

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 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 6:05 PM.

Present: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairwoman  
Ms. Sonia Rodrigues, Vice Chairwoman  
Ms. Mary Lou Perez, Clerk  
Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado  
Mr. B.K. Nordan

Not present: Mr. Vladimir Ibarra (excused)  
Ms. Leslie Estrada

**II. Pledge**

**III. Recognition**

There were no official recognitions on the agenda but Dr. Gallo brought it to the Board's attention that the District had received a letter from Karl Squier and Pat Nailor stating that of the five Central Falls' SPARCri's submitted to RISCA, four would be receiving awards for the demonstration of excellence in their programs. The fifth, Captain Hunt, while not receiving an award this year, also demonstrates excellence. It was their opinion that since this was the first early childhood SPARCri ever submitted, the review committee was not well-versed in the manifestation of results data at that young age. They are working with RISCA and the creator of the national SPARC program to develop a set of criteria for early childhood SPARCs.

**IV. Planning**

*A. Building Committee updates*

The minutes of the August 24<sup>th</sup> building committee meeting were briefly reviewed and an update was given on the meeting that was held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. An update on the September 13<sup>th</sup> Energy Service Company (ESCO) site visit and walk through was given. There was discussion regarding the status of the building reimbursement. Dr. Gallo reported that there would be a loss to city in the amount of \$129,000 non-reimbursable because there currently were no valid verifications for certain expenditures. The remainder of the \$5M would be used this year before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The city's Finance Director Ellen Eggeman has been working closely with the district's Finance Director Giovanna Venditti. Ms. Eggeman along with Todd Olbrych, Marie Twohey and Joseph Nield have attended the committee meetings. The committee meets every

Monday at 1:00 PM at the Central Falls High School in the library. All agendas and minutes are posted to the Secretary of the State web site.

*B. High School Performance Management Protocol - presentation*

An educator handbook regarding performance management protocols was given to the high school teachers in a binder format. It included organizational charts, the reform plan, the *Protocol for Intervention* with the Board of Regents' amendments, a tool kit and information on performance management.

An explanation of the performance management process was briefly presented and reviewed. A lesson plan template was included in the handbook and given to the Board to review. The template would be filled out and given to the evaluators 48-hours prior to the scheduled evaluation. Feedback may happen at that time. All teachers will be evaluated at least twice. The lesson plan can be on a unit or a lesson but it needs to be made clear to the evaluator so the person knows what they should be evaluating.

The lesson plan template was reviewed with the Board. Dr. Gallo presented a blank template and went over each part and then showed a completed sample. There was a discussion about the template and its use and value. It was stated that it was only being formally used at the high school at this time.

Dr. Gallo informed the Board that the strategic plan was being reviewed; therefore at the recent community forum the belief statements were shared with families. Twenty-two parents were in attendance. Many in attendance were parents of high school students and shared their content with the reinforcement of the dress code. Others expressed their unfamiliarity with the belief statements, which have been in place since 2007 and were worked on by the Trustees. Based on that information, the district is going to make a concerted effort to put the belief statements in all buildings.

*C. Streamlined Teachers' Union Contract - discussion*

The discussions on a streamlined teachers' union contract continued with the distribution of two articles from the Boston Globe that reflected a community's views on simpler contracts and a parent's role in negotiations.

The negotiation process and structure was discussed. There were questions about the negotiation process specific to the Board's role. Ms. Cano-Morales is the person who represents the Board during negotiations. There was a brief discussion of to clarify the current process. A collaborative and transparent process for negotiations is being sought.

*D. 403 (B) Policy Correction - approval*

Last year the Board had approved the required 403 (B) policy. An attorney had prepared and reviewed the plan but an error was discovered. If the error is not corrected in the policy then a teacher would be unable to withdraw from their 403 (B) at 59 and half while still teaching.

A motion to correct the error in the 403 (B) policy was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Rodrigues and approved 5, 0.

## **V. Public Comment**

Dale Dearnley, a Central Falls High School teacher, commented that lesson plans were being done by teachers for their classrooms. Ms. Dearnley further commented that she had some concerns on how the lesson plan template was structured and that she would provide that feedback during the professional development.

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

A motion to approve the revised minutes of the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting and the personnel items was made by Ms. Rodrigues, seconded by Mr. Nordan, and unanimously approved 5, 0.

The personnel items were as follows:

### RESIGNATION:

The following people have submitted their letter of resignation:

Robert Marchand

George McLaughlin

Jorge Torres

Robert Anastasi

Gregory Bishop

Cheryl Aucoin

### APPOINTMENTS:

Adam Cherko – high school

Kim Lanowy – high school

Joana-Jo Daou – high school

Sharyn Hallal – high school

Fox, Kaitlyn – Early Childhood

Botelho, Diane – Elementary

Kerry Altman – high school

## **VII. Superintendent's Report**

### *A. Opening of schools*

The district had a good start to the academic year in all buildings. The Central Falls High School has a new parent welcome area thanks to the home school liaisons.

The district has received good press. Educational Broadcasting System (EBS), a South Korean educational broadcasting company located in Gangnam-gu, Seoul, visited the High School to film classrooms and to interview teachers and students for an upcoming documentary on Race to the Top. Brown University students have also conducted interviews and written articles as well.

### *B. Board of Regents endorse Local 94 contract*

The Board of Regents has endorsed the Local 94 contract. The new contract is producing cost savings within the district.

### *C. Central Falls Community Plan Play opportunity*

A meeting was held with the district and several community organizations in regards to opening a children's health center with a play area in the city using the unoccupied VFW building. The group met with Councilman Diosa and with Reciever Judge Pfiefer to continue the conversations. Judge Pfiefer suggested presenting the idea to the City Council. A presentation was given to the City Council members on Monday and everyone in attendance seemed to be in favor of the idea. The group is looking to involve Lincoln and Cumberland as well. Dr. Gallo shared some materials with the Board including sketches of the play area that were created by RISD interns working for Children's Museum.

### *D. Grant updates*

Members from the Nellie Mae Foundation will visit on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The district has submitted their Phase III response for the District Level Systems Change Initiative grant.

Extreme makeover has not contacted the district regarding the video that was requested and sent in so another video was made and sent.

## **VIII. School Board Comment/Communication**

Ms. Cano-Morales thanked Dr. Gallo on behalf of the Board for her commitment to the students and Central Falls.

Dr. Gallo informed the Board that she would be instructing at Providence College once a week. She would be teaching a graduate community relations course, which correlates with Rhode Island Leadership Standard #4.

Ms. Rosado informed the Board that she would not be able to attend the September 28<sup>th</sup> work session meeting.

Ms. Rodrigues requested a policy schedule for upcoming up items that would be on agenda beginning in October.

Dr. Gallo informed the Board that they would be provided with the Rhode Island Basic Education Program, a framework within which a decision can be made about whether a school district is offering its students a basic education program, including academic and support programs.

## **IX. Next Board of Trustees**

The next Board of Trustees work session meeting will be on Tuesday, September 28.

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

A motion to adjourn the public meeting was made by Ms. Rosado and seconded by Ms. Rodrigues. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

No executive session was held.