

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2014 at 6 PM
CFHS Auditorium

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call- Chair Anna Cano Morales called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Present were Sonia Grace, Stephanie Gonzalez, Ana-Cecilia Rosado and Hugo Figueroa. Carlos Tobon arrived at 6:20 PM. Diosa Martinez was absent.
- II. Pledge
- III. Approval of the meeting minutes of May 13, 2014 - A motion to approve the minutes of May, 2014, was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Grace. Motion carried (5,0)
- IV. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget and Facility Improvements - A motion to approve the payment of bills pending the final review by Ms. Grace was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Motion carried (6,0)
- V. Approval of personnel actions - There were no actions for approval.
- VI. Public Comment – Several parents and community activists led by Maria Rumualdo spoke in favor of uniforms informing the Trustees that they held a scheduled meeting with Steve Brown of the ACLU in order to make their views and wishes known. According the parents who were accompanied by Hugo Figueroa and Patricia Martinez, Mr. Brown was pleased that the suggested uniforms were not extremely strict so that students and families had choices including jeans and that students would not be removed from the school setting for not wearing uniforms. Students will be provided with a uniform shirt to worn instead. Gabriel Alvarez also asked to speak indicating favor of uniforms, and introducing the topic of the planned 2015-16 integration of the 7 and 8th graders into the high school. He was not in favor.
- VII. Dress Code Adoption: A motion to approve the Dress Code to include uniforms was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. The discussion of uniforms began in earnest along with high praise to the parents for speaking and for visiting Mr. Brown . Concerns were expressed about a monetary investment should this lead to a court battle. The Trustees agreed that this has been a community cry for so many years and that the parents were definitely empowered to make their views known while being extremely reasonable in broadening the choices of colors and slacks to include jeans. Ms. Cano Morales reached out to Ms.

Sessums, Teacher Union President, who was in the audience, for an expression of teacher support. Ms. Sessums stated the Union did not take a position regarding school uniforms. She also reiterated that the enforcement of a dress code is the responsibility of administrators. The Trustees reviewed the new language of the dress code that they would actually be voting on: *Policy Book Section 5.3.1.1 Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year all students in the Central Falls Public Schools will be required to wear school uniforms as supported by the RI General Law 16-2-33.2 (City of Central Falls – School dress code)*

The student dress code or uniforms shall consist of simple collared polo shirts in a choice of blue, white, red or khaki colors that can be mixed and matched in any design choice with blue or khaki slacks, shirts, capris or jeans provided the jeans are not cut with holes. There is no regulation shoe.

The motion carried. (6,0)

- VIII. Special Education Presentation reflecting Equity with full inclusion efforts and expectations for the future – postponed until June 10
- IX. Superintendent Comments- Dr. Gallo expressed district and union satisfaction with the Spring Mutual Consent process and results. Concerns over the slow movement to acquire the building earmarked for the Research Center to be shared with RIC and the district were shared again emphasizing the dearth of information as to any progress. Dr. Gallo noted that two Vista workers would soon be working in Central Falls through the Innovation Lab. These individuals are expected to be valuable assets for maintaining the historical record, helping to cull the data, and assisting with all communications.
- X. Board Comment - The Trustees noted the successful visit of author Paola Mendosa who visited Pawtucket, Providence, and Central Falls students at the behest of Ms. Tobon. The newspaper reviews were especially favorable. Mr. Tobon expressed his pleasure about the positive and inspirational message keenly received by all in attendance.
- XI. Next Scheduled Meeting: June 10, 2014 at 6 PM at the Lower Level Conference Room of Ella Risk Elementary School
- XII. Adjournment – At 7:40 PM motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez.