

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

I. Call to Order and Roll Call -The meeting opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Sonia Grace, Ana Cecilia Rosado, Stephanie Gonzalez, Hugo Figueroa, Carlos Tobon, and Diosa Martinez. Anna Cano Morales was absent.

II. Pledge

III. Recognitions- Certificates were presented to the following students for their excellence as noted: Urban Debate Novice State Champions, Michelle Arias and Jose Medina. Their community mentors are Todd baker and Meredith Heckman; ACE Student honored my State and travels to Washington: Miguel Vega. His teacher mentor is Chris Gagnon and community mentor is Lance Aleksiewicz

IV. Public Comment- Vice Chair, Ms. Grace, noted the people signed up for public comment and asked the trustees to move up the agenda item so as not to keep families out late. All Trustees present concurred. The speakers were heard. Nancy Vasquez thanked the Trustees for the installation of the new water fountains at Calcutt and Central Falls High School. Ms. Vasquez noted that the other schools should be studied to see if such a need exists there as well. Ms. Vasquez then reported that numerous parents informed her that attending the trustee meetings is difficult since the district does not

provide simultaneous translation. Ms., Vasquez also spoke in favor of school uniforms especially seen as a deterrent to bullying.

Doris White spoke about the upcoming high school proposal to change the number of credits required for graduation stating that such proposals should clear the faculty before being brought to the board.

Maria Losano spoke in favor of school uniforms and presented a proposed uniform policy to the Trustees.

Hector Uribe, a parent form Veterans School, spoke in favor of school uniforms.

Lastly Awilda Morales a parent of children in both charter schools and district schools, spoke in favor of school uniforms using her family as an example of living in both worlds and how many more benefits there are to the uniform approach.

V. Approval of the meeting minutes of April 9, 2013- A motion to approve the minutes of April 9th was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Mr. Tobon. Ana Cecilia Rosado noted she was not present at the April 9th meeting. She abstained from the vote. Motion carried. (5,0,1)

VI. Approval of personnel actions including resignations – A motion to approve the personnel actions of two resignations, Marla Coletta and Michael Petrarca, was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. Motion carried. (6, 0)

VII. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget – A motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Motion carried. (6,0)

VIII. First reading of Uniform Policy – The members of the Board all noted their support of a uniform policy. Ms. Grace expressed concerns only about how the policy would be received by the ACLU. Dr. Gallo agreed to investigate this more fully before any formal vote on a uniform policy takes place.

IX. High school presentation regarding a request for a change of credit requirements for graduation – Mr. LaPlante explained to the Board that his intent this evening was to inform them that the high school would be studying the issue of credit requirements in light of the current schedule and how likely it was that twenty-five credits was realistic across the populations at the high school especially in light of the fact that the state requires twenty credits for graduation. The Board expects to hear more in the upcoming meetings where eventually a vote will be required.

X. General Presentation of the FY14 Budget- Mr. Petrarca led the presentation with several PowerPoint slides detailing the overall thinking in the budget preparation process. A budget narrative was also presented and reviewed. Dr. Gallo noted two recommendations: one to restore sports and the other to restore a high school math teacher. She stated that the budget in front of the Board included these restorations. The narrative explained the strategies applied to balance the budget. Dr. Gallo requested a motion to include the restorations and the approval of the FY14 budget.

XI. Superintendent Comments- Dr. Gallo informed the group that the high school leadership had created a plan for assisting our juniors in meeting the NECAP graduation requirement by developing a five

week Math Intervention Program to begin May 13th and conclude at the end of the year. This would be followed by summer offerings at the high school designed with intense intentionality for each of the juniors in need of support. Dr. Gallo spoke of the traveling farm that visited Captain Hunt and of the joy the animals brought to the most fragile of our students. Each of the Central Falls Elementary Schools celebrated reading week with marvelous creativity and numerous guests. The festivities brought a renewed sense of joy to the schools and a fine appreciation for the parent volunteers who were extremely creative in developing the week. Dr. Gallo requested ideas and suggestions for an orientation session to assist the new board members in transitioning and understanding more fully the mission and charge of the Central Falls School Board of Trustees.

XII. Board Comments – Mr. Tobon spoke highly of the Calcutt NECAP Champions Breakfast publicly thanking Ms. Pinto for her organizing efforts.

XIII. 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 and litigation, and to conduct work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining and litigation: CBA and grievance. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. A roll call vote was taken. All approved. (6,0)

XIV. Next Meeting: May 14, 2013 – This meeting will be truncated to accommodate the schedules of the Trustees holding a ninety minute long orientation session at the conclusion of the meeting.

XV. Adjournment - At 8:15 PM a motion to seal the minutes, return to

public session, and adjourn was made by Mr. Figueroa seconded by Ms. Martinez. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried. (6, 0)