

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2014 at 6 PM
Ella Risk Conference Room, Lower Level

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call- Chairperson Ana Cano Morales called the meeting to order at 6:08. Present were Sonia Grace, Stephanie Gonzalez, Ana-Cecilia Rosado, and Hugo Figueroa. Diosa Martinez and Carlos Tobon were absent.
- II. Pledge
- III. Approval of the meeting minutes of September 16, 2014 - A motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 16, 2014, was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Motion carried (5,0)
- IV. Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescissions, resignations, recalls, and retirement- A motion to approve the appointments of Nicole Laspee and Amorena Carney was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. Motion carried. (5,0)
- V. Approval of Bills – Grants and General Budget and Facility Improvements – A motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Grace. Motion carried. (5,0)
- VI. Public Comment – No one spoke
- VII. Budget FY 2016 discussion possible vote – Mr. Peryea spoke about the Central Falls plight in this sixth year of the state funding formula. While we are making every effort to curb costs and maintain current levels of programming, the additional \$1.4 million loss coupled with the increasing costs of energy resources and tuitions to charter schools makes our budget impossible to balance without additional stabilization money from the state. The Trustees questioned each of lines trying to find areas where perhaps some savings could be generated. The discussion included the recent reunion of numerous DCYF involved families and resulting strain of outside placements. The final projected numbers of the budget for FY 16 balance; however, the concern for the reality of such a budget remains high. A motion was made to approve the FY 16 budget presented by Mr. Peryea was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Rosado. Motion carried. (5,0)
- VIII. Health Clinic at the High School, Vote of Approval – Dr. Gallo reminded the Board of the discussion that took place at the previous meeting noting that the contract with Blackstone Valley Community Health Clinic was waiting to be signed pending the vote by the Trustees. A motion to approve the clinic was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. Motion carried. (5,0)

- IX. Review of School Safety Plans – Dr. Gallo reminded the Trustee of the state regulation requiring a review of the safety plans and informed the Trustees that each school had reviewed their plans updating them based on student need and facilities. Extraordinary efforts to build bullet proof vestibules, etc., were not part of any plan; however, every effort was made to secure the buildings and protect all, children and adults, from harm. A motion to acknowledge the Trustee review of the plans was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Rosado. (5,0)
- X. First Installment of a monthly Exploration of the topic of Equity - Dr. Gallo requested that this item be reserved until the end of the agenda as it was more of a study that an item for reporting purposes. The Chair indulged the request.
- XI. Superintendent Comments – Dr. Gallo updated the Trustees about the steady participation of families in the effort to follow the dress code. She acknowledged the difficulty at the high school to maintain the majority of students in uniforms; however, the student leadership exhibited in both the middle school and the high school was noted as extraordinary. Dr. Gallo informed the Trustees about the recommitment to monthly Learning Walks where a core team of educators will visit classrooms. The results of the observations will be reported to the faculty and discussed with the principal during the following faculty meeting each month. Finally, Dr. Gallo updated everyone about the ongoing success of the Innovation Lab. Currently six college courses are being taught within our school buildings; student teachers are working in the high school and in the elementary schools. Research projects approved by both the College and the District are underway; a white paper explaining the partnership will be presented at a university conference in Syracuse on October 6th. Dr. Gallo also informed the Trustees of her visit and tour of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy on Hartford Avenue. We all have a great deal to learn from the way the school operates and how the children are responding through their motivation and achievement.
- XII. Teaching and Learning Center gathering of resources, possible vote for expenditure of resources – Dr. Gallo informed the Trustees that an architect will offer an artistic rendering of the proposed facility on September 29th. This work will be presented the Trustees at the next meeting. The City and School District have raised \$650,000 toward the renovation of the building at 115 Illinois Street. The effort will revitalize this important historical building located in the center of the city and serve as research hub for the ongoing work of the Partnership and Compacts.

- XIII. Board Comment – Chairperson Anna Cano Morales noted how pleasant it was to see the successful Ella Risk Block Party upon her arrival in Central Falls for this meeting. The other Trustees all concurred.
- XIV. At this point in the meeting the trustees returned to agenda item “X” and opened the discussion about equity citing the excerpt from *Courageous Conversations* which they had received at the start of the meeting. The actual discussion was free flowing revolving around the charter work with our students. Honest and open discussion about the instructional and operational strategies of the charter sector and our dilemma of time restrictions coupled with budgeting constraints led the team to a renewal of commitment for change and real transformation. Open ended questions about how this district might truly become an Innovation Zone permeated the discussion. There is more to come as the monthly discussions of Equity will continue.
- XV. Possible Executive Session, move under R.I. General Laws 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. (Specifically, certified union litigation and early review of negotiation preparations) An executive session was not called.
- XVI. Next Scheduled Meeting: October 28, 2014 at 6 PM at the Ell Risk School. Topic: More on the Budget and a visit with Report Cards
- XVII. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made at 8:25 PM by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Grace.