

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
October 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: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairwoman  
Ms. Sonia Rodrigues, Vice Chairwoman  
Ms. Mary Lou Perez, Clerk  
Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado  
Mr. B.K. Nordan  
Mr. Vladimir Ibarra  
Ms. Leslie Estrada

**II. Pledge**

**III. Public Comment**

Kyle Nevs, a Central Falls High School student, commented on the topic of discipline. Read a poem that he wrote.

Kadisha Johnson and Hamilton Salizar, two Central Falls High School students, commented on the topic of discipline. They spoke about creating a Senior Council which would act as a positive peer model program and/or a Big Brother Big Sister program.

Rose Marie Torres, a Central Falls High School student, commented on the topic of discipline. She took a communication class in the summer and she wanted to use the skills she learned to help speak with students who are having behavior issues.

Maria Cristina Bentancur, a parent of a high school student, commented on the topic of discipline. She spent time in the school during a learning walk and enjoyed it but noticed that the three minute transition times were not being utilized properly by all of the students. She recommended having parents help with this. Maria also spoke about parents wanting to institute a school uniform dress policy.

Alberto Nunez, a parent of a high school student, commented on the topic of discipline. He wanted to collaborate with the school and the district to help with this.

Joseph Moran, a parent of a high school student and police chief, commented on the topic of discipline. He stated that everybody will have to work together on this—teachers, students, community and the police. The common goal is to make all the schools safe.

## **IV. Recognition**

### *A. Teacher of the Year Announcement*

Ms. Christine Gingerella informed the Board that the Rhode Island After School Plus Alliance in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Education and the Providence Afterschool Alliance have named Calcutt Middle School teacher Cathy Carvalho Teacher of the Year.

## **V. Planning**

### *A. High School reform plan – update*

Mr. Victor Capellan gave an update on the high school's Behavior Management Systems. Data around discipline has been taken into consideration and students, parents, and teachers have been asked for their input in order to resolve the issue. Some of the factors that may be contributing to the issue are that the number of students in the building has increased, there are a lot of transitions during the day, and self-contained students are being integrated. There are some issues from the community that influence what happens in the school and vice versa but it is being monitored with the help of the police. The number of new teachers and subs that are in the school on a daily basis also affects this. There are 15 new teachers and there are anywhere between 13-15 teachers that are out.

There are a number of things that are in place but there are things that need to be added and/or improve. Mr. Sonn Sam gave an overview of the existing behavior plan. The overview included who made up the discipline team, advisory, identifying student leaders and clear expectations using a three tier approach. An overview of each tier was given. Incidents are documented and the data is used to find out how to best support the students and teachers. More parents are welcomed to be present during the school day providing support.

A parent question prompted Mr. Capellan to explain the protocols around tardiness. Late students sign a paper and a copy is kept in the office. When a student is tardy five times a letter goes home to families to inform them of the consequences if it continues. There is an automatic call that goes home regarding tardiness as well.

There are more teachers and administrators present in the hallways and it will continue. Some behaviors will be targeted such as the use of electronic devices (cell phones, Ipods, etc.) are not to be used but are slowly emerging so now that is an issue that needs to be addressed. Student government, a peer mediation program, TALL University need to be developed in order to make sure that students are connected to a positive program. One such program is called "The Working Athletes." They will be able to work on Saturdays. They will be paid for their service but not as an individual. The team will receive the funds collectively and then decide how to use those funds. There have also been conversations with the Institute for Non-violence to see how to better utilize their skills.

Parents, teachers and students need more supports therefore there were some items that were proposed. A New Teacher Institute would be created so that all new teachers can participate in a teacher development program for an entire year. There will be a curriculum covering many areas such as lesson planning, classroom management, content knowledge, and other

areas. It would be an ongoing support. This year it would be on a volunteer basis but they would like to make it a requirement for next year.

The high school lead team would like to create a Family Support and Student Development Center. The center would have a network of community organizations that would be able to connect families with services for continual support. The center would assist in the development of students who are having difficulty. In order for it to be successful three new positions would be created, which were included as part of the transformation budget. The positions would be an Executive Director for the Center, a Reengagement Coordinator and a Special Assistant for Transformation.

It was noted that everything that was being done so far by administrators, teachers, students and parents had been done without additional resources. A plan was submitted to RIDE on August 13<sup>th</sup> for School Improvement Funds Grant and she reported that it had recently been approved.

The Board noted that the concern regarding teacher absences had come up at the last meeting and again was being brought to their attention. During the first 10 days of school there was an average of four teachers absent which is normal but after that the number jumped to 13. Included in that number are vacancies, long-term medical leave, sick calls (average of 8 or 9). There have been teachers who have been willing to help fill the gaps as needed.

In light of the conversation, the Board inquired about the topic of uniforms. The state law prohibits the district from having uniforms. The only city who currently has uniforms is Woonsocket Public Schools. Mr. Capellan is tracking those results so that a change to the legislature can be created and submitted.

Board members indicated that they have received communications from students complaining that they have not had consistency in the classroom due to the teacher absences. Teachers have also sent email expressing their frustration with the situation as well.

*Actions: Informative*

A motion to move the agenda items B, D in Policy and Planning and the Superintendent's Report to the next meeting was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Estrada and unanimously approved 7, 0.

*B. Building Committee – update*

The item was postponed for the next Board meeting.

*C. Physical Restraint policy update – second reading*

There was a brief discussion.

*Actions:* Motion to approve the policy with some amendments was made by

*D. Streamlined teachers contract – continued discussion*

The item was postponed for the next Board meeting.

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Mr. Ibarra, and unanimously approved 7, 0.

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

### *A. New England Secondary School Consortium*

The item was postponed for the next Board meeting.

### *B. Nellie Mae*

The item was postponed for the next Board meeting.

### *C. College Crusades*

The item was postponed for the next Board meeting.

## **VIII. Next Board of Trustees**

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, October 26, 2010.

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

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 (teacher grievance, litigation and streamlined teacher contract discussion) was made by Ms. Perez and seconded by Ms. Rosado. A roll call vote was taken and was unanimous, 7 to 0.

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