

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2010  
6:00 p.m.  
**Central Falls High School - Library**

**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 6:00 PM.

Present were: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairwoman  
Ms. Sonia Rodrigues, Vice Chairwoman (6:01 PM)  
Ms. Mary Lou Perez, Clerk  
Mr. B.K. Nordan  
Mr. Vladimir Ibarra  
Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Not Present: Ms. Leslie Estrada

**II. Pledge**

**III. Recognitions**

The Central Falls High School Human Creativity group, which is made up of current students and alumni, were recognized for their contributions and performances in the Martin Luther King, Jr. performances. The 24 participating students were able to keep up with the rigor of weekly workshops from September through December as well as a rigorous rehearsal schedule. They managed to not only learn a dance style, choreography, and group skills, they also made an effort to keep their grades up, or have made the positive decision to bring their grades up as evidenced by their work after school either in the Academic Enhancement Center or with their teachers. On completion of a reflection after the show they will be able to meet PBGR # 24: creating/performing the arts and the Rhode Island GSE's in the arts. Academy Leader Ms. Deanna Camputaro, who was in Africa, was also thanked for her work with the students.

The students recognized were Yuleysi Beaton – dancer, narration; Anjeelee Perez - dancer, singer, narration; Dayana Berdugo- dancer, narration; Pedro Raposo - dancer, narration; Laura Chacon – dancer; Eric Silva - dancer, spoken word; Denise Teixeira - dancer, narration; Khadyjia Delgado - dancer, narration; Yohanny Valdez - dancer, poem; Gerladina Diaz - dancer, narration; Angel Vigo - drummer, narration; Estephanie Vieiras – dancer; Chayanne Escalera - dancer, choreographer; Jose Vieira - dancer, narration; Kevin Perez – pianist; Robert White - dancer, narration; Javier Godinez, dancer, narration, sound system; Christina Perez – dancer, narration; Kimberly Guitan – dancer; Jose Santos - videographer, video projection, on-site photographer; Jose Ibarra - dancer, narrator; Kiara Marrero - dancer, narration; Scarline Morel - lighting technology, photo projection; Myara Nunez - dancer, narration; Hebierto Colon - photo projections, lighting and technical set up; Wilmer Davila – illustration; Julia Pickett - photo projection, on-site

photographer; Rosa Martinez - photo projections, on-site photographer; Eli DeFaria – on-site photographer; Luis Chavez - photo projection; Kyle Duarte - photo projection; Stephanie Mejia - photo projection; Krystal Acosta – dancer; Jessica Bonilla – dancer; Jose Vieira – dancer; Ana Chacon – dancer; Jean Vilar – dancer; Mayra Lopes – dancer; Carmen Lugo – dancer; Leslie Morales – dancer; Christina Perez – dancer; and Andrea Roca – dancer.

The alumnus who worked and performed with the students are Elisa Ferreira - after school Latin instructor, Latin choreographer, performer, narrator; Raziell Ferreira - after school Latin instructor, drummer; Joshua Montanez - after school drumming accompaniment for dance classes, drummer, sound; Ana Vieira - after school Cape Verdean instructor, Cape Verdean choreographer, dancer; Jen Savard - stage manager, rehearsal and technical set up and management; Perla Almonte - dancer and volunteer aide for rehearsals; Jose Texiera – dancer; Katherine McPhillips - dancer and aide for rehearsals; and Geminna Medina - dancer and aide for rehearsals and travel performance.

The 2010 RI Scholastic Art Award Winners were Alex Andrade, Grade 11, Drawing, Gold Key; Heriberto Colon Jr., Grade 12, Jewelry, Silver Key; and Joshua Frometa, Grade 12, Drawing, Silver Key. Teachers Susan Vollucci and Doris White were acknowledged as well.

Teacher Corey Beltram recently wrote a grant through Cranston Wal-Mart and was awarded \$1,500. The funding was used to purchase choral uniforms and the supplies necessary to maintain them so that the students would have a more professional look when performing in and outside of the district. Remaining monies were used to support and enhance the choral program. The students were recognized for their outstanding commitment. Participating students are Jonathan Arboleda, Kelly Aristizabal, Luis Barrera, Lyan Bayron, Zachary Bessette, Christopher Bonilla, Myra Camargo, Adelcio Correia, Shawn Coyle, Aaron Encarnacion, Joshua Encarnacion, Maria Escobar, Javier Garcia, Sergio Garcia-Rosario, Gerson Grijalua, Carla Hernandez, Diana Jeminez, Cameron Larivee, Aaliah LeeRuiz, Oswaldo Lemus, Yenifi Cepeda, Roseline Lima, Jairon Lopez, Efrain Lugo, Ivelisse Lugo, Kylie Lusa, Fernando Meda, Nikolas Mendez, Kayla Morris, Chelsea Munoz, Jessica Olguin, Nicholas Palma, Felicity Rivera, Mitzi Rodriguez, Ashley Salazar, Luis Sandoval, Laura Scholz, Shelley Sengsavang, Elijah Tirado, Heisha Trilla, Kevin Velez, Armani Villalona, and Kyneef Williams,

The students who participate on the Chess Teams in the elementary, middle and high school levels were recognized for their commitment and excellence. The students are as follows:

Central Falls Elementary Team 1 is as follows: Yang Ming Zou; Jairo Colon; Selvin Marroquin; and Kalexis Roper

Central Falls Team 2 is as follows: Naythan Delgado; Cameron Pita; Josmar Garcia; Michael Acevedo; and Sam Figueroa.

Central Falls Middle School Team is as follows: Arnold Kozlowski; Anthony Lopez; Helen Magana; Tatiana Ramos; John Rodrigues; Sam Adofe; Alexis Barrera; Sterling Beaucage; Steven Correia; Savannah Cosme; Fabian Duran; Jonathon Duran; and Cristian Estrada.

Central Falls High School Team is as follows: Eeron Spencer; Anthony Torres; Alexander Vazquez; Christian Barrios; Edward Dourant; David Hernandez; and Dylan Humphries.

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

##### *A. Staff Hiring Policy – second reading*

It was stated that the Staff Hiring Policy would be voted for approval at the next Trustee meeting and would be considered a third reading.

##### *B. Education summit plans*

It was stated that the above noted agenda item would be discussed at a later date.

##### *C. Facilities ongoing discussion.*

It was stated that the above noted agenda item would be discussed at a later date.

##### *C. RTTT ongoing discussion*

Superintendent Gallo gave a presentation (slides with notes attached) to inform with clarity the ongoing development of Central Falls schools' journey with the Race to the Top (RTTT) initiatives. She stated that the meeting was the 11<sup>th</sup> school board meeting that was being held to publicly discuss RTTT initiatives.

An early audit of 2007 provided the baseline information necessary to craft the district initiatives that have been consistently applied these last three years. The current NECAP score trends validate the work. Every school made gains and improvements. As the district learned about the changes in the direction of School Improvement Funding, Title I G funds, we anticipated the naming of one or more of Central Falls schools in the lowest performing category and planned accordingly. The four models were considered and the transformational model held the most benefit.

The budget has been consistently cut and the district now has opportunities to change schooling at the high school not by charter takeover but with partners—transforming not overtaking.

To date administration and the union remained in disagreement about the transformational model, specifically the details related to a student day increase, formalization regarding the teachers' commitment to one-hour weekly tutoring, professional development for two weeks outside the school calendar (summer), meeting 90 minutes once a week, and acknowledgment that a third party evaluator would be chosen to evaluate all the high school teachers. Without the agreement the district could not move forward with the resolution for a transformation model.

The Chair decided to take the agenda out of order since so many people were present. Public comment was entertained at this time.

## **V. Public Comment**

Teresa Agonia, a former Central Falls High School student, commented on the situation of the Central Falls High School. She has seen academic change and expressed her support for the teachers.

Jane Sessums, Central Falls Teachers' Union President, spoke regarding the Union's position regarding the Central Falls High School. She stated that the district had notified them [union] about possible termination. She reiterated that they did want the transformational model, but needed to continue to discuss the evaluations and the issue of time.

Marsha Reback commented on the situation with administration and the union regarding the Central Falls High School. She stated that the unhealthy relationship between administrators and faculty was the worst she had encountered. Teachers need to be paid for extra hours.

George McLaughlin, a high school guidance counselor at Central Falls High School, commented about the high school's history as well as his displeasure with administration.

James Perisi, Union, commented on the Union's interest in the transformational model as well as collaborating with the district. He stated that they never completely rejected the administration's proposal.

Tangy Pedigo, a Central Falls High School High School student, spoke on behalf of the teachers and how they have tried to help her graduate.

Karen Salizar, a junior at the Central Falls High School High School, read a poem that she wrote for the teachers.

Lesden Salizar, a Central Falls High School High School student, read a poem that she wrote for all the teachers titled, "It's Not Fair."

Angel Vigo, a Central Falls High School High School student, spoke about the high school teachers and named some of his favorite teachers. He also mentioned Ms. Legault and what she has done for him.

Lisa Morales, a high school student, spoke about her experience at the high school and how teachers have made that possible.

Monica Barros, a senior at the Central Falls High School High School, spoke about her teachers and what they mean to her as well as her experience as a student.

Councilman James Diosa commented on his own experience as a student in Central Falls as well as some concerns that others had shared with him about not feeling prepared for college. He stated that the bar needed to be raised in education, and that he was only hearing about the teachers and not enough about the students.

Sheilla Gomes, a Central Falls High School High School student, spoke about her experience at the high school and how the teachers help her.

Jessica Parkhurst, a teacher and former alum, spoke about her feeling regarding the situation at the high school, the teachers, and the current climate.

Ashley Delgado, a former Central Falls High School High School student, spoke about her teachers. She stated she was attending Leslie University and felt prepared for college.

Jonathon Beltram, a former Central Falls High School High School student who graduated last year, spoke about his experience positive experiences at the high school.

Luis Parket commented on his time as a school board member and how it was about the students and not about money. He stated that the district should not be looking to fire all of the high school teachers.

**VI. Resolutions (personnel) – Superintendent’s recommendation regarding**

- a. Reconstitution of high school
- b. Termination and/or nonrenewal of staff

It was stated that the resolutions regarding termination and non-renewals would be voted for approval at the next Trustee meeting.

**VII. Consent Agenda**

Consent agenda included the January regular meeting minutes and work session minutes. No motion for approval could be carried because there was a lack of quorum for approval from the members present respectively during the dates of the minutes. No personnel actions were included.

**VIII. Superintendent’s Report**

The Superintendent’s Report was not given.

**IX. Next Board of Trustees Meetings**

Board of Trustees work session meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 was announced. It was also announced that there would be votes taken at this session.

Board of Trustees regular meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 2010

**X. School Board Comment/Communications**

Ms. Rodrigues commented on the fact that there had been 11 public conversations regarding the RTTT and the four options.

One student asked about the teacher evaluations and Mr. Nordan asked Dr. Gallo to clarify why they needed third party evaluations. Dr. Gallo informed the Board that the district and the union were currently at the table discussing how to improve teacher evaluations. Models were being studied, but currently there is a weak tenured staff

evaluation in place that is less formal than it should be. For that reason, everyone, including Commissioner Gist had suggested the outside evaluators for the moment.

#### **XI. Motion to Recess to Executive Session and Adjournment**

Ms. Rosado asked for 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 (Non-certified negotiations) and it was seconded by Ms. Rodrigues. A roll call vote was taken and was unanimous, 6 to 0.

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