

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 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 6:05 PM.

Present: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairwoman  
Ms. Sonia Rodrigues, Vice Chairwoman  
Ms. Stephanie Gonzalez  
Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado

Not Present: Ms. Leslie Estrada-Berroa (excused)  
Ms. Cheryl Lafond (excused)  
Mr. B.K. Nordan (excused)

**II. Pledge**

**III. Recognitions**

*A. Thespian Inductees*

The Board recognized the six Central Falls High School students who were inducted on Friday, March 18, 2011 into the International Thespian Society (ITS), an honorary organization for middle school and high school students dedicated to honoring their excellence in theater, with thousands of affiliated schools around the world. The induction ceremony for the new “Thespians” took place in their school auditorium, lead by installing officer, Rachel Warren, from Trinity Repertory Company. The students inducted were Melanie Velez, Thomas St. Jean, Priscilla McPhillips, Yasmine DaSilva, Jean Villar, and Mercedes Matos. Honorary guests from FAO Schwartz were present at the ceremony. In addition to the students’ induction, the high school theater teacher, Deloris Grant, was presented with the charter for the new Central Falls International Thespian Society troupe, The Square Mile Players, officially making Central Falls High School one of seven high schools in Rhode Island to have a troupe.

Student Jean Vellar, who took part in the Shakespeare Oration Competition and won fourth place in the state finals, attended the meeting on behalf of the inductees, and he performed Shylock’s “pound of flesh speech” from “The Merchant of Venice.”

*B. CFHS Science Olympiad*

Five Central Falls High School students competed in four events at the 2011 Rhode Island Science Olympiad held at Rhode Island College on Saturday, April 9, 2011. The Central Falls students, Cristina Robalo, David Hernandez, John Davis, Jose Contreras and Lisa DaCosta, make up the first Science Olympiad team at CFHS.

The team spent several months preparing for the competition, exploring topics within various science platforms. The five students competed in four different events as teams of two. One team in particular, Cristina Robalo and David Hernandez, took first place in anatomy and physiology.

#### **IV. Policy & Planning**

Ms. Cano-Morales informed the other members of the Board that she had arrived to the meeting from negotiations and that Superintendent Gallo would not join the meeting because the negotiations had not concluded. She further stated that she would be returning to the meeting once the Board meeting concluded.

##### *A. 2011-2012 Academic Calendar*

Ms. Rodrigues noted that two dates in October for the Board of Trustees meeting were listed incorrectly and asked that it be corrected.

Ms. Rosado stated that she wanted the calendar to be reviewed by a committee so that in the future it would serve the community's needs.

Some comments and questions regarding which items on the calendar needed to be negotiated and which items were dictated by legislation. April vacation was used as an example.

##### *B. Binding Arbitration*

The binding arbitration legislation at the General Assembly is problematic to local districts, cities and towns because it allows a third-party to determine the terms of a contract after negotiations between labor and management have broken down. The Rhode Island Association of School Committees has sent local school boards a sample resolution stating why the bill should not pass.

The Board discussed the resolution and made modifications to it.

*Action:* The motion to approve the resolution with the modifications was made by Ms. Rodrigues, seconded by Ms. Rosado and approved 4, 0.

##### *C. Tobacco-Free Policy – first reading*

The district's head nurse teacher, Marie Grist, presented revisions and updates to the 1993 Tobacco Free policy. There have been updates in the laws that were not reflected in the policy. There was some discussion and revisions were made to the policy.

##### *D. Mathematics Curriculum Presentation*

The presentation was tabled for the next meeting.

##### *E. Central Falls High School Update*

Ms. Patricia Martinez gave an update on the recent Open House and Community Event. The Open House was held for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their families at the Central Falls High School so they could find out more about the school and its offerings. Over 80 families attended. The Community Event, in which Karen Mapp gave a presentation to families regarding the importance of parent involvement. As part of the event, over 40 community providers were in the high school's gymnasium speaking with families and providing them with valuable information. Approximately 150 people participated in the event.

Jean Vellar, who was one of the Open House senior hosts, stated that he along with other seniors were tour guides.

#### *F. Building committee reports and approval of bills*

Six bills were presented to the Board for discussion and approval.

*Action:* A motion to approve the six bills was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez and approved 4, 0.

#### *G. Streamlined Contract Discussion*

No update was given.

### **V. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **VI. Consent Agenda**

Ms. Rosado was not present at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting therefore she could not vote on the minutes. Since there was not a quorum present to vote on the minutes they were tabled until the next meeting.

### **VII. Board Comments**

Ms. Cano-Morales informed the Board that RI-CAN was hosting a town meeting regarding how to empower parents in education on April 24<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged everyone to attend.

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

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, April 24, 2011 but due to a possibility of not having a quorum the Board was going to see if the date could be moved to another date that week if possible.

### **IX. Motion to Recess to Executive Session and Adjournment**

No executive session was held. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Rodrigues and approved 4, 0.