

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
November 23, 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 6:15 PM.

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

Not Present: Ms. Leslie Estrada (excused)
Ms. Mary Lou Perez, Clerk (excused)
Mr. Vladimir Ibarra

II. Pledge

III. Policy & Planning

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

The changes that were indicated in the last meeting were incorporated into the second reading. There was a brief discussion and some minor changes were requested.

Action: A motion to approve the policy as amended was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Mr. Nordan and approved 4, 0.

B. Endorsement of MOA between police and school departments

A presentation was given to inform the Board about the restorative practices and what the district and police department's roles are. District administrators met with the local police, state police and Judge Pfeifer to review and discuss the drafted Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Another meeting is scheduled in December to continue to work on the document. Language forbidding arrests in school was taken out because it was agreed that there were appropriate times for school arrest to occur but that will be more detailed in the next draft.

Originally the district had hired two Student Resource Officers (SRO), who were both funded through a grant, but when the grant ran out the police department and district each funded one of the officers. When the Receiver took over the city one SRO was cut. The remaining officer is in district's general budget. Then the administration tried to have the SRO work half time at the high school and half time at the middle school. A few weeks back it was decided that the middle school did not have enough behavior specialists and the high school did have the behavior specialist support, so the SRO was placed at the middle school.

The Board discussed the draft document and suggested changes.

Action: A motion to endorse the idea of a memorandum of agreement for the work to move forward was made by Ms. Rodrigues, seconded by Mr. Nordan and approved 4, 0.

C. CF High School Transformation Work – update and approval

Mr. Capellan, Mr. Sam and Ms. Jones gave the Board more information regarding the Guide to Success (G2S) program. The ribbon cutting celebration took place earlier in the day with the students presenting and speaking about their experience.

As part of the transformation work, there will be a satisfaction survey given to faculty, students and parents. Then the survey will be conducted again in May. Young Voices has worked on the student survey and the lead team has worked on the survey for the faculty and parents.

The recommendation from the Board was to bring in an expert in to validate the surveys in order to use it district wide at some point.

Mr. Sam gave an update on the behavior management plan committee. Two meetings had already been held. The next meeting would be held the Monday after the holiday. It was expected that the committee would have recommendations for the Board at their next meeting.

Ms. Jones gave an update on vocabulary and literacy. For the past several years comprehension was the main focus and some improvements in the area of reading were noticed; therefore they would like to accelerate and sustain the initiative. Ms. Joann Angellini and Ms. Jones have asked that vocabulary be embedded into the curriculum. Ms. Jones explained how the vocabulary was being used across content areas within the school.

Some students received a NG on their first quarter report cards, which means No Grade. This may have happened because the student's regular teacher was out for an extended sick leave and no grade was issued for that quarter as a result. The NG does not impact the students' cumulative grade. The NG will not show on their official transcript. The next three quarters will be averaged out and a final grade will be given to the student. The final grade will be noted on the official transcript. Letters will be sent home to families explaining the NG which was also addressed during the parent-teacher conferences. An explanation of a teacher's day to day absence versus a long-term leave was given. Many teachers in the appropriate content areas have volunteered to teach classes when a teacher absence occurs so that the content is not lost but it does not happen in every class that needs coverage and it is a concern.

Dr. Gallo presented the Central Falls High School's performance management preliminary analysis of data. Seventy-one teacher observations had been completed. The summary showed the domains with the strengths and weaknesses. The analysis showed that the school does have strong proficient teachers as well as a large group in the basic category and a handful in the unsatisfactory category. It was reiterated that the purpose of the evaluations was to support everyone and move them along. The next round of evaluations will have a pre-conference component.

Dr. Gallo and Dr. Page from Rhode Island College have been working on ways to sponsor a CF cohort for RIC's Teacher-Leader certificate program. A draft of the program curriculum was provided to Dr. Gallo. A two-year program could be offered beginning in the summer, hopefully at a reduced rate. That program would streamline their current model and serve as a next-step for members of the cohort to seek an M.Ed. and administrative certificate. The program would be opened to everyone in the district. Fifteen people would be a full cohort and if that number could not be reached then the opportunity could be extended to teachers in other districts but it would still be held in Central Falls.

D. Building Committee budget – approval and discussion of best and final (Ameresco), commissioning RFP and bills

The second phase of the Studio Jade work has been completed. The bill for the design development in the amount of \$29,515.96 was submitted to the Board for approval.

Dr. Gallo updated the Board on the ESCO. Ameresco was the only ESCO bidder and the Building Committee voted to see their cost proposal. In studying the proposal the committee felt that the profits were too high. The committee asked Ameresco to conduct an audit at no cost to determine the best and final. The committee gave Ameresco one week to respond to their request. Ameresco did contact Dr. Gallo stating that they had more questions and were seeking guidance before submitting a formal response.

The Commissioning RFP needs to be independent from the Owner's Representative. The RFP was being worked on.

Action: A motion to approve the bill for the design development in the amount of \$29,515.96 was made by Ms. Rodrigues, seconded by Ms. Rosado and unanimously approved 4, 0.

A copy of the Calcutt Middle School bylaws was passed out to the Board for their review. They were handed out in order to help answer questions that were posed at the last meeting regarding changes to the School Improvement Team bylaws.

Public Comment

None.

IV. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and personnel actions was made by Mr. Nordan, seconded by Ms. Rosado, and unanimously approved 4,0.

V. Board Comments

Ms. Rosado commented that she was encouraged when she read the MOA draft; specifically that it distinguishes disciplinary issues from criminal issues.

Ms. Cano-Morales clarified that she lives in North Providence and not in Pawtucket and that she is not related to Juan Cano who works in the District. Her nephew is a student at the school not an employee.

VI. Next Board of Trustees

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, December 14, 2010.

VII. 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 (certified teacher contract) was made by Ms. Rosado and seconded by Ms. Rodrigues. A roll call vote was taken and was unanimous, 4 to 0.

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