



**Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Agenda – February 27, 2019
Calcutt Middle School – Library 2nd Floor
5:30 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 Chairwoman Anna Cano-Morales at 5:30pm. A roll call was taken. Board Members Present: Anna Cano-Morales, Hugo Figueroa, Ron Pitt, Sonia Grace, Diosa Martinez, and Stephanie Gonzalez. Board Member Excused: Andrew Bramson
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
 - Led by graduate Pedro Morales
- III. Approval of the meeting minutes of January 23, 2019, January 26, 2019 and February 9, 2019
 - Motion, S. Grace
 - 2nd, S. Gonzalez
 - All in favor.
- IV. Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescissions, resignations, recalls, and retirement
 - Motion, S. Grace
 - 2nd, R. Pitt

Question from R. Pitt: Glad to see new hire join district

Comment from ACM - Acknowledgement of J. Diggle

Comment from V.Capellan - Student enrollment continues to grow, we continue to hire. Congratulations to all four retirees.
- V. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget
 - Motion, S. Grace
 - 2nd, H. Figueroa

All in favor.
- VI. Student Graduation Diploma Ceremony -- Pedro Morales
Comments by Dr. Heather Dos Santos about special culture of CF where we celebrate graduates any month of the year, whenever they are ready.
- VII. Out of State Student Trip Request – Washington, DC during the April break by students from How to Change the World.
 - Motion, S. Grace
 - 2nd, S. Gonzalez



All in favor.

VIII. Student Voice Movement Presentation (Formerly Fuse Students)

Opening comments by Assistant Principal Rodney Gamble

All grade levels represented

Meets every Friday at 7am at the McKenna Center

Supported by CLEE

Q from ACM: What other topics are the students working on? Heard that students were also discussing increased course offerings.

Response from Rodney: Yes, electives. Also concerned about placement within school of ELL classmates.

IX. Student-Athletes Presentation

Presentation by Principal Bob McCarthy. Co-developed presentation with Coach Fic and GC Volpe. Div. 3 RI football champions → Div. 3. Recruiters have reached out and connected with some CFHS student athletes. Coaches facilitate trips to colleges, such as UMass Dartmouth.

ACM: Soccer team is D1 so wondering about scholarships and if our others teams should explore moving up to D1. Is it a facilities issue, a coaching issue, etc.? Talent Development and other like programs can be magnets for students with our demographics. Concern about reference to just one guidance counselor for 11th and 12th. How are we whooping it up? Many students 1st generation. How are we supporting families?

McCarthy: In terms of moving up divisions, RI has a formula. Make recommendations every 2 years. Bob has served on committee of inter-scholastic.

Presentation by AP Rodney Gamble: Shifted name of Conditional Acceptance program. Current CFHS students earning credits at RIC.

ACM: Upward Bound #s are problematic. Eleven is not acceptable when they hold 50 seats for CF. Need to determine why. If it is about getting to campus, could we shift to McKenna Center?

VC: Transportation has been a barrier. Working on a bus to bring students both ways.

S. Gonzalez: How do we do college and career access? Concerned about ratio of GC: students. How many student athletes who are seniors are graduating with a plan?

Presentation by Principal McCarthy on Implications: Have to look at what are our students doing next? We need to do a better job in engaging families in the process. We have Individualized Learning Plan which guidance will use to continue conversations. It will start at Calcutt in 6th grade and move with the students. We are exploring certifications, which students could earn in HS such as CNA and EMT. We are working on increasing FAFSA completion. We are also very intentionally encouraging students to take college level courses during senior year.

Question from S. Grace: What is going to be different since we have historically done ILPs, and FAFSA outreach, etc.?



Response from B. McCarthy: Shifting ILP to digital so it can be a living document. Also discussing how we use advisory.

Question from R. Pitt: Could we use National Student Clearinghouse.

Response from B. McCarthy: Majority of our students who go on to college stay in state. Volpe provided a survey, which seniors completed. 116 responses. To measure our rigor, we are partnering with CCRI to ensure. CCRI shares what percentage of each HSs kids have to take remedial math. CFHS offering two sections of this CCRI course in HS.

Comment from ACM: RIC data analysis shows that CFSD students persist at RIC at higher rate.

Comment from V. Capellan: Met with President of CCRI this month. Looking at reasons for FAFSA rates being low. Fifty of the seniors born outside the US, 112 born in US.

X. [School Redesign](#): **Presentation by Superintendent Victor Capellan**

- Vertical Alignment – Shift Ks back to Elementary Schools
 - i. minimize transition for our youngest students
 - ii. create choice and options
 - iii. Have been working with union and met with teachers at Robertson, Vets, and Ella Risk

Question from S. Gonzalez: Why wouldn't all 5th grade go to Calcutt?

Response from V. Capellan: All 5th at Calcutt except for 5th graders in a proposed Dual Language program

- ELT Update
 - i. February break Newcomers Academy that served 130 students!
 - 1. Literacy, math, civics, futbol
 - 2. 22 days in total as it will go over Saturdays
 - ii. Inspira (to inspire) will launch next week
 - iii. McKenna Center Success program to launch in March
 - 1. teachers and fellows as coaches
 - 2. Alumni Association to support
 - iv. Reading Warriors: Students from HS

Question from ACM: How are families learning about all of these opportunities? What is the professional development for educators? Let's not miss the opportunity to use community leaders (many here tonight) to share these opportunities.

Question from S. Gonzalez: How are we monitoring progress?

V.Capellan: Priority to improve data governance across district. Working with partners to help us determine plan to strengthen access to data and data driven decision making in district. Also working on dashboard with Richer Picture.

Question from H. Figueroa: How will we update Skyward data?

Question from Glendalis Colon: As a parent, I have noticed that there is inconsistent use of Skyward from the HS to middle.



Question from S. Grace: What is the plan to ensure there is continuity and not start and stop of different programs?

Response from V. Capellan: Each is a redesign pilot

- [Data Dashboard](#) in development was presented
- Family Engagement / Parent Empowerment Event
- Open [New Dual Language Academy](#): **Presentation by Dr. Sergio Paez**
 - i. 50% native Spanish speakers, 50% native English speakers
 - ii. Rigorous, continuous curriculum

Question from S. Gonzalez: Wonder about staffing. What is the approach?

Response from S. Paez: Within the talent, we have in the district we can do this!

Question from ACM: What about Portuguese and Cape Verdean? Many CF students go to International Charter School. We are tapping into a market. We should be opportunistic. Sensitive to the fact that not everything is about Latinos in CF.

Response from V. Capellan: Starting with this program as it exists and we will expand. Certainly open to other languages in the future.

Question from S. Gonzalez: Do we create equity the way we need to if only some have access?

Response from V. Capellan: Each school is redesigning so we are developing a portfolio of choice.

Decision to hold vote until after public comment.

XI. School Calendar 2019-2020

- Start before or after Labor Day
- PD Days: Both at start of school year or one each semester
- Feb break: Keep or modify

ACM: Need to look at Feb break. Two months of just 15 days of instruction is not enough.

GC: Challenging for families with kids in multiple schools when Parent-Teacher Conferences have students with all different days off.

S. Grace: Of two minds with Feb break. Perhaps we shorten to 3 days off for kids. Too many spots without classes.

ACM: We need to have an earnest conversation about instructional time.

HF: Is there a way to do Parent-Teacher Conference at night so student-learning time is not lost?

XII. Public Comment

- **Elvin Abreu** (speaking in Spanish with support of translator): Parent of two students at Calcutt. Here to raise issue of increasing safety of schools. Working on a project to make the entrance to the school safer. He proposed detector for safety. It would lock the door when it detects a threat. He has brought a prototype. He is willing to donate to the school.
 - i. **ACM:** Please contact Rory and Superintendent to give a demo and explaining.
- **Michelle Pearson:** I have been a teacher here at Calcutt and now at Robertson. I am very supportive of the Dual Academy however am concerned about the fifth and sixth staying too long with elementary.



- i. **Donna Gattinella:** Also, have concern about parent-teacher conference. Original intent of spreading across days was to make surer families could attend all but see concern about missing all that work and not having childcare. March PTC is difficult for teachers. Consider PTC rd. 2 closer to...lot of sickness in schools in winter months. We need the time in February to get healthy again. We come back rested with stronger immune system.

Vote on Dual Language Academy: ACM: Recommend we give an endorsement

- Motion by S. Grace
- 2nd by H. Figueroa
- All in favor.

Responses by V. Capellan & S. Paez: Will consider feedback by teachers. Plan is to scale K-12 so students would not transition to Calcutt rather Dual Academy would shift to a larger space.

XIII. Superintendent Comment

XIV. Board Comment

ACM: Acknowledgement of the service of Ron Pitt. A true gentleman who is thoughtfully engaged over years of service. Presentation of crystal plaque and CFHS t-shirt.

Comment by R. Pitt: Learned so much and grateful for the opportunity

ACM: Welcome to newest member, Glendalis Colon, who is a mom of CFSD students, an alum of CFHS.

H. Figueroa: Many thanks to Ron who has made higher education partnership with RIC possible.

V. Capellan: Ron always the first one to make a way for our students. We are so appreciative of his service.

S. Gonzalez: Ron is very very special. He is the epitome of allyship. We are so used to having people coming in telling us what to do....rather he creates the space for those of us entrenched can share. We appreciate you and value you.

- XIV) Ms. Grace moved to convene into Executive Session, under RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (1), discussion of job performance, character, or physical or mental health (non-renewal of non-tenured teachers) and (2) (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, seconded by Mr. Figueroa.

Roll Call: Anna Cano-Morales, Stephanie Gonzalez, Diosa Martinez, Ron Pitt, Hugo Figueroa and Sonia Grace – All in favor. The board went into executive session at 7:40pm.

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 8:05p.m. was made by Ms. Grace and seconded by Mr. Figueroa. All in favor. Motion Approved.

XIV. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Figueroa and seconded by Ms. Gonzalez.

The board adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Assistive listening devices are available for use. The location is accessible to the disabled. Individuals requiring assistance due to a disability should notify the Superintendent's Office at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at 401-727-7700.