

**Central Falls School District Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 10, 2013**  
**6 PM Ella Risk Lower Level Meeting Room**

- I Call to Order and Roll Call- The meeting opened at 6:06 PM. Present were Anna Cano Morales, Stephanie Gonzalez , Hugo Figueroa and Diosa Martinez. Sonia Grace, Carlos Tobon and Ana Cecilia were absent.
- II Pledge
- III Approval of the meeting minutes- A motion to approve the minutes of August 27, 2013 was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Martinez. Motion carried. (4,0)
- IV Approval of bills – Ms. Dykeman explained that Sonia Grace had reviewed the bills and were signed by her. No Trustees had any questions. A motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Ms. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. Motion carried. (4,0)
- V Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescissions, resignations, recalls, and retirements – Dr. Gallo noted the hiring of a Speech and language pathologist, a preschool teacher, and the resignation of high school teacher. A motion to approve the appointments and the resignation was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Martinez. Motion carried. (4,0)
- VI First Reading: Substitute Teacher Policy- Dr. Gallo explained the substitute policy was recommended by legal counsel and should be authorized by the Trustees in order to chart baseline information as the district readies for the intricacies of Obamacare.
- VII Update on School Uniforms – Patricia Martinez began the conversation as parents, Cristina Betencor, Nancy Vasquez, and Monica Monroy, moved to the table. Each reported the successes of the uniform initiative. They each requested a consistent inviting message from all teachers to be provided to parents. The elementary schools enjoy a success rate of about 70% of their students in uniform; the middle slightly less and then the high school less again. Everyone remains hopeful and noted that parents are very proud of this initiative and its success rate.
- VIII Third year evaluation report from the Ed Alliance referencing high school transformation – The high school administrative team came to the table first introducing Somali Prak, an intern from the NYLeadership Academy. Victor Capellan and Josh LaPlante then proceeded to present

the findings of the independent three year evaluation on the High School Transformation. This report was completed by the Education Alliance at Brown University. The participation rates for surveys, focus groups, interviews and general meetings were high and the findings noted are particularly positive in terms of transforming the high school into a professional learning community where faculty voice is respected and improving teaching is a constant goal as is closing the achievement gap. Especially noteworthy is the positive improvement in lowering the dropout rate and improving the graduation rate. The continuous concern is student attendance. Student attendance has not improved despite strong public initiatives including radio announcements, visits to areas churches and multiple calls and visits to homes. The administration of the high school recommitted to those initiatives again this year starting them earlier in the year and carrying them out consistently throughout the year.

- IX CFS response to the RWU Latino Policy Institute Report: Latino Students in Rhode Island- Dr. Gallo identified the following initiatives in the district that directly address issues highlighted in the Report: the summer retreat renewed the focus on cultural awareness; the emphasis on hiring practices across the system; the initiation of the five year commitment to ESL Certification Teacher Cohort; the study to be conducted this year by Brown UPI intern, Adienne Domingoes, on the effects of dual language instruction; the renewed emphasis on the use of the SIOP model for instruction in all classes, especially in the ESL classrooms; the district commitment to hire only ESL certified teachers; and the recommitment to parental engagement deepening the work across the district to empower parents.
- X Superintendent Comment-- Dr. Gallo reported the enrollment as 2650 students. She warned that that figure was a dynamic one with tallies still being taken as new students enter the district. Dr. Gallo reviewed the excitement of the opening day including the extraordinary parent and student involvement in the orientation day festivities. Families and teachers alike were positive and proud to be returning to school.
- XI Board Comments- none
- XII Public Comments- none
- XIII Next Scheduled Meeting: September 24, 2013
- XIV Adjournment - At 7:30 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Mr. Figueroa.