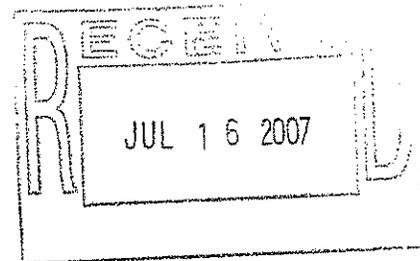


CENTRAL FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

21 Hedley Avenue
Central Falls, Rhode Island 02863

PHONE (401) 727-7700
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Frances A. Gallo, ED.D
Superintendent of Schools

July 11, 2007

Mr. Peter McWalters
Commissioner of Education
R.I. Department of Education
255 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Commissioner McWalters:

With the passage of FY08 budget by the general assembly, the Central Falls School District is insufficiently prepared to comply with legal and contractual obligations. I have been requested by the Board of Trustees to send you this letter serving two main goals: **1) to seek specific waivers from the State; 2) to request the establishment of a Financial Study Commission to review the abject needs of the children of Central Falls drawing conclusions and making informed recommendations for the future financial support of the Central Falls School District.**

1) The Central Falls Board of Trustees knows that it cannot adequately operate the school department within the approved budget and remain in compliance with state law and regulation. Consequently, the Board seeks the following waivers from the state as required by R.I.G.L. 16-2-21.4:

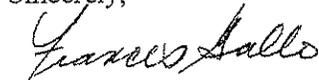
- A. Waiver of the requirement that the school department provide textbooks and transportation to non-public school students;
- B. Waiver of the requirement to provide bussing to any students, public or private, other than those who are physically handicapped;
- C. Waiver of the regulation that requires transportation of Central Falls students attending the Davies Career and Technical Center;
- D. Waiver of Special Education regulations such that class sizes can increase to 10 without the assistance of an aide and 12 with the assistance of an aide.

Please understand that the Board of Trustees does not believe that these proposals are in the best interest of advancing the education in Central Falls, but endorses these proposals for the purposes of complying with existing state law. In addition, we would ask that you notify us if you or your staff has any suggestions for cost saving ideas that can be implemented immediately.

2) An earlier Study Commission was extremely helpful in documenting the need and recommending the next steps for financial prudence. In such times as these when political turbulence tosses fragile young lives about, an objective study by a respected and knowledgeable commission will go a long way toward resolving the issues at hand and saving our children from political crossfire.

Please contact me should you have any questions. I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,


Frances Gallo



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Peter McWalters
Commissioner

October 3, 2007

Frances A. Gallo, ED.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Central Falls School District
21 Hedley Avenue
Central Falls, Rhode Island 02863

Dear Dr. Gallo, ^{FRAN}

We are in receipt of your letter to the Commissioner of Education regarding various waivers. If you are contemplating a waiver request under the Caruolo Act, it is strongly suggested that you consult with your attorney, as all procedural requirements of the act must be completed. This would include the requirement that the written petition must be submitted by the *chairperson* of the city, town, or regional *school committee*.

In addition it should be noted that the public hearing process regarding RI Special Education Regulations will begin soon. It may well be that this process is a more practical way to assure future compliance with these regulations. Your district's concerns regarding class size may shared by other districts, parents, educators, and interested groups. Your participation may help create a set of regulations that will be beneficial to the entire state.

We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

David V. Abbott, Deputy Commissioner/
General Counsel