

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Central Falls High School – Auditorium

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 6:04 p.m.

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

Not Present: Ms. Leslie Estrada-Berroa (excused)

II. Pledge

III. Recognitions

Ms. Cano Morales acknowledged the graduation on Friday, June 10, 2011 at the Knight Campus in CCRI where about 190 students graduated from Central Falls High School.

Announcement:

TALL students invited all attendees to the parade that will take place on June 18 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Central Falls High School.

Ms. Cano Morales concluded by encouraging all families to attend and bring other family members.

a. Unified Sports

Ms. Cano Morales called Kate Gomes to recognize the students that participated in the Unified Sports events. The Unified Soccer won the 1st place against Cranston West and Woonsocket High. The Unified Basketball won the bronze medal.

The Unified Sports is an opportunity for students with or without disabilities to play in athletic teams. This year the Unified Sports had the Unified Volleyball, Unified Basketball, and Unified Soccer.

The awarded students that participated in the Unified Sports are:

Basketball: 3rd Place

Coach: Katie Gomes

Allen Galica
Samantha Jenkins
Tyler Gomes
Josmari Torres
Enrique Geroso
Harold Lugo
Ricardo Robles
Walter Andujar
Edward Durant
Jose Colon Madera
Thang Pedigo

Soccer: 1st Place

Coaches: Katie Gomes and Troy Silva

Jacob Coyle
Luis Pena
Carlos Rivera
Thang Pedigo
Yeire Cepeda
Josmari Torres
Andrew Lohr
Juan Cortez
Samantha Jenkins

b. Classical Piano

The Board and Ms. Joyce Bernau-Enriquez also recognized the outstanding performance of Cristina Robalo, a junior student, who has been studying piano for three years and won the gold medal at the Classical Piano, Musical Festival on May 14, 2011 at the Rhode Island College.

IV. Policy and Planning

Young Poets Read Presentation

Ms. Cano Morales congratulated Ms. Jodi Timpani for the participation in Young Poets Read in Central Falls on June 14, 2011 at Central Falls high school. It was a successful event where students presented original poems expressing their feelings.

Robertson School Move Discussion

Ms. Cano Morales begged the indulgence of the Board and took the Robertson School agenda item first, in order to explain that the District was pulling the item from the agenda because upon triple checking the student enrollment figures and analyzing the best way to benefit the community in terms of changes in the District structure, a move at this time was not warranted.

Ms. Lafond stated she was glad the move would not be taking place because she had concerns about having such young children with eighth graders.

ELA Curriculum review

Barbara Halzel shared the work of reading and writing consultants and teachers of Central Falls, providing a binder with information on the Central Falls Literacy Initiative from pre-K to 12. Their goal was to build common language and common strategies from grade to grade and from school to school. For this year and next year they will focus on refinement of curriculum and structure to meet the needs of all students. The DRA (developmental reading assessment) identifies students at risk, and teachers are able to provide support not only in literacy but also in numeracy.

Charter School Showcase and Compact

Mr. Jeremy Chiappetta from Blackstone Valley Prep Charter School provided an informational overview of the school and acknowledged the positive professional relationship BVP enjoys with the CFSD. Mr. Chiappetta went on to explain that BVP strives to lead joyful and rigorous schools that put all young people on a path to college.

Ms. Sara Friedman and Ms. Meg O'Leary from The Learning Community Charter School, which has partnered with the teachers from Central Falls for the past three years, provided data showing the improvement of the CF students' academic performance and praised the partnership of professional exchange enjoyed by teachers from both the Learning Community and the District.

Mr. Angelo Garcia from the Segue Institute for Learning thanked Dr. Gallo for putting the resources where they are needed. Segue focuses on moving students to higher standards of education. Their students experience a school day schedule from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition they also offer a childcare program from 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Of note, Segue now assists parents who have a college degree in their country of origin in order for them to continue working in their field.

Ms. Carolyn Sheehan from the Blackstone Academy Charter School stated that BAC has the lowest dropout rate (only 6%). Also, the Academy was thrilled this year to experience a 29% gain in math scores on the NECAP. Ms. Sheehan stated that continuous improvement was their goal.

Ms. Cano Morales thanked the charter schools acknowledging that each school has a very unique model.

Dr. Gallo explained that the reason for the Charter Showcase was to introduce the Charter/District Compact, which is an application to the Gates Foundation to support the exploration of continuous and deepening collaboration among the schools.

Action: A motion to approve the charter school compact was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Stephanie Gonzalez, and approved 6, 0.

V. Public Comment

Ms. Liz Ramirez expressed her satisfaction in having her two children enrolled in a charter school; she believes her children are provided with the best education; she hopes that Central Falls schools and charter schools continue to work together in benefit of the children.

Gina Furtado, a teacher at Robertson School, wanted to express her gratefulness for the precious program that Robertson School has created and she hopes the school will continue to work to fortify the fifth graders in the future.

Mrs. England questioned about how kids are being disciplined, the language they use, and the violent activities they get involved in, and what teachers can do about it.

A parent from BVCP spoke about her pleasure in being a CF resident who had options and choices for the education of her children.

Jane Sessums commented about the many times the students have been moved since 2006 to 2010, and she is happy to hear that this year there won't be any moving in the school population.

VI. Policy and Planning Continued

Transformation update

Victor Capellan acknowledged the accomplishments of the students during the school year, including numerous hours of additional math through the intervention program: Study Island. Also, 200 more desktop units have been installed at the high school and the building has been completely rewired in an effort to provide much more technological options to our students.

This month 190 students graduated from high school and another 15 students are expected to graduate in August.

The teachers will receive their teaching schedules before leaving school for the summer.

This summer 21 students have enrolled at the Brown Summer High School and 25 students registered in the dual enrollment program at CCRI.

Mr. Capellan was happy to report that students also attended the Summer Opportunities Fair where they had the chance to go from table to table selecting their summer programs.

Although these courses are voluntary, the ESL program is recommended and compensatory, but the high school is working with parents to have students commit to this program. Some of these classes will be offered at the high school, but others will be taught at CCRI where students have the opportunity to explore a college environment.

The classes at CCRI Warwick are taught by CCRI staff and students are provided with transportation. The Lincoln campus is used as an extension; there will be responsible school personnel available to students at all times while on campus.

Contract continuation resolution

The Contract Continuation Resolution was discussed in detail. Many edits were noted.

Motion: A motion to approve the Contract Continuation Resolution was made by Ms. Cheryl Lafond, seconded by Ms. Sonia Rodrigues 5, 1.

VII. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve personnel actions was made was Ms. Cheryl Lafond, seconded by Stephanie Gonzalez 6, 0.

No minutes were presented at this time.

VIII. Board Comments

Ms. Lafond stated that she has two children attending Veterans school. She extolled the educational practices of the teachers at Veterans School. Mrs. Lafond wants all parents to feel confident with Central Falls public schools. She stated that she looked forward to the successful transformation in the high school.

Dr. Gallo requested an endorsement to a change in the 2011-2012 school calendar to accommodate for two parent/teacher conference days and two professional development days. All of the trustees agreed.

IX. Next Board of Trustees Meeting:

The next Board of Trustees meeting would have to be called by special notice since the published calendar of meetings had concluded.

X. Motion to Recess to Executive Session

Ms. Rosado made a motion 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). A roll call vote was taken. 6 approved 0 disapproved

Ms. Cano Morales stated that the Board will not be voting on any matters or returning to public session for any discussion.