

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
September 23, 2019
FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL – MEDIA CENTER
6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mrs. Han Silver.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Ms. Cho.

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, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell (6:55 p.m.), Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mrs. Luran Tuck, Mrs. Esther Han Silver

Also Present: Mr. Kenneth Rota, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Mr. Dennis McKeever, Attorney

Absent: Dr. Sharon Amato

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Richter, at 6:47 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:32 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Rota shared that there were three (3) HIB investigations. One (1) was founded.

Mr. Rota congratulated Fort Lee freshman Stephanie Yakoff who won the 2019 BCWCA Large School 1st Singles title at this year's BCWCA Girls Tennis Tournament.

Mr. Rota shared that Fort Lee lost three (3) members of the school community, Charlie Janesak, John Brunton and Gina Graziano Hempton, and requested a moment of silence to honor their remembrance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Richter shared that the Curriculum Committee met on September 18th. She shared that Dr. Amato shared updates as it related to curriculum. Some of the items discussed were the standard-based report cards and the transition from quarterly report cards to trimester report cards at the elementary level.

Mr. Rubino shared that the School Security Committee met. They met with the Chief of Police.

Ms. Colbath shared that she and Mrs. Tuck sit on the Legislative Committee for the School Boards Association in Trenton. They met on September 14th and the Mallory's Law was discussed. This law was named after Mallory Grossman, the Rockaway Township 12-year-old who died by suicide after she was allegedly bullied by classmates.

Ms. Colbath shared that she attended the School Finance Committee meeting at the New Jersey School Boards in Trenton. She stated that Monroe Township sent some Board members to present a resolution regarding S2 which NJSBA is currently looking at. Also, they were given eye opening information on the State budget.

Ms. Colbath further shared that the Bergen County School Boards Association met with the Business Administrator group. Two issues were highlighted: starting a program called Unsung Heroes and in the Spring hoping that all the Bergen County schools will nominate a student who is non-athlete for recognition.

Ms. Colbath also shared that in Westwood the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office want to impose a 24/7 access to school video.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

None.

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, 7:44 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Amy Ko-Tang, School No. 3 PTA, thanked the Board for the air conditioning at School No. 3. She also expressed displeasure with overcrowding of the 1st grade classes and asked if there are plans to alleviate overcrowding.

Sara Krikscivn, School No. 3 parent, expressed displeasure with the reduction of number of classes. She asked if the Board would consider opening another class with a teacher (not an aide).

Mr. Rota shared that there is no policy that dictates minimum/maximum # of students.

Ms. Gibson, parent of a former FLHS student, expressed displeasure with mediator selection process and distributed letter to the Board.

Nermin Ucar, School No. 3 parent, expressed displeasure with the overcrowding of the 1st grade classes.

Aben Lee, School No. 3 parent and nurse, congratulated the Board for the opening of the new building. She also expressed displeasure with the overcrowding of the 1st grade classes.

Jin Zhang, School No. 3 parent, expressed displeasure with the overcrowding of the 1st grade classes.

Amy Ko-Tang, School No. 3 parent, applauds the opening of the new Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School. She also shared that information on family night at School No. 3.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to close the floor to the public, 8:01 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes
Private Executive Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2019
September 9, 2019

- 1CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **class trips** listed on the attached summary. [See Appendix Page 11](#)
- 2CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Houghton Mifflin Harcourt to provide small group teacher **professional development training on the new “GoMath” Program for all teachers of grades K-4**, at a total cost not to exceed \$9,968.00, to be charged against account #20-270-200-320-30-000.
- 3CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **District Nursing Services Plan** for the 2019-2020 school year, as per the attached. [See Appendix Page 12](#)
- 4CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Agreement between Meaningful Directions Therapeutic Services, LLC and the Fort Lee Board of Education** to provide a yoga and mindfulness program to high school juniors during the 2019-2020 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$12,000, to be paid with Title IV-A grant funds. [See Appendix Page 21](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Richter, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR through #4CUR.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0.

FINANCE

- 1F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, has received and accepts the **financial reports of the Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for the month ending July 2019** and certifies that the reports indicate that no major account or fund is over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the school year. [See Appendix Page TBD](#)
- 2F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, confirms the **line item transfers for the month of July 2019**. In order to accomplish the aforesaid purpose, the Business Administrator was authorized to transfer the amount of money into and out of the line items set forth on the attached schedule. [See Appendix Page TBD](#)
- 3F** **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 \$2,187,550.25 for September 2019 checks**. [See Appendix Page 29](#)
- 4F** **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 **Cafeteria bills list in the amount of \$9,624.47** for September 2019 checks. [See Appendix Page 56](#)

5F **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	\$300.00	Lenicioni Real Estate LLC 2200 Fletcher Avenue Fort Lee, NJ	Marching Band Trip to Washington DC

6F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Board President and School Business Administrator to execute a **Non-Resident Private Tuition-Student Agreement for MC**, a non-resident student, to attend Fort Lee High School for the 2019-2020 school year. Tuition rate to be determined by the Business Office and according to Board policy.**

7F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Salaries Charged to Grants** for the 2019-2020 school year as follows.**

EMPLOYEE	POSITION CONTROL #	GRANT	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT #	% OF TOTAL SALARY
Rachel DiBartolo	02-1408-05	Title I	\$34,435.00	20-231-100-101-00-002	55.87%
Olivia Matsoukas	03-1408-04	Title I	\$24,264.00	20-231-100-101-00-003	28.88%
Stefanie Pinajian	06-1408-07	Title I	\$73,025.00	20-231-100-101-00-006	74.34%
Brittany Butler	07-1904-05	Title I	\$53,067.00	20-231-100-101-00-007	86.67%
Ashley Rice	07-1408-06	Title I	\$52,037.00	20-231-100-101-00-007	77.98%
James Puliatte	07-2410-01	Title II	\$30,370.00	20-270-200-100-00-000	39.32%
Tara Deady	02-1411-02	IDEA	\$98,493.00	20-250-100-101-00-100	92.89%

8F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to **renew the following amended transportation Route No. 0010-Fort Lee Intermediate School with First Student Incorporated from \$26,213.67 to \$52,427.34, for the 2019-2020 school year.****

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #8F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0.

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 58***

2P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **employment contract for Dr. Sharon Amato as Assistant Superintendent**, as approved by the Executive County Superintendent, for the period September 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, at an annual salary of \$178,950.00. [See Appendix Page 61](#)

3P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **resignation**:

<u>RESIGNATIONS</u>			
Employee	Position	Location	Effective Date
Maya Goldstein	Paraprofessional (Declined Position)	LFCIS	9/9/19

4P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **creation of 3 new positions** for the 2019-2020 school year.

New Position	Location	Position Control #	Account #	Reason
Paraprofessional – FT (1.0)	S1	01-9101-118	11-190-100-106-00-000	26+ Enrollment-Grade K
Paraprofessional – PT (.83)	LFCIS	05-9101-120	11-000-217-100-00-000	504 need
Paraprofessional – PT (.83)	S3	03-9101-119	11-000-217-100-00-000	504 need

5P **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:

<u>APPOINTMENTS</u>						
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Position Control #	Annual Salary Prorated (Pending Negotiations)	Effective Date
Kimberly	Bouchard	Teacher Grades 7-8 Language Arts	LFCMS	06-1106-06	\$57,930.00 Step 3/BA+10	9/17/19 Amended
Karin	Cehreci	Personal Aide Grade 3 Inclusion 1:1 (.83) (Amended)	S4	04-9101-110	\$21,019.00 Step 1/ Degreed (Amended)	9/1/19
Khelly	Romero-Bustamante	Personal Aide Grade 7-8 LLD 1:1 (.83)	LFCMS	06-9101-81	\$17,752.00 Step 1/ Non Degreed	9/24/19
Martha	Franco	Personal Aide Grade 5 1:1 504 (.83)	LFCIS	05-9101-120	\$21,019.00 Step 1/ Degreed	9/25/19
Malik	Lopes	Instructional Aide Grade 9-12 Resource (.83)	FLHS	07-9101-59	\$21,019.00 Step 1/ Degreed	9/24/19
Denise	Mahanian	Instructional Aide Grade 2 Inclusion (.83)	S1	01-9101-23	\$21,019.00 Step 1/ Degreed	9/24/19
Dawn	Hoth	Instructional Aide Grade 1 Inclusion (.83)	S1	01-9101-24	\$21,019.00 Step 1/ Degreed	9/24/19
Hye	Shim	Instructional Aide PK Inclusion (.83)	S2	02-9101-04	\$21,019.00 Step 1/ Degreed	9/25/19
Rachael	Harris	Personal Aide Grade 4 1:1 504 (.83)	S3	03-9101-119	\$21,019.00 Step 1/ Degreed	9/24/19

6P **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.

TRANSFERS						
Name	From Location	From Position	To Location	To Position	Salary Change	Effective Date
Julia Anderson	FLHS	Instructional Aide Resource 9-12 (1.0) 07-9101-59	FLHS	Personal Aide Grade 9 1:1 (1.0) 07-9101-06	N/A	9/1/19
Jessica Molinaro	LFCIS	Personal Aide Grade 5 1:1 (.83) 05-9101-97	LFCIS	Instructional Aide Grade 5 Inclusion (.83) 05-9101-70	N/A	9/1/19
Christina Foti	S1	Instructional Aide Grade 2 Inclusion (.83) 01-9101-23	S1	Instructional Aide Grade K - 26+ (1.0) 01-9101-118	\$26,393.00 prorated	9/24/19
Andrew Park	S4	Instructional Aide Phys Ed (.5) 04-9101-44	S4	Instructional Aide Phys Ed (.7) 04-9101-44	\$17,727.00 prorated	9/16/19
Pooja Bhansali	LFCMS	Personal Aide Grade 8 1:1 (.83) 06-9101-78	LFCIS	Instructional Aide Grade 6 Resource (.83) 05-9101-67	N/A	9/24/19
Caryn Gilbert	LFCMS	Personal Aide Grade 7-8 LLD 1:1 (.83) 06-9101-81	LFCMS	Personal Aide Grade 8 1:1 (.83) 06-9101-78	N/A	9/24/19

7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **leaves**:

LEAVES								
Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amended	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Steffanie Honore	Paraprofessional	S2	Maternity	New	11/7/19 to 12/9/19	12/10/19 to 3/31/20	N/A	4/1/20
Rachel Cola	School Psychologist	S2	Medical	New	11/1/19 to 1/1/2020	N/A	N/A	1/2/20

8P **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:

LEAVE REPLACEMENTS					
Name	Grade/ Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Leo Ellison	Teacher Social Studies	HS	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	9/25/19 to 12/31/19	Gina Graziano- Hempton (Medical)

9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the **Board of Education**, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following **Detention Monitors for students** for the 2019-2020 school year to be paid at the rate of \$50 per hour:

Middle School	High School	
Joseph Berlingo Debra Brigida Stephen Klapach Brian Larcheveque	Kristen Baldofsky Chloe Bass Cinzia Bernardo Gabby Brown Holly Cuff Chris Della Fave Suzanne Elkhechen	Allison Evangelista Sandy Friedlander Rachel Healy Kelly Horton Matt Pokoj Charles Salame Stephen Wolowitz

10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following additional appointments of **Athletic Game Workers for the 2019-2020 school year**, to be paid at the rate of \$40.00 per game. These people may work in the following capacities and will be reimbursed \$40.00 per event:

Game Workers (Gate Personnel, Crowd Control, Clock Operator, Site Manager, Announcer) 2019/2020 School Year
Lewis Maira

11P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **payment to 8 Teacher Mentors** for New Teacher Orientation, for a maximum of 3 hours each at \$45.00 per hour, not to exceed \$135.00 per mentor for a total cost of \$1,080.00, to be charged to Account #11-000-223-104-00-000.

Joseph Berlingo	Galo Mendoza
Stephen Dominguez	Solanlly Ortega
Monique Kim	Gabrielle Sietsma
Elizabeth Lembo	Philip Zappel

12P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Building Technology Assistants** at a non-pensionable stipend of \$2,000 for the 2019-2020 school year:

Location	Name	
School No. 1	Erika Cirone	Prorated 9/1/19 to 10/15/19
School No. 1	Mary Venizelos	Prorated 10/16/19 to 6/30/20
School No. 2	Maria Ibelli-Castano	
School No. 3	Marrietta Golenischew	
School No. 4	Rachel Ventrella	
Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School	Eleni Despotakis	
Lewis F. Cole Middle School	Cean Spahn	
Fort Lee High School	Doug Walden	
Fort Lee High School	Sophia Karabatsos	

13P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **the appointment of Certificated Home Instructors for the 2019-2020 school year**, at the hourly rate of \$45.00 per hour for teaching staff and \$30.00 per hour for certified paraprofessionals. [See Appendix Page 71](#)

14P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Co-Curricular Advisors** for the 2019-2020 school year. All appointments are subject to completion of all personnel documentation and fingerprinting process, prior to starting of said activities. [See Appendix Page 72](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #14P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Colbath shared when you approach class sizes of 28; it may discourage teachers.

Mr. Rota asked for a Board volunteer to sit on the NJQSAC Committee. Mrs. Holly Morrell volunteered.

Mrs. Morell congratulated Dr. Sharon Amato on her new position.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Colbath was contacted by a few people about wanting another bike rack.

Ms. Cho asked if the lunch menu can be put up on the Intermediate website.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to adjourn, 7:56 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor

HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/mo
09-24-19