

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2010
6:00 p.m.
Central Falls High School - Auditorium

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson, Ms. Anna Cano-Morales called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Present were: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairwoman
Ms. Sonia Rodrigues, Vice Chairwoman
Ms. Mary Lou Perez, Clerk
Ms. Leslie Estrada
Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Not Present: Mr. Vladimir Ibarra
Mr. B.K. Nordan

II. Pledge

III. Policy and Planning

A. Request for Special Olympics team to travel out-of-state

Ms. Christine Conway informed the Board that the unified Special Olympics soccer team would be traveling to Nebraska from July 17 through July 24. Ms. Conway requested that the Board endorse the trip.

Ms. Perez added that she would be attending all of the Special Olympics events.

Action: The request was endorsed.

B. Funding Formula Presentation by Jeremy Giller

Mr. Giller, who is from The Learning Community Charter, went through the proposed funding formula as it pertains to Central Falls. The Board asked questions and had a discussion on several of the topics that included legislation, budget, pupil funding, and core vs. noncore services.

The Board thanked Mr. Giller for his presentation and suggested that he engage the City Council if that had not been done yet.

The presentation is included in the minutes.

Action: Informational

C. Mathematic Scores Presentation

Claire Pollard, the math consultant for the District, presented information regarding the NECAP results for grades 3-8. The presentation included updates on the schools that made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), the trends in Grades 5-7, the Investigations Math Program, professional development, and student work.

Some of the specifics presented and discussed regarding the Investigations Math Program were regarding how it works for all students and what type of information is available to support the teachers, which also includes the availability of district math coaches. It was also noted that the program had only been in place for three years but was yielding much success.

There was a brief discussion about how students from different backgrounds/countries would be able to master the vocabulary of Investigations. Ms. Pollard explained that teachers can provide different strategies to help the student expand their knowledge and that the language is used throughout the units. Interventions are given but still need to be tailored to fit the student need. Changes in school days will help address interventions for mathematics to use differentiation better. There is a need to diagnose and assess on a more constant basis.

The Board noted that the data for the high school was not presented and stated that they would like to hear more regarding data for the upper grades, and to further discuss why the progress has not carried over.

The presentation is included in the minutes.

Action: Informational

D. Explanation of staffing responses from RIDE

Kathy Gaouette, Director of Human Resources, informed the Board that she had contacted RIDE regarding the Middle School teacher certifications. The inquiry was made because some middle school teachers had questions regarding their layoff letters. The response she received from RIDE was that a teacher who held a lifetime certification and worked in the middle school, remained in the middle school, and had not left their content area could remain in the middle school. RIDE also stated that this was due to a clause that was set in October of 1999 under Commissioner McWalters. Three of the current teachers at Calcutt Middle School currently fall under that clause. Ms. Gaouette met with everyone at Calcutt and the response had been forwarded to Ms. Sessums, Union President, and would be forwarded to the affected staff who received letters for the March 1 deadline.

Action: Informational

E. RTTT ongoing discussion – updates

There are no significant changes. A stakeholder meeting was going to be held on Thursday. Two administrator candidates were scheduled to present to the group. The candidates had been screened and given brief phone interviews before being asked to present. They are scheduled to be in the District on Thursday and Friday.

Action: Informational

IV. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included the March 23, 2010 regular meeting minutes and personnel actions. Ms. Rosado and Ms. Perez both had amendments to the minutes.

The motion to approve the consent agenda with the amendments to the minutes was made by Ms. Rodrigues and seconded by Ms. Estrada. It was approved 5, 0.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Parent forums

The parent forums are continuing to take place each month. Each time there are different topics and RTTT is discussed. The number of parents in attendance varies. There is a parent stakeholder group meeting candidates as well as a student stakeholder group.

B. Recruitment efforts

The high school principal search continues and the position is open until filled. This is the first round. Full recruitment of teachers will begin on April 26, 2010 when everyone returns from school vacation.

C. PBGR and portfolio

The PBGR and portfolio is ongoing. On Wednesday morning teachers will begin to review the portfolios. Right now it is a bit behind when compared to last year. Presentations will begin in April for those who are ready.

VI. Public Comment

Joann Boss, a high school teacher, commented in English and Portuguese about the problem of inequality that she feels is within the District. She feels that parent information should be given out in all three languages like in Pawtucket and Davies. She felt that English as a Second Language (ESL) students should not be segregated but if they were it should only be for one year. She commented that the third floor of the high school was in disrepair and that parents had commented on it. She felt that there should be equity and access for handicap and special need placements. She stated that some special education students were brought back into the district and others were not and that she did not understand how or why that was done. She spoke about a personal issue regarding a relative's son who attended one of the schools. She stated that the family asked for the student to be placed in advanced classes (AP) and was told that he could not be in an AP class because it would be considered segregation. She stated that having ESL students separated from the other students all day is also segregation.

VII. Next Board of Trustees Meetings

Board of Trustees work session meeting: Tuesday, April 27, 2010.

VIII. Motion to Recess to Executive Session and Adjournment

Ms. Rodrigues made a motion to recess to executive session pursuant to chapter 42-46-5(a)(2), that this public body convene in executive session to discuss certain matters that are the subject of collective bargaining and litigation (two grievances – certified withdrawn and non-certified, update on mediation and update on non-certified negotiations) and it was seconded by Ms. Estrada. A roll call vote was taken and was unanimous, 5 to 0.

Ms. Cano-Morales noted for the public that the Trustees would not reconvene into public session.