

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees

6:00 PM, High School Auditorium

Please note the meetings of January and earlier in February lacked quorum.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call- The meeting opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Sonia Rodrigues, Ana-Cecilia Rosado, and Anna Cano Morales, and Stephanie Gonzalez.

II. Pledge

III. Approval of meeting minutes of December 12, 2012 – A motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2012 was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez and approved. (4,0)

IV. Awards presentations – Students from Calcutt who presented their anti-bullying message at a recent REIMA conference received certificates of accomplishment and presented a wrap for the general audience.

V. Student Assistance Program presentation and action – Laura Hosley, Student Assistance Counselor at the high school, presented a successful grant allowing the study intended to influence policy regarding marijuana use among teens. The Trustees endorsed the work realizing it was supported by the Ocean State Prevention Alliance.

VI. High School Update – Principal Laplante and Deputy Superintendent Capellan presented a PowerPoint update filled with data. See attached.

VII. The Trustees changed the order of the agenda in order to hear public comments prior to personnel actions. Mr. Volpe spoke against the planned cuts to sports programs making an impassioned plea for the benefit of the students of Central Falls who have very few activities outside of school within the district without a robust sports program sponsored by the schools.

Ms. Sessums read a lengthy timeline documenting the work between Dr. Gallo and Ms. Sessums during the month of January which was intended to prevent significant disruption to the schools through excessive lay-offs. Ms. Sessums acknowledged that by the end of January, the collaborative work between union leadership and management led to approximately thirty-two lay-offs. Ms. Sessums stated clearly that directions from the Department of Education, through Commissioner Gist and Deputy Abbott led to a reorganization which would cause major disruptions with 117 lay-off notices. Ms. Sessums urged the Trustees not to approve the forthcoming recommendations. She specifically cited the current agreement reached in August, Article 6, Section 10.

Hector Uribe spoke seeking permission to run fundraising events to provide for the enrichment needs of our schools.

VIII. Superintendent Comments on the District Reorganization for scheduling efficiencies and the impact of lay-offs – Dr. Gallo concurred with Ms. Sessums comments indicating that the original discussion was clearly about displacements and the movement of teachers by certification and seniority until Commissioner Gist reiterated the need to seek more efficiencies through reorganization. That push to do more resulted in numerous lay-offs and additional reductions in teacher numbers.

IX. Approval of personnel actions – appointments - A motion to approve the the resignation of Ronald Carrion and the appointment of Krystle Poirier as music teacher was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Rosado and approved by vote. (4,0) The lay-off resolutions and names of all teachers and administrators involved were read by Anna Cano Morales. A motion to accept and approve the lay-offs was made by Ms. Grace and seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Motion passed by a 3 to 1 vote with Ms. Rosado voting against the lay-offs.

X. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget- A motion to approve the bills was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez and approved With one abstention by Ms. Rosado. (3,0, 1)

XI. Monthly Budget Report - Mr. Petrarca reported that the FY13 was in good shape and update everyone on the development of FY14 . Ms. Grace questioned where the written report was and noted that she expected more substantial reporting with the numbers and a narrative overview.

XII. Motion to Recess to Executive Session-Ms. Grace moved 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 and litigation, and to conduct work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining and litigation.(to discuss possible recommendations). Ms. Gonzalez seconded. Roll call vote was taken. All concurred. (4,0)

XIII. Adjournment: At 8:30 PM the Trustees returned from Executive Session. A motion to seal the minutes and adjourn was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Grace. Motion carried. (4, 0)

XIV. Next Meeting: March 12, 2013 – The planned agenda will include continuous work on the budget for FY14, a high school led discussion of the 2014 Graduation Requirements and interventions for the Junior class, a presentation from Calcutt on Discipline Data. Please note that this will be a work session due to quorum concerns.