

**Central Falls School District Board of Trustees  
Board Retreat Minutes – August 22, 2015  
Roger Williams University  
150 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903  
8:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

*The Board of Trustees may vote on any agenda item.*

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call – Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cano-Morales at 8:40 a.m. A roll call was taken all members present.
- II. Pledge – The pledge was led by Chairperson Cano-Morales
- III. District Vision Discussion: Central Falls 2020

Superintendent Capellan spoke about this goals for the Central Falls School District. He discussed his team’s readiness for the opening of school. Mr. Capellan gave the BOT an update on staffing and informed them that all positions would be filled by the opening of school.

- a. Colombia Exchange Program – Superintendent Capellan spoke to the trustees about his trip to Arjona, Colombia to explore potential opportunities for educational exchanges. He reminded the board that this trip was at no-cost to the district. Chairperson Cano-Morales spoke about her enthusiasm for the project and the partnership between Pawtucket Schools, International Charter School and Central Falls.
- b. Update on School Opening/Staffing Update  
Superintendent Capellan informed the board that he feels ready for the opening of school. Ms. Gonzalez asked if he expects that all positions will be filled before the opening of school. He responded that he does expects a smooth opening and that all positions will be filled before the opening of school. He also informed the board that he will be creating a new position called the Chief Academic Officer and will be filling it with an existing staff members, Ms. Edda Carmadello, who will serve in this new capacity, while at the same time retaining her position as Director of Students Services.
- c. CF/RIC Innovation Lab Update

Superintendent Capellan gave the board an update on the continuing partnership between Rhode Island College and Central Falls. Dr. Pitt spoke about the fact that the number of projects going into year three continue to be strong and that more and more RIC faculty and staff are wanting to participate in the program. Superintendent Capellan spoke about exploring big ideas to move the partnership to a new level. Chairperson Cano-Morales stated that she would like to see us take on college access and retention as a major initiative within the Innovation Lab.

d. Implementing the District Uniform Policy

Superintendent Capellan informed the board that the admin team had decided to continue with the uniform policy from last year. He informed them that the principals are interested and willing to implement, enforce, incentivize and support the policy. Ms. Rosado asked how we planned to support families who could not afford the uniforms. Superintendent Capellan informed her that a team led by Ms. Patricia Martinez and the home school liaisons are working to find ways to support families who may need assistance with acquiring the uniforms. Ms. Grace asked how what we were going to do with students who did not wear their uniforms. Superintendent Capellan stated that the schools will simply follow their protocols and the Restorative Practice approach they have in place. Ms. Rosado asked about what types of incentives were being offered. Superintendent Capellan informed her that the principals were still coming up with ideas such as an out of dress code day or something like that. Ms. Rosado stated that she did not believe giving student a reward of not wearing the uniforms was an incentive to get them to wear the uniform. Superintendent Capellan agreed to discuss with the principals.

e. Initiative to create the Early Warning System

Superintendent Capellan informed the board that Mr. St. Jean and Ms. Amy Burns were working with a team at the high school to develop an Early Warning System to identify absence, behavior and credit completion before they become a problem. He told them that the system is being developed and more information will be forthcoming.

f. Attendance Policy in Central Falls

Superintendent Capellan suggested to the board that they may want to take some time at a future meeting to review the existing attendance policy which has not been reviewed in a few years. The board tabled this discussion to a future meeting to be determined.

g. BOT Q & A

The board made their comments during the part in the agenda dedicated to board comments.

IV. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

V. Superintendent Comment

Superintendent Capellan spoke about his enthusiasm for the coming school year. He stated that he feels the conversation in the district with administrators, teachers, staff, parents were all very positive and that everyone was excited for the new school year.

VI. Board Comment

Ms. Gonzalez spoke about her interest in learning more about how the district was utilizing data to differentiate instruction for children. Superintendent Capellan stated that he would set up a presentation by the data team at a future board meeting.

Ms. Rosado spoke about her interest in seeing what plans the district has in regards to the foreign language offerings in the district. She stated that the district needed to provide more opportunities and offerings for heritage speakers.

Mr. Figueroa asked what security measures were going to be in place this year at the schools and if there were any changes this coming year. Superintendent Capellan informed him that Mr. St. Jean is working with Mr. Silvia and Mr. Rivera at the high school to develop an ID entry system into the high school for all students. After the technology is developed they would bring the same to the middle school.

Chairperson Cano-Morales spoke about her desire to see the district develop a more robust college-going culture. She stated that she wanted to see it displayed, modeled and encouraged from PK-12 all across the district. She asked about the plans for developing multiple pathways and

stated that she would like to see additional programs that provided opportunities for certificates that led to jobs and careers. Superintendent Capellan informed her that the new Director of Multiple Pathways, Ms. Dossantos would be working to develop those opportunities for the students.

Chairperson Cano-Morales stated that she was interested in exploring ways to bring additional resources to the district and that we should focus on fundraising and fund development to support the students and teachers.

Ms. Martinez spoke about her concerns for the chronic absenteeism and asked which grades were the most absent in the district. Superintendent Capellan stated that he did not have the current data with him, but that he believed it was grades K, 9 & 12. Ms. Martinez stated that we should do more to bring education to the parents about the importance of their child being in school every day. She said that we should launch an attendance campaign all throughout the city.

Ms. Grace asked about the process for evaluating teachers this coming year. Superintendent Capellan informed her that we will continue to be a part of the RI Innovation model for evaluating teachers. Ms. Grace also mentioned wanting to be learn more about the district and what is happening, but without micro-managing. Superintendent Capellan told her she would be welcomed to visit, participate and learn more.

Dr. Pitt spoke about wanting to have more of the macro-data about the district. Superintendent Capellan informed him that school profile sheets were being generated for each of the schools.

- VII. 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.

There was no executive session held.

- VIII. Next Scheduled Meeting: September 8, 2015 at 5:00PM at the Ell Risk School.

IX. Adjournment:

Motion was made by Ms. Rosado, Seconded by Ms. Martinez. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.