

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
November 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: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairwoman  
Ms. Sonia Rodrigues, Vice Chairwoman  
Ms. Mary Lou Perez, Clerk  
Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado  
Mr. Vladimir Ibarra (6:05 PM)  
Mr. B.K. Nordan (6:21 PM)

Not Present: Ms. Leslie Estrada (excused)

**II. Pledge**

**III. Policy & Planning**

*A. Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) policy revision – first reading*

Presenting the revisions to the ELO policy was Christine Gingerella along with a student representative. Miranda Santos, a junior at Central Falls High School, is part of the ELO planning team that also included principals, teachers, students and small business owners. Ms. Santos commented on the benefits of ELOs.

There was some discussion and questions about how the ELO policy was aligned with the Nellie Mae Foundation. The discussion was prompted by the Nellie Mae Foundation visit that had taken place at the high school the previous week. It was clarified that the District was working to secure two Nellie Mae opportunities—the Extended Learning Grant and the District Change Grant.

Research was conducted and it was found that Manchester had an ELO policy that had more extensive language. The language from that policy was used to enhance the existing policy.

Some further revisions were discussed.

*Action:* A second reading will be held at the next Board Meeting for a vote.

*B. Race to the Top (RTTT) Scope of Work document revisions*

The RTTT Scope of Work document was presented to the Board. The scope of work is both a federally required document and an important tool in helping both districts and RIDE organize, manage, and monitor implementation of both RTTT initiatives and progress

against the overarching student achievement goals of the state. Dr. Gallo reviewed different points and topics in the adaptive change sections that included challenges with culture, facilities, technology, building level staff, and assessment systems.

The populated areas that were customized for each district were the formative assessments and budget sections. Those sections were created by RIDE personnel.

The revisions have to be submitted by November 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Board noted that much of the adaptive challenges were around the theme of culture and there was much concern about how that was perceived by other people.

### *C. High School reform plan – updates*

The leadership team updated the Board on the first quarter of the reform plan. The lead team has met with parents, students and teachers to get their perspective on how the reform is going. They received information about what was working and what still needed work. The reforms are on track even though there have been expected challenges.

Ms. Evelyn Jones spoke about a few of the successes that the high school has had. The Study Island Math Program data is showing increased student achievement and in the future that data will be shared. The Guide 2 Success program has 32 students and is growing. Literacy has launched a school-wide vocabulary initiative. There is now a high school choir. EBEC is also trying to partner with the high school in some proposed initiatives and professional development.

Mr. Sonn Sam spoke about the PTO that was formed with the assistance of Home School Liaisons Ms. Liz Ramirez and Ms. Susana Arenas as well as teacher Mr. David Bizier. There are now a core number of parents who volunteer and are finding their own voice to advocate for themselves and for the students. The working athletes program has been implemented. During Friday lunch music from all eras is played for the whole school community to enjoy. E-rate has begun rewiring the building with the intention of going Wi-Fi for a better use of technology. The goal of 60 teacher evaluations has been met. Areas of strength have been identified as well as those areas of that need support. The student engagement with Young Voices and TALL University has been continuous and positive.

Student attendance and lateness is still being monitored and the trends are going to be reviewed so that the appropriate interventions can be made. The guidance counselors are creating a support group and after school restorative circles will be used. A small group of students will be identified and home visits will begin as well.

Teacher absences are about 15 people on a daily basis for a number of different reasons. Six are on extended leave and there is one vacancy. The Codes of Ethical Conduct will be reviewed and addressed with individual teachers. Supports for those teachers who are covering also need to be put into place. The pool of substitutes will be expanded and they will be trained so they can become more familiar with the school.

The behavior management plan will be reviewed. The In School Suspension (ISS) is going to be closed. There will be a student intervention room that will work more on looking at the route causes of the behaviors. An additional behavior specialist was contracted through the

Special Education Department and would be in the school full-time during the day. The person would be assisting on implementing the new initiatives. They plan to implement an evening school for those students who need adjustments in their schedule and it would also serve as a suspension center. They would like to expand the G2S multiple pathways program. Mr. Capellan gave several examples of students who are benefiting from the program. They are looking at the Square Mile High placements and making sure that they are timely. The Institute for Nonviolence continues to be engaged with the school and will have more supports.

The center for family support and student development and the teacher development institute that were discussed at the last meeting are still key factors that the lead team wants to implement.

The lead team will review the behavior plan over the next month with members of the Union, Police Department, the PTO and RIDE. There are three meetings that will be held on Mondays in which minutes will be taken and given out for feedback. The goal is that the next quarter will be met with a lot more success and that they will continue to build on the successes that have already happened.

The Board requested that an educator and student present on the G2S multiple pathways program. They requested more information on the newly formed PTO. The Board acknowledged that a multi-disciplinary committee was a good idea and that the input would be welcomed but cautioned about it leading to segregating students.

The Board inquired on what the home visits would entail, what purpose it would serve and what would be the end goals. Mr. Capellan stated that he would send the Board the protocols for attendance and for behavior referrals.

Due to the nature of the update, Ms. Rosado commented on a situation that she had witnessed while visiting the high school. She saw a police officer walk a student out in handcuffs. The resource officer was asked by someone with authority to wait to walk the student out until the hallways were clear and the officer refused to do so. Ms. Rosado wanted to know who the resource officer was accountable to. Dr. Gallo responded that resource officers work for the school system and that it was being addressed with the Chief of Police. The administrators have met with the police team on many separate occasions and it had been discussed. There is a need to use confidentiality and discretion with students and families. The parameters need to be set with the resource officers in a formal way. Those things would be addressed.

#### *D. Building Committee budget – review*

The \$5M bond budget was presented to the Board to approve as it was recommended by the Building Committee. Alternates were also included just in case any of the line items were under budget. The meetings have been well attended and progressing well.

*Action:* A motion to approve the building budget was given by Ms. Rosado and seconded by Ms. Rodrigues and unanimously approved 6, 0.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Jane Sessums, CFTU President, commented on a survey regarding discipline problems that was given to Central Falls High School teachers by the Union. She stated that 62% of the faculty responded. She provided the Board with a summary of the responses. She also stated that she was encouraged to hear, during the high school's faculty meeting, that the behavior management plan would be reviewed by a committee.

Maria Lozano, a parent of a high school student, was concerned that there was not a student manual.

David Bizier, a Central Falls High School teacher, commented that he is currently developing a student handbook that should be finished by next week for administrators to review. He also thanked Miranda Santos who he worked with on the ELO program committee.

#### **V. Consent Agenda**

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and personal actions was made by Ms. Perez and seconded by Ms. Rodrigues. The minutes were approved 5, 0 with one abstention from Ms. Rosado and the personal actions were unanimously approved 6, 0.

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

##### *A. Guide 2 Success (G2S) letters*

Dr. Gallo presented letters that students had written regarding the program to the Board for them to read.

##### *B. Funding Formula*

No update was given because there was nothing new to report.

#### **VII. Board Comments**

Ms. Rosado had questions regarding changes to the by-laws that were indicated on the Calcutt School Improvement Team meeting notes from October 19th notes. She wanted to be provided with more information on it. She commented that she had been to Ella Risk and liked their mural. Principal Maureen Azar showed the Board members some photos of the mural and stated that it is part of a program in which the children pick a word and show different ways to use that word.

Mr. Nordan suggested that the District may want to create a quick fact sheet that could be used to help orient parents.

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

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, November 23, 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 (grievances) was made by Ms. Rosado and 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.