

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
February 22, 2011  
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. Leslie Estrada-Berroa  
Ms. Cheryl Lafond  
Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado (6:08 PM)  
Mr. B.K. Nordan  
Stephanie Gonzalez

**II. Pledge**

**I. Policy & Planning**

*A. Lay-off Resolutions*

State law requires that teachers must be notified by March 1 about any potential changes to their status. Due to projected declines in enrollment, budget and performance the process had to be done.

Ms. Cano-Morales stated for the record, “It is with deep regret that the lay-off letters had to be sent out. The first recalls will happen when we know the charter school enrollments. The goal is to make teachers aware of their status by June.

The following resolutions were read for approval:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the school district has in the past applied for and received various federal, state, and local funds; and

The level of total funding and decline in enrollment for 2010 – 2011 is uncertain.

FURTHERMORE, it is anticipated that it will be necessary to eliminate or consolidate positions or programs which will result in a lack of positions.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contracts of the following named personnel be terminated at the close of the 2010-2011 school year, effective the last day of school in June 2011.

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the district sought certified personnel for specific positions, and was unsuccessful in its search; and

WHEREAS, the district applied to the Rhode Island Department of Education for emergency certification for specific positions; and

WHEREAS, an emergency teaching certificate has been issued by the Rhode Island Department of Education for the 2010-2011 school year only

WHEREAS, the district is required to only employ certified professional staff.

WHEREAS, the named personnel are not appropriately certified for the areas in which they are teaching.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contract of the following named personnel to be terminated at the close of the 2010-2011 school year.

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, positions become available in the Central Falls School District due to teachers going on leave; and

The level of total funding for 2010 – 2011 is uncertain; and

FURTHERMORE, the basis for this recommendation is that it is believed that there are better teachers available.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contracts of the following named personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2010-2011 school year, effective the last day of school in June 2011.

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the school district always seeks the best individuals available for all certified positions; and

WHEREAS, the District has filled said positions with temporary employees; and

WHEREAS, the senior staff members who are on a leave of absence are expected to return in September of 2011 and are entitled to such positions; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the contracts of the following named personnel not be renewed at the close of the 2010-2011 school year, effective the last day of school in June 2011.

**Letters of Non-Renewal  
February 2011**

Emergency Certificate, Temporary Employee for a Teacher on a Leave of Absence, Performance Management, Uncertainty of Funding, and Declining Enrollment (Non-tenured)

Melissa Desmarais	Kim Lanowy	Anthony Kulla
Courtney Connelly	Maya Hunt	Kim Centazzo
Jennifer Martin	Sharyn Hallal	Kelly Flynn
Joann Marino	Hilary Graves	Katie Vespia
Jennifer Banos	Jordana Ruggeri	Krystal Vento
Alina Fortes	Samantha Desmarais	Nicole Arena
Alyssa Silva	Christopher Defraga	Jeffrey Grifka
Sarivette Escobar	Adam Cherko	Cathy Cabral
David Upegui	Kaitlyn Fox	Lauren Tomasso
Jodi Timpani	Cindy Colapietro	Stephanie Maggiacomo
James Jones	Jennifer Sparks	Bridget Hueston
Emily Santelises	Jamie Garvey	Diane Martufi
Diane Nault	Jonathan Passarelli	
Dana Vasconcelos	John Mead	

Uncertainty of Funds, Decline Enrollment, Performance Management and Emergency Certification (Tenured)

Karen Jerozal	Jennifer Lander	Michael Bento
Jessica Chagnon	Carl Africo	Tina Plante-J ancef
Claudine Osko	Sarah Sellers	Lee Chagnon
Paula Pinto	Joshua Laplante	Angela Goulart
Marla Colletta	Dale Dearley	Mary Lamourex
Kelly Bryce	Allison Vales	Dayna Ferrera
Katherine Bellows	Andrea Annaldo	Pauline Beaudreault
Nina DeMartino	Karen Fiore	Cheryl Thurber
Jessica Pereira	Jillian O'Keefe	Linda Bovis-Conte
Gina Borges	Nancy Durst	Heather Snow
Roberta Idone	Rebecca Ruzzano	Amanda Rowley
Nicholas Lafreniere	Jessica Parkhurst	Janet Heath
Vilma Restrepo	Kerri Valcourt	Jeffrey Lapierre
Marcus Senerchia	Diane Russell	David Bergeron
Brian Crookes	Jennifer Barber	Melissa Cardillo
Ken Salhany	Jessica Goldstein	Walter Hourahan
Sandra Choquette	Melissa Trevitt	Joanne Boss
Stephanie Zuba	Eileen Lambert	Kathy Casalino

Athletic Coaches

Carl Africo	James Dickinson	Amy Joyce
Nicole Arena	Barbara Duffy	Joshua Karten
Tim Carpentier	Anthony Ficocelli	Jefferey Lapierre
Brian Crookes	Kirk Hamel	Adam Cherko

Martin J. Schanck  
Richard Sousa

Michael Swain  
William Volpe

Tina Plante Jancef  
Dana Slaoupa

*Action:* A motion to approve the resolutions for emergency certificate, temporary employee for a teacher on a leave of absence, performance management, uncertainty of funding, and declining enrollment (non-tenured) was made by Ms. Lafond, seconded by Ms. Berroa, and approved 7, 0.

*Action:* A motion to approve the resolutions for uncertainty of funds, decline enrollment, performance management and emergency certification (tenured) was made by Ms. Lafond, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez, and approved 7, 0.

*Action:* A motion to approve the resolution for athletic coaches for uncertainty of funds was made by Ms. Berroa, seconded by Ms. Rodrigues, and approved 7, 0.

The Board apologized for any undue harm that the notices may cause.

### *B. Streamlined Contract*

The streamlined contract discussion was tabled.

### *C. NECAP*

Robertson Elementary Principal David Alba reported on the school's NECAP results (presentation attached). Robertson Elementary became a 5<sup>th</sup> grade school for the 2010-2011 school year. The year before, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms were located at Robertson, Veterans and Ella Risk. Due to the change, the NECAP data was not as strong in reflecting improvements. Mr. Alba explained that the data he was presenting was compiled to show what the students are actually learning, and that it was a culmination of data from the past three years. Mr. Alba noted that he had contacted the Rhode Island Department Education (RIDE) to make sure that the current NECAP data was accurate, given the changes. The data will help to make academic and programming determinations for students.

The school is making gains with its special education supports; there will be more content specific professional development because there is a concern regarding mathematic content, especially, with the ESL students who do not have the content background; and after school programs are continuing to be offered as part of the extended day model. Approximately 85% of the students at Robertson stay after school. Transportation is provided at 4:00 PM for those students. The district has competition from the charter and private schools and Mr. Alba wants to compete by showing families why Robertson is a good choice. Strong student recruitment and retention will be taking place.

Mr. Alba also noted that the *Study Island Math Program*, which is being used at the Middle and High School, is being used by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students as well.

Ms. Cano-Morales informed Mr. Alba that RIDE staff was aware that there were some anomalies in the school's data because it is now a 5<sup>th</sup> grade school.

Calcutt Middle School Principal Nancy Tobin reported on the school's NECAP results (presentation attached). The school has made significant progress in both Math and Reading from 2007 to 2010. She indicated that Mathematics is still a concern.

The disaggregated data results show that both male and female students are achieving within statewide range; students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) recorded the most dramatic decrease in the achievement gap in both reading and mathematics at the middle school level; and students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) continue to face the same challenges with the biggest performance gaps in both reading and math.

Item analysis indicates that a great number of students at the middle school are selecting the correct responses on the test and both common planning time and professional development time has allowed teachers the opportunity to review student work and foster instructional strategies that contribute to student progress.

Interventions are in place. The *Read 180 Program* is being used. Students receive reading for 46 minute blocks every day. The teachers have worked on this initiative, but if budget constraints happen then the servicing will have to be more creative. There is Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) training for ESL teachers. The *Study Island Math Program* started in January. During the February vacation, 90 students attended a Science NECAP testing prep.

Calcutt has had about 22 students return to Calcutt from Segue. It was noted that next year if students leave the district and return, due to the funding formula, the district would not receive the funds for those students.

Central Falls High School Deputy Superintendent for Transformation Victor Capellan reported on the school's NECAP results (presentation attached). The high school experience mixed results. NECAP Math Proficiency scores increased by one percent; NECAP Reading and Writing Proficiency scores decreased by 11 and 10 percent, respectively. Reading, Writing, and Math proficiency scores have strong compound annual growth rates (CAGR) since the 2007-08 year (47, 35, and 37 percent, respectively) which indicates positive growth across each category but slightly below the pace of the state.

There was a dip last year, which is concerning, but there are some interventions and initiatives that have not taken hold yet since the test was taken only six weeks into the school's transformation.

The high school will continue to move forward with the transformation efforts. Rigorous classroom instruction is part of those efforts. Additionally, an audit of curriculum is being sought to make sure it is aligned with state and federal standards. Professional development will continue to be provided.

The leadership will be looking into how the school can have their own way to test students' knowledge. This would help to see a student's growth. There is a test in Massachusetts that will be reviewed.

The number of students that were tested decreased from 97% to 89%. This also affects the NECAP results because students who do not participate receive a "0".

#### *D. Nellie Mae Logic Model*

The Nellie Mae Logic Model discussion was tabled.

## **II. Public Comment**

Teacher Kerri Steinkamp commented on receiving a nonrenewal letter. She commented that she was among the teachers who received a performance based letter of nonrenewal. She stated that all of her evaluations were positive and therefore could not understand why she would receive a nonrenewal letter stating that it is believed that there are better teachers available.

Ms. Cano-Morales explained that the Board does not respond during public comment but that her question was noted and would be referred to the appropriate person.

## **Consent Agenda**

A motion to approve the previous minutes as amended by Ms. Rosado was made by Ms. Rodrigues, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez, approved 7, 0.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### *A. New England Secondary Schools Consortium (NESSC) and self-assessment protocol*

The New England Secondary School Consortium's publication *Global Best Practices: An Internationally Benchmarked Self-Assessment Tool for Secondary Learning* is a practical, action-oriented self-assessment tool for secondary schools. *Global Best Practices* offers schools a practical, step-by-step process they can follow to assess their relative performance in critical areas and shape their school-improvement plans. Some of the items that can be assessed with the tool are yearly growth, virtual learning, technical integration, which would help set benchmarks. Chariho and Westerly are involved in the consortium and the information was given state-wide.

It is not limited to the High School but it is tailored for secondary education. More information will be given during the Board Retreat.

## **III. Board Comments**

Ms. Cano-Morales commented that last week she had witnessed students from the District's Chess Team being honored at the State House by the Senate. Senator Crowley acknowledged the students and educators. She also informed the Board that the fundraiser held at the YWCA for the students who were in the Futsal Tournament was successful and that she was told that they played their hearts out.

Ms. Lafond congratulated the soccer team and thanked those who contributed to the students being able to travel to Kansas. She also stated that she had attended Calcutt Middle School's first coffee hour. There were other parents and faculty in attendance. They were discussing plans school will be hosting a bingo night for families as well. She visited the high school twice and thanked Josh LaPlante and Victor Capellan for their hospitality. She met with teachers and students. She felt that Mr. LaPlante really knew the students. Many of the students shook her hand and welcomed her. She commented that there are wonderful students in Central Falls. Her second visit was with Mr. Capellan and she was able to observe classrooms. She stated that it was an eye-opener to see it through an administrator's point of view. Teachers were gracious to share what the student's were learning. She commented that Ms. Fillipo, who teaches math, had an exceptional class. Students were working both independently, in pairs, or with a teacher. Ms. Lafond was given a math packet, which was also given to the students. The packet had the GLEs (Grade Level Expectations) and the

rubrics attached. Families will see the attachment and they will know what the expectations are and how their child can be successful.

Ms. Lafond stated for the record, "I'm not going to sugar coat everything here. And I'm speaking as a parent, as a resident of Central Falls, and as an educator myself, I recognize we have a lot of collaborative work ahead of us to support, guide, and transform the high school. However, I'm confident we are heading in the right direction. It will take some time, we may experience some bumps, but ultimately with true collaboration, transformation will happen!"

Although it was not on the agenda, the Board asked Coach Africo, who had just arrived from the Futsal Tournament in Kansas to say a few words regarding the students who participated. He presented the national finalist trophy. He thanked everyone in the community and in the room for their support. He stated that the boys played amazing, and that Christian Rodrigues scored 19 goals. Thanks to Mr. Capellan they were able to practice. The team was a finalist in the tournament but lost to the Kansas City Wizards, who are part of the Major League Soccer system. All the students went to bed early and woke up early to prove that this community has bright spots. They played with sportsmanship and honor. He thanked teachers, administrators, union, community and businesses who all supported the team. It takes all of us in a collaboration to make great things happen.

#### **IV. Next Board of Trustees**

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. The Board Retreat will be on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at the Central Falls High School.

#### **V. 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 negotiations) was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Berroa and approved 7,0.

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