the summer months (June –August) at 5:30 PM instead of 6:00 PM and on Monday or Wednesday nights rather than on Tuesdays. It was agreed to have the summer meetings on the third week of the month on Monday. Then in September, they would return to their regular schedule of the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM.

Action: The calendar will be created and adopted during the June meeting.

V. Public Comment:

No public comment.

VI. Consent Agenda:

The Board minutes were from the March meeting. No April minutes were submitted because there was not a quorum in April and no actions were taken on the agenda items. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Ms. Rodrigues and seconded by Mr. Ibarra. The Board approved the consent agenda, with amendments to the minutes, 6 to 0.

VII. Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Gallo began her report with funding. The district is working with National Grid to study the buildings for energy efficiency. As the district signs aboard, over a two-year period a lot of energy efficiency saving us at least 25% of the current bill and as much as 50% in some cases. They loan the money to come through the building and then you pay the continued bill that you currently have for a period of two years and you actually pay yourself out of debt. By the end of two years you realize the debt repayment and by the third year the bill is much lower and the energy efficiency is continued. One of the representatives of National Grid is on the facilities committee as well so that they understand the process and the projects the district is involved in and are working with the district hand-in-hand.

The other element regarding funding is continuing to seek stimulus money. There was a significant amount of money air marked for the 10 largest populated cities and we came in 11th. We are now in a group where there is less money available for more cities and towns and it is competitive. The district will receive \$2M for its budget, which is specifically to fill the gap in the current budget or to be used for construction. The Governor cut the district budget by \$3M so the money has to be used to fill the gap so it cannot be used for construction. As the district heads into next year, we are looking into all-possible conservation measures as people resign in central office positions or move to different jobs the positions being left are not being refilled for some savings. This is being done to help fill in the \$1M gap that is still left in the budget. In the meantime, we would be looking for sixty-eight to a hundred million dollars of new building and renovation within the next 5 to 10 years. The district does qualify for a lot of return from the state. The district is a 97% reimbursement district, but more is still needed. The district is looking into City cooperation. The Superintendent has contacted the Mayor's Office, and hopefully will be meeting with him within the week, but the Mayor has been clear that between his own cuts to the city from the state and with the situation with the Wyatt Detention Center that it's near hopeless to be able to float a bond. The district has also reached out to all sorts of agencies.

There is an upcoming job fair scheduled for June 4. Last year it was held late, so this year that was taken into consideration and tried to hold it early. Kathy Gaouette (Human Resource Director) and Jane Sessums (Central Falls Union President) are continuously working on the actual positions and displacements as they come up and discussions will continue.

The Speech and Language document has been completed and submitted to RIDE. Now the policy and protocols are in place. The speech and language pathologists are very pleased with the document, their work, and their collaborative effort. The district was waiting for RIDE's response for their endorsement.

Grant applications are continually being pursued. Christine Gingerella has been writing many of them as well as articles that support the work the district is involved in to make sure that people understand what we are doing.

The Central Falls District News will be coming out again with another edition. That is another update to help keep everyone in the loop. Ms. Cano-Morales inquired about the list serve for the newsletter and wanted to know how to add to it. Ms. Yaviri Grosso agreed to review the list serve with Ms. Cano-Morales later.

A number of people have asked to conduct research in the district. The district holds firm that if they want to conduct research that includes the students then they must go through a vetting process in terms of what they really want to accomplish and why. No names are used but comparison reports are welcome. It is made sure that the information is useful to the district or the district will not participate.

Julia Steiny has been with the district for a couple of months training and using Restorative Circles. She is in collaboration with DCYF and Family Services trying to build a strong cohort of support for using Restorative Circles in the public schools as a way to involve youth prior to going to the Training School. There is interest in working together to turn kids away from the Training School by starting with the family. The more it can be modeled in school the more likely children can take it home to their family. The district is moving forward with it in the 9th grade as a programmatic effort, especially because the 9th grade will be at Feinstein next year because it would be a captive audience and the research can be conducted to show that it works. Then it could continue down to the lower grades.

Dr. Gallo sent the Board the Commissioner reports that had just been completed by RIDE. They visited Ella Risk, Calcutt, Calcutt Too, and Central Falls High School. Dramatic and positive improvements were made in the schools. The Commissioner's visitors were pleased as well as our own colleagues.

VIII. Next Board Meeting:

Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 15, 2009

IX. School Board Comment/Communication:

No reports from the Board.

X. Executive Session and Adjournment of public session:

No executive session was held. Ms. Cano-Morales asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:29 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Rodrigues and seconded by Leslie Estrada. A roll call vote was taken and was unanimous, 6 to 0.