

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

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
April 1, 2019  
SCHOOL NO. 3 – ALL PURPOSE ROOM  
6:33 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Mrs. Han Silver.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Richter.

**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 March 25, 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, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell (6:43 p.m.), Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba (6:36 p.m.), Mr. Michael Rubino (8:35 p.m.- left), Mrs. Lauran Tuck, Mrs. Esther Han Silver

**Also Present:** Mr. Kenneth Rota, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Dr. Sharon Amato, Ms. Nestor (6:43 p.m.), Attorney

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Ms. Colbath, at 6:35 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:28 p.m.

### **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Rota reported that there were seven (7) HIB investigations. Three (3) were founded.

Mr. Rota thanked Mr. Berman for hosting the Board Meeting and welcomed him to introduce the Fort Lee School No. 3 presentation.

Mr. Berman gave some background on the collaboration between the Fort Lee High School Academy of Theater Arts and the School No. 3 Musical Theater program. Mrs. Etra and her students have worked with the School No. 3 students in producing a musical for the past four years. To date, they have performed Seussical the Musical, the Wizard of Oz, Bye Bye Birdie and this year, The Little Mermaid. Mr. Berman then introduced the cast of the Little Mermaid who performed several scenes from this year's show. After the performance, he thanked everyone involved, including the BOE and Mr. Rota for their ongoing support of this program.

Administrators and teachers from Schools No. 1 – 4, Middle School and the Fort Lee High School shared their respective proposed school goals aligned with district level goals.

Mrs. Han Silver introduced the student representative from the Fort Lee High School, sophomore, Yasmine Kahtane.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Romba shared that the 1<sup>st</sup> Coffee and Conversation is scheduled for April 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fort Lee High School Media Center.

Mr. DiMeglio shared that the Negotiations Committee met with the four finalists being considered to be named attorney for the district.

Mrs. Han Silver shared that the School Security Committee met before the meeting but Mr. Rubino had to leave and the report will be given at the next meeting.

### **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Ms. Cho inquired about lunch increases and anticipated surplus.

Ms. Taylor shared the 2018 surplus per the 2018 audit as \$36,000.

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

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to open the floor to the public, 8:38 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Winnie Yau, parent, inquired about the buses for preschool.

Julianne Chen, student, expressed discontent with the heating and cooling system at School No. 3.

Sarah Kriksciun, School No. 3 parent, expressed concern with the Strategic Planning Goals not addressing the huge disparities among race and overcrowding. She also wishes for the Board to address the heating/cooling in the classrooms.

Amy Ko-Tang, School No. 3 parent, expressed concern in the lower per pupil slide of the budget presentation, overcrowding, and fans taken away from classroom.

Tyrene Gibson, parent of a former FLHS student, expressed her disappointment with the FLBOE.

Mrs. Tuck responded to Ms. Gibson's criticism.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to close the floor to the public, 9:01 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **BOARD**

**1B**      **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the  
**Tabled**      following **minutes**:

Public Business Meeting Minutes	March 18, 2019
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	March 18, 2019

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Cho, to Table item #1B.

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 8-0.

**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, approves the attendance of Board Members at the following workshops:

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>AMOUNT PER PERSON</u>
GPS for Visionary Leadership	May 3 – 5, 2019	Esther Han Silver Candace Romba	Princeton Marriot Hotel and Conference Center 100 College Road East Princeton, NJ 08540	GSA Rate Mileage and Tolls - Not to exceed \$65 per person

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #2B through #3B.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, with exception. Mrs. Romba and Mrs. Han Silver abstained on their names on item #3B.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

**1B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following change order:

<b>CHANGE ORDER SUMMARY SHEET</b>	<b>OWNER</b>	Fort Lee BOE
<b>PROJECT NO. 14-8231</b>	<b>ARCHITECT</b>	SSP Architectural Group
	<b>CONTRACTOR</b>	Dobco, Inc.

**PROJECT:** Fort Lee Board of Education  
Additions and Alterations Phase 2  
Lewis F. Cole Middle School

**Date:** February 15, 2019

<b>CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>C.O. NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>AMT APPLIED TO ALLOWANCE</b>
Dobco, Inc.	CO-23	PCO#00085 – Added GWB Soffit PCO#00094 – Bulletin #12 PCO#00098 – Added Brick Window Blocking	\$10,293.17	\$0.00

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1B&G.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

**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 9](#)

**2CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the amending of the school calendar to reflect a **Delayed Opening for 11th and 12th grade students only to arrive at 9:45 a.m. from April 8-12, 2019**, due to NJSLA Testing. This resolution supersedes Resolution No. 29511 dated March 18, 2019.

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, 8-0.

**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 \$731,445.49 for April 2019 checks**. [See Appendix Page 10](#)

**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
50" HD Television	\$240.00	PTA – School No. 2	School No. 2
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$240.00</b>		

- 3F** **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following **breakfast and lunch prices for the 2019-2020 school year**.

Elementary Breakfast Paid	\$1.85	Elementary Breakfast Reduced	.30
Elementary Lunch Paid	\$3.00	Elementary Lunch Reduced	.40
Middle School Breakfast Paid	\$1.85	Middle School Breakfast Reduced	.30
Middle School Lunch Paid	\$3.00	Middle School Lunch Reduced	.40
High School Breakfast Paid	\$1.85	High School Breakfast Reduced	.30
High School Lunch Paid	\$3.00	High School Lunch Reduced	.40
Faculty Lunch	\$4.00		

- 4F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to utilize **joint transportation services with the Leonia Public Schools Board of Education** for out-of-district transportation of students at a cost not to exceed \$47,775.00 for the 2018-2019 school year, plus an additional fee of \$105.00 per diem for in-district transportation as needed. [See Appendix Page 26](#)
- 5F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of additional hours for **Melanie Catalano to provide Graphic Design Services** for Recruitment and District Newsletters during the 2018-2019 school year to be paid at the rate of \$50 per hour, not to exceed 10 hours.
- 6F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **payment of \$350 for each Performer for services rendered by the following adult musicians for the High School Spring Musical**:

Robin Lee - Guitar 1  
Jang Yoon - Guitar 2  
Sung Jung Noh - Bass  
Wesley Ostrander – Drums

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #6F, with exception. Ms. Colbath abstained on #3F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

### **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 29](#)

- 2P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **appointments for the 2018-2019 school year**, pending verification of employment:

<b><u>APPOINTMENTS</u></b>						
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Position Control #</b>	<b>Annual Salary Prorated</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Erica	Martin	Special Education English Teacher	HS	06-2404-01	Step2/BA+20 \$58,030.00	4-22-19
Jenny	Bussanich	1:1 Paraprofessional (.83)	S3	03-9101-114	Step 1/ Degreed \$21,019.00	4-2-19

- 3P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **transfers for the 2018-2019 school year**:

<b><u>TRANSFERS</u></b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>From Location</b>	<b>From Position</b>	<b>To Location</b>	<b>To Position</b>	<b>Salary Change Prorated</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Pooja Bhansali	LFCMS	PT Paraprofessional (.5) 05-9101-107	LFCMS	PT Paraprofessional (.83) 05-9101-78	Step 1/ Degreed \$21,019.00	4-11-19

- 4P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby 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
Mary Antunez	Paraprofessional	S2	Federal Family Leave	Amended	2/25/19 - 3/6/19	N/A	3/7/19 - 4/21/19	4/22/19
Mudje Tekere	Paraprofessional	S2	Maternity	New	5/31/19 - 6/21/19	6/22/19 - 3/31/20	4/1/20 - 6/30/20	9/1/20
Margaret Ng	PT Clerical	S2	Medical	New	N/A	N/A	4/8/19 - 4/28/19	4/29/19
Samantha Milgram	Kindergarten Teacher	S2	Maternity	New	9/1/19 - 9/22/19	9/23/19 - 4/30/20	5/1/20 - 6/30/20	9/1/20

- 5P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **leave replacements** during the 2018-2019 school year, as outlined below:

<b><u>LEAVE REPLACEMENTS</u></b>					
Name	Grade/Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Antoinette Burns	Teacher Spec Ed Inclusion Grade 2	S4	Sub pay for the first 10 days \$100 per day, day 11-60 \$110 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits (Continuation)	Amended Work Days: 03/08/19 to 06/30/19	Maternity Leave A. Henry

- 6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of the following Substitutes** for the 2018-2019 school year:

<b><u>Substitutes</u></b>
Mimoza Morina

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of the following Substitutes** for the 2018-2019 school year:

<b><u>Substitute Resignations</u></b>	
Name	Effective Date
Raffaella Bavaro	3/31/19
Jean Charles	3/31/19



- 7P 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 2018-2019 school year:

Referring University	Student Name	Type of Placement	Subject Area	# Hours	Months From-To	School Placed	Cooperating Teacher
Montclair State University	Carolyn DeLucca	Practicum	School Counseling	100	Sept 2019 – December 2019	School 3	Meghan Lynch

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #7P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

## POLICY

- 1POL THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **second reading and adoption of the following policy/regulation updates** listed below: [Click here for 2019-04-01 #1POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P&R 1581.1	Domestic Violence (M) - (New)
P 2422	Health and Physical Education (M) (Revised)
P 2431.3	Practice and Pre-Season Heat-Acclimation for School-Sponsored Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities (Revised)
P 2610	Educational Program Evaluation (M) (Revised)
P 4219	Commercial Driver's License Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use Testing (M) (Revised)
P&R 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)
P 5330.04	Administering an Opioid Antidote (M) (Revised)
R 5330.04	Administering an Opioid Antidote (M) (New)
P 5337	Service Animals (Revised)
P 5756	Transgender Students (M) (Revised)
P&R 7440	School District Security (M) (Revised)
P 8612	Day Care Transportation (New)
P 8561	Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs (M) (Revised)
P 8860	Memorials (Revised)
P 2415.06	Unsafe School Choice Option (M) (Revised)
R 2460.8	Special Education – Free and Appropriate Public Education (M) (Revised)
P&R 5611	Removal of Students for Firearms Offenses (M) (Revised)
P&R 5612	Assaults on District Board of Education Members or Employees (M) (Revised)
P&R 5613	Removal of Students for Assaults with Weapons Offenses (M) (Revised)
P&R 8461	Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, Alcohol, and Other Drug Offenses (M) (Revised)

MOTION by Ms. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1POL.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Morell inquired about taking a tour of the new 5/6 building.

Mr. Rota shared that it will have to be on a Sunday when the workers are not there or during the week after 4:00 p.m., when the weather gets warmer.

Mrs. Han Silver congratulated School No. 3 on the Vinnie Buda basketball tournament.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to adjourn, 9:07 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Haquisha Q. Taylor*

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HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR  
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/mo  
04-05-19