

**FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
June 3, 2019  
Fort Lee High School Media Center  
6:49 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:49 p.m. by Mrs. Han Silver.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Ms. Colbath.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Fort Lee Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published on January 16, 2019 and posted in the entrance hall of the Board Office, 2175 Lemoine Avenue; published in the Board's designated online media outlet/newspaper: The Record and the Gold Coast Life; filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Fort Lee; and mailed to all persons, if any, who have requested said notice. Please be advised that this meeting is being taped and will be broadcasted on local TV and the district's website at a future date.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Ms. Elisa Cho, Ms. Paula K. Colbath, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mrs. Lauran Tuck, Mrs. Esther Han Silver

**Absent:** Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell

**Also Present:** Mr. Kenneth Rota, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mr. Dennis McKeever, Attorney

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, at 6:50 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Rota shared that there were seven (7) HIB investigations. Two (2) were founded.

Mr. Rota introduced Ms. Nancy Stern of the Fort Lee Rotary who introduced Carmine Meluccio, President of the Fort Lee Rotary. Mr. Meluccio shared the mission and many of the outreach services of the Rotary including a youth camp called RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards).

Mr. Meluccio invited senior at Fort Lee High School, Arundee Patwalia, to share her experience at RYLA. Arundee shared her 5-day RYLA camp experience including meeting new friends, various team activities, and exhibiting leadership qualities.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Negotiations Committee - Mrs. Han Silver shared that the Negotiations Committee met with FLEA on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and continue to exchange proposals. Mrs. Han Silver further shared that the next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2019.

Student Report - Griselda Jesse-Dodoo shared a summary report on some of the Fort Lee High School events including the Spanish club recently hosting their annual fundraiser, Noche Latina, the sophomore class' successful dodge ball tournament fundraiser for prom, and Science PARCC testing for juniors.

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Ms. Han Silver requested that Board members use the microphones when speaking at Board meetings to ensure that the public can hear comments and so that comments can be heard on the video replay.

Motion was requested to amend the minutes from May 20, 2019. Mrs. Tuck appeared both as being absent and present.

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Ms. Cho, to Amend item #1B.

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN**

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to open the floor to the public, 7:47 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

Arundee Patwalia, FLHS senior asked why seniors can be exempt from only two (2) final exams if they have the grades to be exempt from other course final exams.

Bohyun Lee, expressed displeasure that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade band program is not being offered next year.

Tanya Byers-Kang, School No. 1 parent, expressed displeasure that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade band program is not being offered next year. Ms. Byers-Kang asked the cost to offer the 4<sup>th</sup> grade band program.

Michele Perez, School No. 2 parent, expressed displeasure that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade band program is not being offered next year. Ms. Perez asked the cost for parents to subsidize the 4<sup>th</sup> grade band program. Ms. Perez asked for reasonings behind proposed 2019-2020 amended calendar.

David Sarnoff, FLHS parent, encouraged the Board to read the article he authored on behalf of the New Jersey Association of School Resource Officers (NJASRO) entitled "Everyone Needs a Wingman" which introduces peer to peer training on social/emotional learning. Mr. Sarnoff further encourages board members to consider participating in the Wingman program which is at no cost to districts.

Tanya Byers-Kang, School No. 1 parent, shared that there is a School No. 1 parent that is willing to coordinate a fundraiser to maintain the 4<sup>th</sup> grade band program.

Amy Kotang, School No. 3 parent, thanked Mr. Rota and Buildings & Grounds for installing fans at School No. 3. Ms. Kotang expressed displeasure with overcrowding and asked if there are plans to alleviate overcrowding.

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to close the floor to the public, 8:10 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **BOARD**

- 1B**      **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the following **minutes: (As Amended)**

Public Business Meeting Minutes	May 20, 2019
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	May 20, 2019

- 2B**      **WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education has received the Superintendent's report of **incident(s) of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying ("HIB")** within the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has had the opportunity to review the Superintendent's recommendations with respect to the incident(s) of HIB.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(d), the Superintendent of Schools shall inform the applicable parents/guardians of the students involved in these incidents with the following information within five school (5) days of this Board meeting:

1.      The nature of the investigation;

2. Whether the District found evidence of HIB;
3. Whether discipline was imposed;
4. Whether services were provided to address the incident of HIB.

**3B** **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fort Lee Board of Education **appoints the law firm of Sciarrillo, Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC as Board Attorneys for the period July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.** The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute the agreement and any and all other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this resolution. *See Appendix Page 10*

**4B** **WHEREAS**, due to the importance of Security Services, the Fort Lee Board of Education has determined that it is in its best interests to utilize the competitive contracting procurement method permitted under N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.1 et seq.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.1(k), that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the submission to request the use of competitive contracting procurement procedures from the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services for the purpose of procuring Security Services for the 2019-2020 school year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon approval by the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, **authorizes the use of competitive contracting to procure Security Services for the 2019-2020 school year.**

MOTION by Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #4B. Item #1B was amended.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 7-0.

### **CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

**1CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **class trips** listed in the attached summary. *See Appendix Page 12*

**2CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **additional out-of-district placements for the 2018-2019 school year**:

Student	Placement	Dates	Tuition/Costs
#25060099	The Forum School 107 Wyckoff Avenue Waldwick, NJ	5/13/19– 6/30/19	Annual tuition cost of \$64,531.80, prorated to \$9,679.77 (27 days @\$358.51 per diem). Annual transportation cost of \$20,700.00, prorated to \$3,105.00 (27 days @ \$115.00). 1:1 Aide prorated to \$4,914.00 (27 days @ \$182.00 per diem).
#9900053	South Bergen Jointure Commission 123 Union Street Lodi, NJ 07644 (Transfer from CEA School)	5/29/19 – 6/30/19	Annual tuition cost of \$67,400.00, prorated to \$6,740.00. Transportation cost prorated to \$3,312.00 (18 days @ \$184.00). Two (2) individual paraprofessionals to transition student prorated to \$4,381.02 (18 days @ \$243.39 per diem).

**3CUR (withdraw)** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **amended 2019-2020 District Calendar**, as per the attached. [See Appendix Page 13](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Ms. Cho, that the Fort Lee Board of Education withdraws item #3CUR.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 7-0.

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Richter, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR through #2CUR.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 7-0.

## **FINANCE**

**1F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of the claims on the current bills list in the amount of **\$5,508,084.27 for June 2019 checks**. [See Appendix Page 14](#)

- 2F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following **donations**:

Item	Amount/ Estimated Value	Donor	On Behalf Of
Check	\$2,000.00	101 Rt. 4 Associates Inc. 1640 Anderson Avenue Fort Lee, NJ 07024	FLHS Class of 2020
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>		

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #2F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 7-0.

**PERSONNEL**

- 1P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attendance of staff members at the **staff trips/conferences** listed on the attached summary. [See Appendix Page 41](#)
- 2P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, adopts the **Comprehensive Equity Plan for the 2019-2022 school years** and authorizes submission to the Bergen County Department of Education. [See Appendix Page 42](#)
- 3P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **appointments for the 2019-2020 school year**, pending verification of employment:

<b><u>APPOINTMENTS</u></b>						
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Position Control #	Annual Salary (Pending Negotiations)	Effective Date
Matthew	Addeo	School Counselor	MS	05-3101-11	\$68,730.00 MA, Step 7	8/28/19
Kaitlyn	Clausman	School Counselor	MS	05-3101-12	\$59,530.00 MA, Step 1	8/28/19
Nicole	Piccinich	Special Education Grade 3 LLD Teacher	S2	02-2411-01	\$56,030.00 BA, Step 1	6/4/19
Renee	Mattesich	Physical Education and Health	MS	TBD	\$56,030.00 BA, Step 1	9/1/19
Michael	Racciopi	Physical Education and Health	MS	TBD	\$58,230.00 BA, Step 4	9/1/19

**4P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **staff transfers during the 2019-2020 school year**. [See Appendix Page 74](#)

**5P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **leaves**:

<b><u>LEAVES</u></b>								
Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amended	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Diane DaSilva	Teacher Grade 6	S1	Maternity	New	9/25/19 to 12/1/19	12/2/19 to 2/23/20	N/A	2/24/20
Meghan Lynch	Guidance Counselor	S3	Medical	New	5/28/19 TO 6/2/19	N/A	N/A	6/3/19

**6P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **leave replacements** during the 2019-2020 school year, as outlined below:

<b><u>LEAVE REPLACEMENTS</u></b>					
Name	Grade/ Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Anna Zieba	Study Skills	S3	The daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1.	(Continuous Assignment) 9/1/19 to 6/30/20	Maternity Leave Jaime Antifonario
Alyson Levine	Grade 1	S3	The daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1.	(Continuous Assignment) 9/1/19 to 6/30/20	Maternity Leave Simone Ballance
Jocelyn Levine	Grade 3	S3	The daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1.	(Continuous Assignment) 9/1/19 to 6/30/20	Maternity Leave Stacey Dee
Kathleen Miller	Special Ed Teacher	S1	The daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1.	(Continuous Assignment) 9/1/19-11/4/19	Maternity Leave Michelle Avella
Paola Ramirez	School Psychologist	HS	The daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1.	(Continuous Assignment) 9/1/19 to 12/18/19	Maternity Leave Elisa Murphy

7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of non-affiliated staff members for the 2019-2020 school year** as per the attached list. [See Appendix Page TBD](#)

8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Haquisha Q. Taylor as Business Administrator/Board Secretary for 2019-2020 school year**, based upon the terms and conditions of the contract of employment approved by the Executive County Superintendent for the period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. [See Appendix Page 79](#)

9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following testing assignments for implementation of the 2019 Summer NJSLA as outlined below:

Name	Assignment	Rate/Hours	Total Not to Exceed
James Puliatte	Testing Coordinator for 2019 Summer NJSLA	Not to exceed 5 days at \$386.15 per diem rate for 2018-2019	\$1,930.75
David Cuozzo Britney Butler Matt Cohn	Testing Examiners for 2019 Summer NJSLA	Maximum of 12 hours per person @ \$45.00 per hour for a total not to exceed \$540.00 per person.	\$540.00 per person x 3 = \$1,620.00

10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the **2019 Summer Math Advancement Program Staff**, pending adequate/appropriate enrollment, to be held from July 8, 2019 to August 9, 2019, as indicated below:

Name	Assignment	Hourly Rate	# of Hours Per Day	# of hours not to exceed	Total not to exceed
Angela Johnson	Algebra I Honors Teacher	\$48.43	6	150	\$7,264.50
Brad Deitsch	Pre-Algebra Honors Teacher	\$48.43	6	150	\$7,264.50
Arianna Egloff	Nurse	\$48.43	6	48	\$2,324.64
Dominique Kondreck	Nurse	\$48.43	6	102	\$4,939.86
Total					\$21,793.50

11P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **the 2019 Summer Employment for the School Nurse to approve physicals for student athletes prior to camp**, as outlined below:

Summer 2019 Additional Staffing				
Name	Position	Maximum # of Hours	Hourly Rate of Pay	Total Not to Exceed
Nateka Brewton	School Nurse	Up to 14 additional hours	\$45.00	\$630.00



- 12P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following high school student as an **Academy of Finance (AOF) Summer Intern** for a Summer Internship for Central Office at the rate of \$10.00 per hour, not to exceed 200 hours each, effective July 8, 2019 through August 30, 2019.

AOF Summer Internships	
Name	Location Assignment
Kameliya Didar	Board Office

- 13P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of additional 2019 Extended School Year (ESY) Summer Program Related Service Providers** staffing, based upon IEP needs and pending adequate/appropriate enrollment, as follows:

Summer 2019 ESY Staffing					
First Name	Last Name	Position	# of Hours Not to Exceed	Hourly Rate	Stipend Not to Exceed
Salome	Gonzalez	Behaviorist	40	\$48.43	\$1,937.20
Andrea	Mayes	LLD 1/2	42	\$17.75	\$745.50

- 14P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the additional **2019 Summer Employment of Child Study Team** staff members, as outlined below:

Summer 2019 CST Case Management Staff					
First Name	Last Name	Position	# of Hours Not to Exceed	Hourly Rate	Stipend Not to Exceed
Rachel	DiBartolo	General Education Teacher	15	\$45.00	\$675.00

- 15P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the **District Substitutes for the 2019-2020 school year** as indicated on the attached list. [See Appendix Page 78](#)

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these above appointments are subject to and conditioned upon proof of compliance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1b, Criminal History Records Checks for Substitutes.

- 16P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **placement of the following Internships, Student Teachers or Practicum Candidates** during the 2019-2020 school year:

<b><u>Internships/Student Teachers/Practicum Candidates</u></b>							
<b><u>Referring University</u></b>	<b><u>Student Name</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Placement</u></b>	<b><u>Subject Area</u></b>	<b><u># Hours</u></b>	<b><u>Months From-To</u></b>	<b><u>School Placed</u></b>	<b><u>Cooperating Staff Member</u></b>
Kean University	Nazanin Ostovar	Practicum	School Counseling	300	Sept – Dec 2019	S2	Meghan Lynch

- 17P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **amending the stipend**, for the co-curricular activity outlined below for the 2018-2019 school year, previously approved on Resolution No. 29280 dated September 24, 2018.

<b>2018-2019 Applicant</b>	<b>Co-Curricular Activity</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>18-19 Amended Stipend</b>	<b>Agenda Date</b>
Rachel Ventrella	Environmental Co-Advisor – S#4	A	\$212.60 (prorated @ 10% for Sept 2018)	6/3/19
Genna Kornweiser	Environmental Co-Advisor – S#4	A	\$1,913.40 (prorated @ 90% from Oct 2018 to June 2019)	6/3/19

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Ms. Colbath, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #17P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 7-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Cho asked that the Administration look into subscription bussing once more.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Romba commended the Fort Lee Public Library Board on its 100th anniversary “Evening in the Stacks” event.

Mr. Rota shared that the time for the National Honor Society induction has not been finalized.

Mr. Rota reminded Board members that there will may be a Special Board meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> and that he awaits Board members' availability for quorum.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, to adjourn, 8:14 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Haquisha Q. Taylor*

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**HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR**  
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/mo  
06-10-19