

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 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. Mary Lou Perez, Clerk  
Ms. Leslie Estrada  
Mr. BK Nordan (6:09 PM)  
Mr. Vladimir Ibarra

Not Present: Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado  
Ms. Sonia Rodrigues, Vice Chairwoman

**II. Pledge**

**III. Recognitions**

Central Falls High School student Shanice Frails was acknowledged for her creativity in designing the Lady Warrior logo. Mr. Bizier accompanied Shanice and spoke about how it began as a class assignment. Shanice had drawn several versions before it was finalized. The T-shirts will be sold.

Librarian Debbie Fisher was recognized for her contributions and participation on the American Library Association's book selection committee.

The following students from the 2009-2010 Warriors boys soccer team were acknowledged for demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship: Bryan Barrios, Gerson Bermudez, Jose Flores, Diego Giraldo, Sebastian Godoy, Olavo Monteiro, Juan Zapata, Antonio Diogo, Nelson Monteiro, Victor Parra, German Santos, Emmett Dixon, Victor Mariaca, Steven Serpa, Jose Colon, Leo Dufresne, Ricardo Robles, Andres Monteiro, Nate Borges and Walter Andujar. Head Coach Marchand stated that this was the first time in history that any team has won all the sportsmanship awards. Team assistants Jose Flores and Diego Giraldo spoke on behalf of their team and thanked the Board for the recognition. They stated that they worked hard as a team.

**IV. Policy and Planning**

*A. PBGR Requirements policy revision – first reading*

Ms. Sue Cranston was asked to speak about the suggested policy revision. The proposed addition to the portfolio policy would require students to become proficient on an assigned portfolio task within one month of getting the task back from the teacher. Ms. Cranston also

explained that this would only apply to extended tasks, which are allowed to be revised. In addition, if the student did not revise the task in the allotted time a letter would be sent home to parents informing them. There was discussion regarding advisory support, parent communication, and the revision time span.

*Action:* No action taken. Revisions will be made for a second reading.

#### *B. Residency policy revision – first reading*

Mr. Larry Decoste was asked to speak to the Board regarding the policy revision. Mr. Decoste explained that the district policy as it stood was not in accordance with general law; therefore a revision needed to be made. There was a brief discussion.

*Action:* No action taken. No revisions suggested and will go to a second reading.

#### *C. RTTT ongoing discussion*

Dr. Gallo informed the Board that the RTTT application was due on January 19<sup>th</sup>, but would be sent out on the 15<sup>th</sup>. If the funds are acquired, they would be distributed in two phases. She briefly discussed the different sections in the application and how many points were assigned to each.

Superintendents were able to go on Monday and Tuesday to RIDE to review the application in order to see the connection between RIDE's strategic plan and the RTTT application.

There is a multitude of grants that have supported the district where the general budget has had to be cut and the success of those grants has enabled the district to have various student programs. Some of the programs that were mentioned were the Academic Enhancement Center, TALL University, high school store, Human Creativity, and guidance counselors Pre-K-12 and College Crusades. The district has actively sought these financial supports in order to provide needed services to students. Ms. Gist is doing the same with the RTTT application.

Commissioner Gist's January 6<sup>th</sup> presentation was shown to the Board by the Superintendent (see attached presentation). Each slide was reviewed and discussed.

Dr. Gallo clarified the launch year for Central Falls stating that it would be for September of 2010 because the district, not anticipating a year of grace, had already held its public meetings. The district had stakeholder group meetings as well and will reconvene once more. Based on those meetings, the district is going to recommend using the transformation model.

The Memorandum of Understanding for the RTTT application was endorsed by the Superintendent and Board of Trustees but not endorsed by the Union. She explained that Union across the state had secured a delay for their signature from RIDE.

Ms. Cano-Morales stated for the record, "I, the Superintendent, Kathy Gaouette, Mike Lauro and attorney Mike McElroy did have a formal meeting with the Union on Thursday evening to discuss the MOU. It was a short meeting where it was decided that the Central Falls Teachers' Union were not prepared because had not seen details of Race to the Top application. They had every intention to review the details at RIDE. They had legal questions that were still unanswered. That is how it was left. That night we heard they had secured an

extension to review, discuss and come to consensus for the 13<sup>th</sup>. Districts still had to comply with the January 8<sup>th</sup> deadline. There was supposed to be a meeting tonight to reconvene the same team she mentioned earlier and the Union but we were notified that the meeting was cancelled, not by us but by the Union and we were given no explanation as to why. We are still waiting. We have done our part and introduced the MOU with my signature as well as with Dr. Gallo's signature."

*Action: Informational*

## **V. Consent Agenda**

Consent agenda included the December regular meeting minutes and work session minutes. A motion to approve December regular meeting minutes and work session minutes was made by Ms. Perez and seconded by Ms. Estrada. The Board approved the consent agenda, 5 to 0. No personnel actions were included.

## **VI. Superintendent's Report**

### *A. Breakfast program*

Arbitration was filed by teachers against administration for the breakfast program. The district is still proceeding with the program and believes the matter is not arbitrable. Dr. Gallo informed the Board that breakfast in the classroom is a national trend, but is new to Rhode Island. Also that other AFT affiliates had called the district to find out how to have the program in their districts. The complaint is that the program takes time from the classroom but it only takes 10 to 15 minutes in the morning. Grievances are private by contract but arbitrations and court matters are public.

### *B. Nellie Mae grant Crusades and Central Falls*

A grant was secured in the amount of \$115,500 this year with the promise of growth and expansion for the following two years to support institutionalizing community advisory services for middle school students.

### *B. Rhode Island Center for School Leadership (RICSL) invitation*

The district was offered an opportunity to join RICSL. A district leader will be trained as a leader performance coach. Ms. Edda Carmadello has been selected to be trained and certified.

### *B. Restorative practices*

A packet was given to the Board regarding restorative practices. Ms. Julia Steiny is working with the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. It dovetails with the work that is being done with Toyota group. Also, Larry Decoste is spearheading a mentor group for children in truancy. He already has 22 volunteers from within the district staff to mentor these children in order to try to keep them in school.

### *C. Timeline*

January 19<sup>th</sup> – Stakeholders group at the Pawtucket Library from 12-2 PM

January 22<sup>nd</sup> – RFP out with a deadline of February 10<sup>th</sup>

February 19<sup>th</sup> – Selection complete for announcement on February 23<sup>rd</sup>

March – Details developed for high school

*C. Facilities update*

Dr. Gallo stated for the record, “I did not call Linda Borg. She called and she received a response. The record is a public one.” The district received an email communication by order of the Mayor that all facilities meetings are cancelled although he does not sit on the facilities committee. At the last meeting that was held the last order of business was to approve a third party person to look over the last \$116,000 that had not been approved by RIDE for reimbursement to match with all of the requirements of the regulations of governing facilities so that money would qualify.

The bond money was discussed in greater detail because there was a question of whether or not the bond was secured by the City.

Ms. Cano-Morales reiterated that the district did not call the media regarding the facilities issue. Ms. Borg was following up with a story that originated at the Board of Regents during a public meeting.

The lease for St. Leo’s will be submitted to be paid by the bond because the relocation was a direct result of the roof situation at Captain Hunt. Currently the district is paying for the lease and utilities.

**VII. Public Comments**

No public comment.

**VIII. Next Board of Trustees Meetings**

Board of Trustees work session meeting: Tuesday, January 26, 2010

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

**IX. School Board Comment/Communications**

Ms. Cano-Morales reminded the Board that the stakeholder meeting was going to be held on the 19th from noon to 2:00 PM at the Pawtucket library. She stated that Ms. Rodrigues represents the Trustees at the facilities committee and would have reported out but was in Cape Cod at a conference.

**X. Motion to Recess to Executive Session**

No executive session held.

**XI. Adjournment**

Ms. Cano-Morales asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:07 PM. Ms. Perez motioned to adjourn and it was seconded by Mr. Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken and was unanimous, 5 to 0.