

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2015
Ella Risk Conference Room, Lower Level
5:00 PM

The Board of Trustees may vote on any agenda item.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call - The meeting was called to order by Ms. Cano Morales at 5:09 p.m. A roll call was taken.

Hugo Figueroa and Ana Cecilia Rosado arrived at 5:15 p.m.

- II. Pledge– The pledge was led by Chairperson Cano-Morales.

- III. Approval of the meeting minutes of June 23, 2015 - A motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of June 23 was made by Ms. Grace seconded by Mr. Pitt. Motion carried. (4 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain)

- IV. Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescissions, resignations, recalls, and retirement.

Motion was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Grace.

Mr. Capellan introduced Mr. Buddy Comet and Ms. Erin Quinlan who were in the audience and were being recommended for Principal and Assistant Principal of Calcutt Middle School, respectively.

Mr. Capellan explained that the former principal, Ms. Dossantos had been promoted to the position of Director of Multiple Pathways.

Ms. Gonzalez asked if in appointing Mr. Comet the principal position, we were considering filling his current position as Dean of Pedagogy at Central Falls High School. Mr. Capellan informed the board that the position would not be filled.

Chairperson Cano-Morales asked if the Diane Pina being appointed to a bilingual psychologist position was the same Diane that previously worked for the district. Mr. Capellan informed her that yes, it was the same person.

Ms. Martinez asked about the resignation of Ms. Cataldo and Ms. Rojas and if those positions would be filled. Mr. Capellan informed her that yes, the positions will be filled.

Chairperson Cano-Morales asked Mr. Comet and Ms. Quinlan if they wanted to say a few words. Both Mr. Comet and Ms. Quinlan spoke about their enthusiasm and excitement for their new positions.

Chairperson Cano-Morales asked if we would be appointing a third administrator to Calcutt. Mr. Capellan explained that he was working to hire a third administrator to work as a part-time AP, three days per week. Chairperson Cano-Morales stated that she looks forward to having leadership that reflects the community and being intentional about diversity.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget

Motion was made by Ms. Rosado to approve pending a review by Ms. Grace.
Seconded by Mr. Pitt.

Motion carried. Note: Ms. Gonzalez was out the room during the vote.

VI. Discussion/Possible Vote on Tentative Agreement with CFTU

Mr. Capellan presented the tentative agreement signed by the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Central Falls Teachers Union and the Superintendent.

Mr. Pitt: Asked what the impact of the new bell schedule would be on the students and the school. Mr. Capellan explained that the dismissal would be a challenge since both the middle school and the high school would be dismissing at the same time. Several board members expressed concern about the dismissal time being the same as the high school.

Mr. Capellan presented the draft agreement and informed the board that the Salary Schedule would be adjusted and will provide teachers with a step move, plus a 1% increase. He further explained that the adjustment of moving up one step, plus 1% will cost the district approximately an additional \$490,103. He also informed the board that the new agreement called for creating a Step 12 that would move everyone from Step 11 in the previous year, plus anyone that was considered to be “off step.”

The board requested a letter from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) in which they wanted to be reassured that the district’s budget would be able to sustain the step move and 1% increase. Mr. Capellan agreed to request a letter from RIDE.

Chairwoman Cano-Morales asked who was at the negotiating table for this agreement. Mr. Capellan informed her that he had attended two meetings at that they following members were present at both meetings: Mr. Abbott and Mr. Dunham from RIDE, Ms. Sessums and Mr. Parisi representing the CFTU and Mr. Capellan and Ms. Gaouette representing the CFSD.

Ms. Rosado asked about the provision where the District agrees to pay one-half (1/2) of the assessment fee for new candidates to the National Board of Professional

Teaching Standards. She also inquired about the \$6,000 on the Horizontal Scale. Mr. Capellan informed her that this provision was not changed and remained the same from the previous contract. Ms. Rosado stated that this should be an investment that one makes as a professional and that the district should not have to pay.

Ms. Grace asked for clarification on the 14 Horizontal Pay Scale. Mr. Capellan reviewed the scale with the board.

Chairwoman Cano-Morales stated that the board did not feel empowered to act on this matter since they were not at the table.

Ms. Grace stated that although the board was not at the table they should approve this agreement and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gonzalez.

Ms. Martinez said she had no problem voting on the agreement, but that she wanted to make sure that she would get the information previously requested from RIDE.

Ms. Rosado wanted to make sure that the board's comments, questions and concerns would be noted.

The vote was taken. Six (6) in favor, one (1) oppose.

Mr. Capellan thanked the board for the vote and he stated that he felt that this new Salary Scale would keep the district competitive.

Chairwoman Cano-Morales stated that she was glad that we would start the year with a contract, but she wanted to make it clear that they want to be a part of the process. She wants to have the board be a part of the negotiations.

VII. Public Comment

None.

VIII. Superintendent Comment

- Mr. Capellan expressed his excitement about being in this new position. He congratulated Mr. David Upegui on being a finalist for the 2015 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science (PAEMST) Program.
- He expressed his hope for the construction of a new high school sometime in the future.
- The board was presented with copies of the 2014-2015 ELO yearbook.
- The new commissioner of education, Mr. Ken Wagner visited Calcutt Middle School and the visit was a great success.

- The CF administration team would be having several working sessions over the summer to get ready for the new school year.
- The superintendent would be traveling to Colombia from August 9th to the 13th to discuss the possibility of setting up an educational exchange program with the town of Arjona. This trip would be at no-cost to the district.
- There has been agreement between the City and the District to construct the Chocolateville Playground near Calcutt Middle School.

IX. Board Comment

Ms. Grace proposed the following dates for a board retreat – August 18, 20 and 22 from 8:30 – 11:30. The final date would be set later in the week when board members had a chance to check for any conflicts.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that she wanted to make sure that the agenda would be built together.

Chairwoman Cano-Morales stated that she would be happy to host the retreat at Roger Williams University in Providence.

- X. Possible Executive Session, 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.

No executive session was held.

- XI. Next Scheduled Meeting: September 8, 2015 at 5:30PM at the Ella Risk School.

XII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Grace. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.