

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2015
Ella Risk Conference Room, Lower Level

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call- Ms. Cano Morales called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Roll call was taken. Ms. Grace, Ms. Gonzalez, Dr. Pitt, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Figueroa were present. Ana-Cecilia Rosado arrived at 5:40 PM.
- II. Pledge – Mr. Troy Silvia led the Pledge.
- III. Approval of the meeting minutes of March 24, 2015 - A motion to approve the minutes of March 24, 2015, was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. Motion carried. (4,0, 2)
- IV. Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescissions, resignations, recalls, and retirement- A motion to approve the personal actions was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. The list of new appointments was read by Ms. Cano Morales. See the attached list. A discussion of the new personnel brought a renewed sense of contentment as everyone recognized the expertise of the new teaching assistants. Ms. Cano Morales requested information as to how the finance office would be run as she acknowledged the resignation of Ms. Baker. Dr. Gallo informed her of the intent to keep the office running through the guiding leadership of Mr. Ralph Malafronte, retired Superintendent from Barrington. Then Ms. Cano Morales added the appointment of Victor Capellan to list of personnel items for approval stating that she was in receipt of a letter (Attached) from Commissioner Gist approving the recommendation of the Trustees to appoint Mr. Capellan as Superintendent replacing Dr. Gallo as she begins her retirement close to the end of June. The motion was called and the vote taken. Motion carried. (6,0) At this point the audience of approximately 45 people broke into applause and Mr. Capellan was invited to join the Trustees and Dr. Gallo at the table for the duration of the meeting.
- V. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget - A motion to approve the bills pending a full review by Ms. Grace was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Martinez. Motion carried. (7,0)
- VI. Central Falls High School update- The entire administrative team of the high school joined Mr. Laplante at the table for the presentation to the Trustees regarding the latest work in concert with the League of Innovative Schools. The presentation is attached. The final update came by way of a draft letter prepared by RIC intended to surprise and honor about half of the Junior class this May at an event to take place on May 1.

The letter informs the juniors of their conditional acceptance to RIC!

- VII. Public Comment – No one appeared for public comment.
- VIII. Superintendent Comment –Dr. Gallo informed everyone about the CHEP Conference stating that twenty-five teachers from the CFSD were committed to the CHEP work and would be working to improve instruction and raising expectations throughout the coming year. Dr. Gallo also provided some insight into her day in Superior Court on behalf of the district in the case against the work of the center for Dynamic Learning (CDL) during the school day at Calcutt. The union has grieved the hiring of the CDL requesting the immediate posting and hiring of certified union teachers instead. Dr. Gallo noted for the record the great success of the CDL groups during the summers and after school work that prompted her to offer CDL the opportunity to offer some explorations for children during the school day. These “classes” are not part of the curriculum and are not for grades in any way. They were offered as enticing opportunities for student engagement. The court case will continue and Dr. Gallo is expected to keep the trustees informed.
- IX. Board Comment – Ms. Rosado expressed disappointment in not being on time for the vote of appointment of Mr. Capellan to the position of superintendent. The Trustees decided to call for the motion to accept the Commissioner’s letter of appointment. This motion was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. A vote by roll call was taken. Each Trustee approved the acceptance of the letter and the appointment of Mr. Capellan as Superintendent of Central Falls Schools. (7,0)
Mr. Capellan thanked the Trustees and the members of the audience for their support and expressed his deep desire to carry on the work.
- X. A call for Executive Session was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Under RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (2) that this 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, current litigation) A roll call vote was taken. (7,0)
A motion to come out of executive session and seal the minutes was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Martinez. A roll call vote was taken. All approved. (7,0)
- XI. Next Scheduled Meeting: April 28, 2015 at 5:30PM at the Ell Risk School. Topic: Calcutt Middle School Update and Innovation Lab work
- XII. Adjournment –At 8 PM, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Figueroa, seconded by Ms. Martinez.