

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees

6:00 p.m.

Central Falls High School – Library

The Board of Trustees may vote on any agenda item.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Anna Cano Morales opened the meeting with a roll call at 6 PM.

Present:

Cheryl Lafond

Stephanie Gonzalez

BK Nordan

Sonia Rodrigues

Anna Cano Morales (Chairwoman)

Ana Cecilia Rosado arrived at 6:10 PM

II. Pledge

III. Recognition

a. SPARC RI Award

Anna Cano Morales recognized Don Laboissonierre and all the district guidance counselors for the continuous efforts in the district and their SPARC Awards. Ms. Morales continued the recognition speaking about the dedication of Mr. Volpe and his work with G2S as noted through a Channel 10 news clip and the testimony of students.

Robertson School's efforts to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research were also noted including a picture from the Times where fifth graders were walking holding signs. The children's efforts raised \$200. Lastly, Ms. Morales gave a shout out to the launching of the newly revamped CF Schools website and urged everyone to take a more in depth look at the site.

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of bills**
- b. Approval of personnel actions**
- c. Approval of meeting minutes**

Mr. Nordan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lafond, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried with four affirmative votes and two abstentions.

V. Policy Revisions

- a. Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse in the School – 2nd reading (vote to approve)**

Mr. DeCoste spoke to the Trustees about the Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse in the Schools Policy. He checked with legal about the use of the word "all" as opposed to listing the titles of various employees covered by the policy. "All" was determined to be sufficient. Ms. Gonzalez made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rodrigues, to approve the revised policy. Motion carried. (6,0)

- b. Access to Student Records during Health or Safety Emergency –**

1st reading

This reading was postponed until the next meeting.

VI. Status Report – Transformation – HS Leadership Team/Students/Teachers

The High School Leadership Team reported on the status of transformation at the high school. Mr. Capellan began with a review and positive statements about the Summer of Learning experiences. He described a smooth opening and the positive feeling within the school which he attributed to the constant conversations with teachers and staff both formally and informally that took place all summer long. Mr. Capellan described the notable changes in the schedule, advisory programming, performance management system, and student behavior system that contributed greatly to the positive climate. All of these changes were the direct result of the feedback received from the community mediators and Brown external evaluators through their pursuit of teacher interviews, surveys, and focus groups.

Mr. Capellan also touted the growth of parent leadership through the ongoing development work led by Ms. Martinez. Forty-one parents participated in the Parent Institute which is in turn supplying many more parents as partners within this district showing up and supporting our schools in a myriad of ways. Mr. Capellan also wanted to draw our attention to the transformation of the guidance work into one that is much more student centered, supporting the expressed

needs of our students in clear and innovative ways.

Mr. Capellan informed the Trustees that the trouble opening G2S didn't negatively affect the students or the teachers. He reminded everyone that all supplies, lesson plans, materials, computers, etc. were still locked within Feinstein. Everyone had to start from scratch this year. In spite of the overwhelming odds, teachers remained optimistic and triumphed with a smooth opening and well planned lessons fully engaging the youth of G2S and Square Mile High as they are housed in a different location for this year.

Mr. Capellan provided us with the enrollment numbers in each of the programs from G2S, PM School, Saturday School, and the high school proper.

Mr. Laplante stated, "Students are learning; teachers are teaching." He credited Ms. DosSantos with conducting numerous in-class, non-evaluative observations whereby feedback and suggestions become the staple for change and improved classroom management. Mr. Laplante reported the exciting development of the Pre-AP and AP courses which has actually tripled the number of students involved when compared with similar course work last year.

New teachers at the high school are enjoying the experience of being part of a mentoring network. Feedback received from this group enables the high school administrators to tailor professional

development specifically targeting expressed needs.

Mr. LaPlante added fiber to the advisory update by informing everyone that the ten themes of the advisory study were taken directly from the book, Teaching with Poverty in Mind.

Heather DosSantos responded to questions from the trustees about the changes to the behavior system explaining how the tiered system works and how the alternative suspension center functions. Ms. DosSantos also informed everyone about the Behavior Honor Roll and the consistent efforts that are being made at the high school to maintain this level of satisfaction throughout the school year.

Mr. Capellan informed the trustees about the renewed efforts of Ms. Martinez to expand the dual enrollment and adopt a Certificate of Mastery Program to better afford our student career options.

Carolyn Ferris was called to the table to enhance the discussion references credits and the overall need to map out the number of credits needed for graduation in light of the changing schedules over the last few years.

VII. Strategic Plan 2011-2015

Dr. Gallo distributed the draft Strategic Plan explaining that this document was a revised version of the previous plan initially constructed in 2007. This document will be distributed widely for additional input and will eventually be voted on for adoption as the

plan to carry the system into 2015.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

a. Update the Building Committee work

The Minutes of the Building Committee were reviewed and a request for approval of a substantial change order was made. The change order would allow for the electrical work for the unit ventilators to be brought to code so that the numerous units planned for installation at the high school which will provide heat and fresh air to a majority of the rooms in the high school may proceed without delay. The cost of this upgrade: \$47,401.

Ms. Rodrigues made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rosado, to approve the change order for a total of \$47,401 of electrical upgrades. Motion carried. (6,0)

b. Enrollment Figures and Reconfigurations options for 2012-2013

Dr. Gallo reviewed the enrollment figures of the district and pointed out that the middle school will have relatively consistent grade level groups of approximately 130 students beginning with the promotion of this year's eight grade group. This projected enrollment at the middle school allows for vacant rooms and space that would accommodate the infusion of the fifth grade. This option was worth considering because the Fairlawn School lease will not be renewed. Dr. Gallo suggested that a committee be formed comprised of teachers and parents from Robertson to study the options and determine a timeline. Dr. Gallo stated that it is really the kindergarten figures that remain unpredictable that will play a determining role in

how best to utilize the Robertson School in the future.

c. Evaluation Model

d. AFT Roll Out

Dr. Gallo shared the work of the teachers regarding the training that took place earlier this year in the AFT evaluation model rollout.

e. Science NECAP

The double digit diminishing numbers in the lowest level of achievement at the elementary level were worthy of notice and point to a future improvement overall in science achievement.

f. Inappropriate Social Media Guidelines

The media guidelines will be distributed district wide now that legal eyes have reviewed them and approved.

IX. Board Comments

Ms. Lafond discussed her visit to the Hunt/Fairlawn Schools specifically giving a shout out to Cindy Calapietro for her work with pre-school children and their learning during play.

Ms. Morales noted that she hopes to visit other schools in this district as well.

X. Public Comments

There were no signatures for public comment. Ms. Cano Morales invited any members of the audience to speak anyway; however, no

one had additional comments.

XI. Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 25, 2011

XII. Motion to Recess to Executive Session

There was no call for executive session.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Lafond. Motion carried. (6,0) Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Assistive listening devices are available for use. The location is accessible to the disabled. Individuals requiring assistance due to a disability should notify the Superintendent's Office at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at 401-727-7700.