

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Central Falls High School – Library

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chairperson, Ms. Sonia Rodrigues called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Present: Ms. Sonia Rodrigues, Vice Chairwoman
Ms. Leslie Estrada-Berroa
Ms. Cheryl Lafond
Mr. B.K. Nordan
Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Not Present: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairwoman
(excused; arrived during executive session)

II. Pledge

III. Recognitions

The Central Falls boys' soccer team along with two players from Tolman High School and two alumni beat out eight other teams from across New England to earn the right to represent the Northeast Region in the National Futsal Championships in Kansas City, Kansas in late February. Two representatives from the team, Cristian Rodriguez and Victor Mariaca, attended the meeting and were recognized. Both students commented on how important representing the Northeast Region and Central Falls High School was to them and to the team.

IV. Policy & Planning

A. Kansas and Canada Trips

Mr. Sam informed the Board that the details for the Kansas trip, in which the students were recognized previously, would be forthcoming at the next scheduled Trustee meeting.

Ms. Gina Vecchio, Central Falls High School teacher, informed the Board that she and a colleague, Ms. Sharyn Hallal, in the Foreign Language Department wanted to take a group of approximately 12 students from the Level III French classes to Quebec City over the spring break.

Ms. Vecchio commented that it would be a great opportunity for the students to experience a world beyond Central Falls. Moreover, it would give them an opportunity to put their French communication skills into practice and see how language study enhances their enjoyment and reduces isolation as they travel to other parts of the world. The board reviewed the proposal and asked questions about the trip.

Action: The Board endorsed the trip to Canada 5, 0.

B. Building Committee – discussion and approvals

The Building Committee held its regularly scheduled Monday meeting and the members reviewed a copy of the building renovation plans for the school related projects. Three bills were submitted to the Board. The bills included the commissioning agent request for proposal (RFP) legal ad that ran in the Providence Journal and an invoice for Arden for the repairs made at Ella Risk, which was an emergency repair. The Committee is waiting for the city's Purchasing Board to approve the commissioning agent bid. Hopefully, approval of the Commissioning agent will take place at the next Trustee meeting.

Action: A motion to approve the payment of bills that the Building Committee recommended was made by Ms. Berroa, seconded by Mr. Nordan and approved 5, 0.

C. Social Media policy – first reading

Currently, the district does not have a specific policy regarding social media and/or text messaging. The first reading was developed by researching best practices and reviewing similar policies from other districts. Additionally, the Wellness Committee was asked to review the district's policy on bullying and bullying interventions in order to make any revisions that might be necessary. The policy was discussed and revisions were made.

Action: A second reading will occur at the next meeting.

D. High School Transformation - update

Mr. Capellan delivered an update on programs. The multiple pathways programs are being used to help students successfully graduate. All students need rigorous instruction but some need to receive that instruction in a different way. PM School program is conducted afterschool from 3:15 PM to 5:45 PM. The program began with two students and now there are 12 students. There are five high school teachers who are teaching in the program and they are meeting the needs of the students. The community is becoming more aware of the program and many more parents, students and teachers are seeing this as a viable option. The work and tasks for the PM students are the same as those that are given to students who attend school during the day. Additionally, the PM students have internships in the community as well.

There are some students who want to attend school during the day and then attend the PM School so they can receive more instruction. Currently two students are attending both.

As the transformation continues the need for information has significantly increased. The media reports often on the transformation process as well. People need to have one place to find all of this information. A site was created in order let everyone have access to this important information. The URL for the site is: www.cfhstransformation.org. It was announced that the high school web site is also in a redesign process. Students from design classes are involved in the process.

V. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VI. Consent Agenda

The minutes from December 14th and January 11th were tabled until the February 8th meeting. A motion to approve the personnel actions was made by Ms. Berroa, seconded by Ms. Rosado and approved 5, 0.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Enrollment update

Dr. Gallo informed the Board that RIDE had noticed irregularities in the enrollment projections as compared to the actual enrollment numbers. NESDEC is now projecting more of a decrease.

B. Revision of Bullying Prevention and Intervention policy

The existing bullying prevention and intervention policy was referred to the Wellness Committee for review. They will begin to review it in early February. Once revisions are made it will be delivered to the Board for further review and approval.

C. Washington D.C. Conference update

The conference that was going to be held in Washington D.C. on February 7th will most likely be postponed. The district was among five other districts who were invited to attend. Only three of the six districts, including Central Falls, had responded in the affirmative with scheduling issues preventing the other three from attending. New more favorable dates were being sought.

D. Nellie Mae Systems Change Grant update

The Nellie Mae system change work continues. There is a strong base of partners who are working hard with the district. Dr. Gallo met with representatives from East Bay Education Collaborative (EBEC) and they were happy to be the lead partner and would assist to get the groups together with a convener. Updates about this work can be expected regularly to be on the Trustee agenda each month. Our hope is that for every partner there is a teacher from every level as well as students to assist in development and planning. Feb 9 and 10 in New Hampshire is the launch of grant proposal. There we will meet with other districts and Nellie Mae to map out the next steps together. In the near future, we expect to both sponsor and receive team visitations to and from the New Hampshire and Mass area sites who also received this grant.

VIII. Board Comments

Ms. Lafond, the newest Board member, visited Robertson Elementary school, which houses all of the district's fifth grade students, with Councilman James Diossa. She commented that she was pleased to see that the students involved with the school's safety patrol helped

monitor their peers during class transitions. There was a positive energy from the staff and students. She and Councilman Diossa also visited the Guide to Success program at Feinstein. They participated in a student assembly in which the students were sharing their highs and lows of the day. Ms. Lafond commented that it was a wonderful experience. She spoke with the students and stated that they were very welcoming. She will be visiting Ella Risk Elementary School next. She stated that she would like to visit all of the schools.

Dr. Gallo commented that Commissioner Gist would be visiting the district on Tuesday, February 1st. The visit would include conversations with teachers, administrators and students. Additionally, the visit would conclude with a community forum at 5:30 PM.

IX. Next Board of Trustees

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, February 8, 2011.

X. 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) and to chapter 42-46-5(a)(9), that this public body convene in executive session to hear and discuss grievances filed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement (grievance level three) was made by Mr. Nordan, seconded by Ms. Lafond. A roll call was taken and it was approved 5, 0.