

Central Falls School District
Meeting Minutes – August 6, 2018
Central Falls High School – Cafeteria
5:30pm

Call to Order and Roll Call- The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Anna Cano-Morales at 5:36pm. A roll call was taken. Board Members Present: Anna Cano-Morales, Diosa Martinez, Stephanie Gonzalez, Sonia Grace, Ron Pitt, and Hugo Figueroa.
Excused: Andrew Bramson

- I) Pledge- The pledge was led by Councilman Franklin Solano
- II) Open Forum – The board held an open forum to listen to students, parents, administrators and stakeholders about the uniform policy at Central Falls High School.
 - Councilwoman Maria Rivera stated that she was in favor of uniforms because it is a benefit for the parents; she encouraged the board to keep the uniform policy.
 - Councilman Franklin Solano, stated that he was in favor of uniforms and encouraged the board to keep the uniform policy.
 - Alicia Ordonez spoke in favor of uniforms. She said that even though the uniforms have been mandatory, they were not fully implemented.
 - Sorrenis Lee the parent of a K student said she believes that the little ones should wear uniforms, but that it should not be mandatory for older students.
 - Anthony Mejia, an 11th grade student at CFHS said he is not in favor of the uniforms because it may lead to hygiene issues if the family does not have money to buy uniforms.
 - Erica Prenda, 9th grade ELA teacher at CFHS stated that she is in favor of the student proposal, which is to keep the policy, but not make it mandatory.
 - Laura Stanish, 9th grade Science teacher at CFHS stated that she teaches students that everything is based on evidence and she believes that they have presented enough evidence for the board to support the students' proposal.
 - Abdiel Soto, an 11th grade student at CFHS said he is against the uniforms and that the data shows that most students are not in favor of the uniforms.
 - Janella Ruiz said that the uniform policy is not being enforced. She said the district should enforce it or not do it at all.
 - Maria Lozano a parent, advocated for keeping the uniform policy as is.
 - Richard Flores a 10th grade student at CFHS stated that students express themselves through their clothes and that the students do not like the uniform.
 - Laurilim Rosado, a parent stated that she is in favor of keeping the uniforms.

- Kevin Drolet, a teacher at CFHS said that the board should listen to the students' voice on this matter.
- Superintendent Capellan introduced new high school principal, Mr. Bob McCarthy.
- Mr. McCarthy congratulated the students and teachers for all their work on this subject. He stated that he would like to work with students, teachers and parents to see what type of an impact the proposal may have on the school culture over the next few months.

III) School Uniforms

Ms. Grace made a motion that the board consider the proposal from the FUSE Architect 9th Grade Academy students to change the current uniform policy at Central Falls High School it was seconded by Ms. Gonzalez.

The board asked Superintendent Capellan for his guidance and thoughts on the uniform policy. The superintendent stated that he is personally in favor of uniform, but that at the high school level it was not being as successful and so he felt that it should be reviewed. He stated that the board might want to consider granting the high school a "waiver" from the policy for the first semester and to monitor the impact.

Ms. Gonzalez thanked the students for all their work on this issue. She also said that she does not want to undermine the work of the parents and is in favor of finding a compromise.

Ms. Grace stated that she has noticed that there is a split among young people when it comes to uniforms. She stated that she favors more conversation and needs more data. She also stated that a conversation about the subjectivity of a dress code should be had.

Mr. Pitt stated that he appreciates all of the research and data.

Mr. Figueroa asked that if it is not mandatory for the first semester, how we are going to make it mandatory for the second semester. He said that this would have an impact on how students at Calcutt see uniforms. He thanked everyone for coming to the forum.

Ms. Martinez said she does not want students who chose to wear the uniform to be bullied.

Chairwoman Cano-Morales said that she views this as an opportunity. She reminded students that if someone decides to wear the uniform, they should also be respected. She asked Mr. McCarthy and his team to review with students and staff and keep the board informed.

Ms. Gonzalez made a motion to suspend the “mandatory” part of the uniform for the high school, only, for the next 3 months, seconded by Mr. Pitt. All in favor. Approved.

IV) Approval of the meeting minutes of June 20, 2018. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Pitt, seconded by Ms. Grace. Approved. (Abstain – Gonzalez, Martinez, and Grace).

V) Approval of Bills - Grants and General Budget
There were no bills presented.

VI) School Facilities Contract –

Superintendent Capellan presented the board with the results of the publicly advertised Request for Proposals (RFP) for a three-year contract for school facilities. Two companies responded to the RFP GCA/ABM and NFS (National Facility Services). A committee comprised of administrators and union representatives for the following criteria reviewed the RFP’s: Management experience, references, capacity and price. Both companies were qualified. There was only a \$2,176.30 difference over the 3 years. The recommendation of the committee was to award the contract to National Facility Services for a 3-year period commencing on August 18, 2018.

A motion to grant the contract to NFS was made by Ms. Grace and seconded by Ms. Martinez.

Chairwoman Cano-Morales asked what we happen with the current employees. Mr. Rory Marty, Director of Operations informed the board that there was a letter of intent with Council 94 and that NFS had agree to honor it. It is intended that most of the employees will have opportunities to work with the new company if they are interested.

All in favor. Approved.

VII) School Bus Leases –Superintendent Capellan presented to the board the option to enter into new bus leases. He informed the board that our current bus lease through First Student is \$1251 per month per bus and that we lease five full size buses. He stated that the buses are around 15 years old and in very poor condition. The proposal is to lease our buses through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA), a national master price agreement similar to the state MPA of which we are members. The superintendent informed the board that the proposal is to enter into a 5-year walk away lease or we could purchase after the 5 years for the residual left on the lease or just walk away.

Superintendent Capellan presented the board with the following financial breakdown:

Current Total 6 buses - 5 buses at \$1,614 per bus per month one with three wheelchair positions.

- 1 H/C bus at \$2,500 per month plus maintenance

Proposed Total 6 buses with new 5 Year Lease:

- 4 buses at \$1,026 per month walk away

- 2 H/C at \$1,275 per bus per month walk away

Motion to approve to enter into bus leases via NJPA made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. All in favor. Approved.

The board thanked Mr. Marty for his work on this matter.

VIII) Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescission, resignations, recalls, and retirements:

New Hires:

- Timothy Milisauskas, Principal, Calcutt Middle School
- Rodney Gamble, AP, CFHS
- Maria Sato, Math, Calcutt
- Michaela Laughlin, Math, Calcutt
- Hector Cardona, School Psychologist, Calcutt
- Austen Needleman, Biology, CFHS
- Vincent Palladino, Math, CFHS
- Keri Londers, Library, Calcutt
- Robin Bishop, Reading, Calcutt
- Virginia DosReis, Registration Clerk, District

Recalls

- Hilary Conners, OT, District

Retirements

- Colleen Allard-Beaulieu, Library Clerk, CFHS/Calcutt

Resignations

- Evelyn Jones, ELL Director, District
- Heather Noyes-Fredette, OT, District
- Carlene Fonseca, Director 21st. Century, District
- Ryan Silva, Accounts Payable Clerk, District
- Amy Burns, AP, CFHS
- Troy Silvia, Principal, CFHS

- Jose Valerio, Principal, Calcutt

Motion to approve made by Ms. Grace, Seconded by Mr. Figueroa. All in favor. Motion approved.

IX) Superintendent Comments

Superintendent Capellan informed the board that everything looks good for the beginning of the school year. He said that there will be a new food service provider, Chartwell, which replaces Aramark, based on the statewide contract. He also mentioned that the district leadership is engaged in several summer programs and professional development offerings.

X) Board Comments

None.

XI) Possible Executive Session

Ms. Grace moved to convene into Executive Session, under RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (2), work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining and litigation, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. Roll Call - Anna Cano-Morales, Hugo Figueroa, Sonia Grace, Stephanie Gonzalez, Diosa Martinez and Ron Pitt – All in favor. The board went into executive session at 7:01 p.m.

A motion to seal the minutes of Executive Session was made by Ms. Grace and seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. All in favor. Motion Approved.

A motion to be move out of executive session at 7:33 p.m. was made by Ms. Grace and seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. All in favor. Motion Approved.

The board announced that there were no votes taken.

XIII. Next Scheduled Meeting August 22, 2018

XIV. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Grace and seconded by Mr. Pitt.

The board adjourned at 7:33 p.m.