



**Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2019
Calcutt Middle School – Library 2nd Floor
5:30 PM**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Anna Cano Morales at 5:30 pm.

Board Members Present: Anna Cano Morales, Sonia Grace, Diosa Martinez, Andrew Bramson, Glendaliz Colon (5:33 p.m.), and Hugo Figueroa (5:40 p.m.)

Absent: Stephanie Gonzalez,

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Led By: Beth Tanner

III. Approval of the meeting minutes of May 22, 2019, and June 11, 2019

Motion by: Sonia Grace

2nd by: Diosa Martinez

All In Favor

Opposed: None

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

Motion by: Sonia Grace

2nd by: Andrew Bramson

All In Favor

Opposed: None

NEW HIRES

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	NOTES
Kate Tolman	Science Teacher	Calcutt Middle School	Replaces Nancy Raftery's position

RETIREMENTS

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	NOTES
Stephen Miller	Personal Care Assistant	Central Falls High School	Retiring



RESIGNATIONS

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	NOTES
Linda Poidiomani	Physical Education, Heath /Adapted Physical Education (APE)	Robertson/Captain Hunt	Resigned
Rodney Gamble	Assistant Principal	Central Falls High School	Resigned
Trevor Berard	Computer Technician	District-Technology Department	Resigned

RECALLS

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	NOTES
Nicole Bernier	Dual Language ESL- Gr. 1	Robertson-Dual Language School	Most senior certified teacher
Susan Caddeus	General Ed. Inclusion Grade 6	Calcutt Middle School	Recall to her position
Kayla Caron	Pre-K Special Ed. /Inclusion	Captain Hunt	Most senior certified teacher
Ronald Lehmann	ELA /ESL Teacher, Gr. 9 -12th.	Central Falls High School	Recall to his position
Nicole Tousignant	Special Ed. Inclusion /Resource Gr. 5-8	Calcutt	Recall to her position
Bianca Ramos		Robertson Dual Language	Recall to Dual Language Pre-K Spanish -Emergency Cert. needed.

AB- Can I get some more information about Rodney Gamble's resignation?

VC- It was his first year as at CFHS. Did a great job and was heavily recruited. He took a position as principal at Paul Cuffee Charter School. We had ongoing discussions about this. He did a great job, especially around student voice. They offered him a principalship. He couldn't pass it up.

SG- Do you intend to post the positions for the two resignations?

VC- Yes, we will be posting Linda Poidomani's position. The computer tech position we will not. We have some different ideas regarding that position. Steve Miller is part of a family of educators in the district. You may recall his wife, Chris Miller gave her notice to retire 2 months



ago. Their daughter is still a teacher at Calcutt. I want to thank them for their years of service and wish them well.

- V. Executive Session, under RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (1) and (2)** (discussion of job performance, character or physical or mental health) (collective bargaining/litigation/legal advice) and to discuss certain matters that are the subject of collective bargaining and litigation, and to conduct work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining and litigation.

Went into Executive Session at 5:35pm

Motion by: Sonia Grace

2nd by: Glendaliz Colon

All In Favor

Opposed: None

Roll Call:

Anna Cano Morales

Sonia Grace

Diosa Martinez

Glendaliz Colon

Andrew Bramson

Hugo Figuero (late)

Return from Executive Session and back to Public Session at 6:10 p.m.

Motion by: Sonia Grace

2nd by: Hugo Figueroa

All In Favor

Opposed: None

Roll Call:

Anna Cano Morales

Sonia Grace

Diosa Martinez

Glendaliz Colon

Andrew Bramson

Hugo Figuero

Motion to seal the minutes from Executive Session. Let the record reflect no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Motion by: Sonia Grace

2nd by: Glendaliz Colon

All In Favor: Yes

Opposed: None

VI. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget

Motion by: Andrew Bramson

2nd by: Sonia Grace



All In Favor

Opposed:None

VII. Action – FY20 Budget

Motion by: Andrew Bramson

2nd by: Sonia Grace

In Favor: None

All Opposed

Victor Capellan presented a powerpoint presentation - FY20 Proposed Budget- see attached slides.

VC- Last week I presented the draft FY 20 budget, this week we have more final numbers as it was approved by the House Finance Committee. We have more money now from the House Finance Committee. The FY 20 request was \$41,605,529. This number came from the Governor's Office to RIDE on behalf of CF. It includes a \$7.9 million stabilization payment to CF in FY19 and \$8.4 million in FY20.

ACM- The number recommended by the Governor to RIDE, was that informed by you and finance or just adjusted for cost of living?

VC- RIDE uses a formula... referenced on page 3 of my ppt. They begin with the enrollment- not what we have every day- today we have 2956. It looks at the number of kids we have excluding the pre-k students - that is a separate grant- about 240 students. They look at the average daily attendance membership.

AB- Why did the stabilization money go down?

VC- The House Finance Committee adjusted it based on the March update. We generated \$775,530 and the house committee approved an increase of \$388,999, about half of what RIDE had requested to help offset anticipated increase in charter school tuitions and to support increase in our student enrollment. The budget impact to Central Falls is a loss of \$386,531.

We did also receive an increase in Categorical for ELL from \$184,063 to \$425,097 a net increase of \$241,034, so this will help us.

ACM- They are supplanting. This should be in addition to.

VC- Look at the numbers from March 2018 to March 2019 our numbers are up. We made our case to keep the \$800,000. The other factor is the funding for BVP changed from \$2400 to \$3151. They are now being funded like all other charters.

ACM- That is not a CF problem but the State's problem.

AB- Slide 10- \$300,000 fund balance to be used in FY20, what happens at the end of FY 20?

VC- There will be no fund balance.

AB- What happens when the balance is 0?

VC- RIDE will need to request the full amount without fund balance.

AB- Part of base funding or stabilization?

VC- Depends on RIDE

ACM- Stabilization funding

VC- Look back at fund balance the trend has been we have had to use it since 2014. We cut 14 positions, following year we cut 9 positions rather than hurt students we have been using the fund balance. 14 positions- no elementary guidance, 32 kids in a classroom. The state counts on us to use the fund balance. They know this is our last year with a fund balance.



AB- Why does the stabilization request get more scrutinized?

VC- Can't answer fully. Keree may be able to provide more insight. The formula for CF drives these decisions.

AB- Other communities get an increase in categorical money also sees a reduction in stabilization money. We are treated equally.

VC- Don't know.

GC- Can you explain again?

ACM- RI passed a funding formula that the per pupil expense travels with the student. If you go to the Learning Community the money passes through us and goes to the charter. We embrace choice but it has a cost. This is the ongoing debate they need to scale resources. Debate not in a comprehensive way.

VC- So this year we are scheduled to receive a March update of \$775,000 and so we are receiving about half at \$388,999. In essence, they have given us an extra \$400,000 but we need the full amount to offset charter tuition and increased enrollment. The impact for next year if we don't receive the \$800,000 is that we know the extra 300 students will come back. We will lose some students but not all. We will open school with the same level of service even when we know we still have the extra students. We may have to eliminate 2 staff positions or cut programming, or increase class size and pay for overages, we won't be able to buy the additional curriculum materials needed for the new students, won't be able to give extra support to ELs, no after-school programming. That's the impact.

GC- I am so frustrated. Our students' struggle but they succeed. This hurts my heart. They are setting us up for failure. The kids barely move, they are always trying to catch up. This is not ok. I am very upset.

ACM- We are out of order we need a motion

Motion By: Andrew Bramson- **Seconded by:** Sonia Grace-

Roll Call ACM- No; **AB-**No; **SG-**No; **DM-**No; **GC-**No; **-No**

SG- Here we go again. I vote no. This is a public document. This explains how the House interprets our numbers. This is how they interpret us. Refuse the shortfall of \$386,000. EL funding is not getting to the ELs because of who we are. I will not entertain to cut anything. This is not the first time.

ACM- For all the reasons Sonia mention and the fact that we had to use \$300,000 from the fund balance more than the \$386,000. The \$250,000 for ELs should be above not to supplant.

HF- I echo Anna and Sonia. We need to go back to the State.

ACM- The House Finance Committee votes on Friday. It is just a perfunctory. This is the economics of CF. I have said this for years. They need to look at our infrastructure.

SG- We all need to reach out to our elected officials - Rep Maldonado, Senator Crowley, Mayor Diossa. Don't let this pass in silence. Reach out to all elected officials.

ACM- Hopefully they will give us some money in September.

DM- Very upsetting. How can we increase class size? These children come they are new and come with mental and emotional issues. Very upset we are cutting service.

AB- What are our next steps?

VC- I will inform RIDE that the Board did not approve the budget. I must submit the budget balanced to RIDE. I will reach out and they will 1) will pass the budget and 2) the District will request supplemental money in September. We will wait to see what happens on Friday. The



House is supposed to vote on the budget. I think they are going to approve it. In July we will see the final numbers. Prepare for our September conversation. We know kids will show up on September 1.

AB- Is there a margins issue around cash flow?

Keree Simmons- Cash is always an issue. Internally we manage the cash. We will do what we need to protect our most valuable resources - the students. State answers are in the back end. I am not sure of the repercussions if we operate in the red. Not sure what to do.

AB- I just ask because we approve bills and don't give it a thought

ACM- That is not true

AB- I did not mean that . We have not, not had money.

VII. Redesign Update: None

VIII. Public Comment:

AFT Union President Tracey Cavanaugh: This issue with the budget makes my blood boil. I have been in this district for 29 years. I am frustrated and angry about the budget. Our kids deserve better. We cannot continue to promote charters. They are taking students and money away from our students. I understand the BOT is in favor of choice but we can't continue like this. You...Us we need to get on the same page and make some noise at the State level, not at Calcutt. We can't keep saying increase class size. It hurts our schools. Our Board needs to make noise.

Councilwoman Jessica Vega: I echo the same frustration. I did not realize how much charter schools take away from our schools. As a City Councilwoman, I have no control over this budget. There has to be a better way to voice our opinion. I agree with the Vice Chair we can't keep cutting money. This is an open secret.

Vice Chairwoman: Sonia Grace: I typically don't respond to public comment but I need to. Charters are not our enemies. The issue for us is the funding formula and how decisions are being made about our money. We fully support choice and our schools should be part of that choice. Families make choices to stay in our schools. This is not about charters vs. us. We need a conversation about funding. This is not a blame game, that doesn't work.

IX. Superintendent Comment:

VC- I would like to thank Keree Simmons and his team. Part of the message today is that we make the decisions where the money goes but many times we are capped at where we can put it.



I just want to acknowledge that yesterday was the end of the school year. Thank you to the students, staff, faculty, teachers, and families. The second half of the year we did some amazing work. We found ways to address the RICAS issues...lots of people stepped up. Last month we celebrated the outstanding achievements of our students. This week I attended the Capt Hunt graduation ceremonies. We celebrated the great work they did. I want to acknowledge the great work that is happening in difficult situations. I always remember the great potential our students have and use that as my North Star.

X. Board Comment: None

XI. Next Scheduled Meeting: August 21, 2019

XII. Adjournment - the Meeting Adjourned at 6:54pm

Motion by: Andrew Bramson

2nd by: Sonia Grace

All In Favor

Opposed: None