

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
November 18, 2019
FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL – AUDITORIUM
6:45 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 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 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 (6:47 p.m.), Ms. Paula K. Colbath (7:05 p.m.), Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell (7:05 p.m.), Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba (7:05 p.m.), Mr. Michael Rubino, Mrs. Lauran Tuck, Mrs. Esther Han Silver

Also Present: Mr. Kenneth Rota, Dr. Sharon Amato, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Ms. Jaclyn Morgese, Attorney

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

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

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Rota shared that there were eleven (11) HIB investigations. Four (4) were founded.

Mr. Rota shared that the Fire and Security Drills for October are posted on the website.

Mr. Rota introduced the Fort Lee High School marching band, Mr. Harry Welte and parents.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Colbath shared that the Policy Committee met after the last meeting on one (1) policy relating to the advisory committee.

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, 7:55 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Miho Sharpe, parent of FLHS student, spoke regarding AP Japanese exam. Even though curriculum is not offered in the school, the exam can be taken. Parent would like the Fort Lee Board of Education to offer the opportunity for Japanese and Chinese AP exams.

Sarah Kriksciun & Amy Ko-Tang, moms on the School No. 3 PTA Board, came tonight to thank the Board of Education for responding to class size issues and presented the Board with 20 cupcakes.

Chiaki Aboushaca, parent of FLHS student, stated there are twenty-four (24) kids who would like to take the AP Japanese exam. It would be great if an AP Japanese exam can be offered.

Tyrene Gibson, a parent of a former FLHS student, mentioned that a litigation letter went out to all Board members. She stated that initially there is no legal obligation that a retired judge has to be used. She further shared that voluntary mediation was recommended by the Board attorney.

Christopher Della Fave, staff member, read a statement regarding employee turnovers.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to close the floor to the public, 8:17 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:

Private Executive Meeting Minutes	October 14, 2019
Public Business Meeting Minutes	November 4, 2019
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	November 4, 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, 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>
Bergen County Meeting – Wellness & Mental Health	Tuesday, December 3, 2019	Paula Colbath Holly Morell Kenneth Rota Lauran Tuck	Holiday Inn 283 NJ-17 Hasbrouck Heights, NJ	-0-
Annual Delegate Assembly	Saturday, November 23, 2019	Paula Colbath Holly Morell	The Conference Center at Mercer County Community College Campus 1200 Old Trenton Road West Windsor, NJ	GSA Rate Mileage and Tolls - Not to exceed \$65 per person

4B **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, adopts and implements the annual **Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between the Fort Lee Police Department and Fort Lee Public Schools** for the 2019-2020 school year. [See Appendix Page 9](#)

MOTION by Ms. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, that the Fort Lee Board of Education amends item #2B to table HIB #4 [MS-0] from the HIB report.

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

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #4B (item #2B as amended).

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0, with exception Ms. Colbath, Mrs. Morell and Mrs. Tuck who abstained on their own name on item #3B.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

1B&G **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education authorizes an extension of the **Construction Management Services Contract with Turner Construction Company relating to Phase II for the addition at Lewis F. Cole Middle School** from November 1, 2019 through November 15, 2019 at a cost not to exceed \$17,243.64.

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, 9-0.

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 amended out-of-district placement for the 2019-2020 school year**. This resolution supersedes Resolution No. 29883 dated October 14, 2019 for this student.

Student	Placement	Dates	Tuition/Costs
#99000228	Today's Learning Center (TLC) for Exceptional Children 199 Scoles Avenue Clifton, NJ 07012	9/5/19 – 10/31/19 (As amended)	Prorated Tuition of \$8,360.00 (\$209.00 per half diem) Transportation Cost: \$8,000.00 (As Amended) (\$200.00 per diem)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **following additional out-of-district placement for the 2019-2020 school year**:

Student	Placement	Dates	Tuition/Costs
#28080516	Windsor Bergen Academy 56 Passaic Street Ridgewood, NJ 07450	11/18/19 – June 2020	Annual Tuition of \$65,233.38 prorated to \$40,732.58 (133 days @ \$306.26 per diem). Transportation Cost: \$8,645.00 (133 days @ \$65.00 per diem)

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

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 September 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 43](#)
- 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 September 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 79](#)
- 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 \$5,356,062.76 for November 2019** checks. [See Appendix Page 13](#)
- 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 \$198,849.42** for November 2019 checks. [See Appendix Page 38](#)
- 5F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **amendment of the contract for the Jewish Family and Children's Services of North Jersey, Inc. (JFCS) Extended School Day Program** for the 2019-2020 school year. [See Appendix Page 41](#)
- 6F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Prom Date for Fort Lee High School to be held on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at the Legacy Castle in Pompton Plains, NJ.**

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #6F.

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 40*
- 2P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **resignations**:

<u>RESIGNATIONS</u>			
Employee	Position	Location	Effective Date
Peter Crawley	Assistant Business Administrator	CO	12/1/2019 Amended

- 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:

<u>APPOINTMENTS</u>						
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Position Control #	Annual Salary Prorated (Pending Negotiations)	Effective Date
Belgica	Polanco	Assistant Business Administrator	CO	00-0122-01	\$100,000.00	1/21/20 or sooner
Leo	Ellison	Teacher Social Studies	HS	07-2402-01	\$59,530.00 Step 1/MA (pending negotiations)	11/4/19

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.

TRANSFERS						
Name	From Location	From Position	To Location	To Position	Salary Change	Effective Date
Nancy Schondorf	IS	Personal Aide Grade 6 Resource 1:1 05-9101-108	S2	Personal Aide Grades K-1 ASD 02-9101-121	N/A	12/2/19
Caryn Gilbert	MS	Personal Aide Grade 8 1:1 06-9101-78	IS	Personal Aide Grade 6 Resource 1:1 05-9101-108	N/A	12/2/19
Jennifer Buda	IS	Personal Aide Grade 6 LLD 1:1 05-9101-66	IS	Instructional Aide Grade 6 Resource 05-9101-67	N/A	12/2/19
Marta Ortiz	CO	Confidential Secretary 00-9300-04	IS	School Secretary 05-9300-16	N/A	1/15/20
Hugo Bortoli	IS	Custodian 05-9400-18	MS	Custodian 06-9400-11	N/A	9/1/19
Miguel MkCullock	MS	Custodian 06-9400-11	IS	Custodian 05-9400-18	N/A	9/1/19
Faranaz Lak	IS	Personal Aide Grade 6 Resource 1:1 05-9101-98	MS	Personal Aide Grade 8 1:1 06-9101-98	N/A	9/9/19

5P **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
Jennifer Leyton	Teacher Art	S3	Medical	Amended	10/7/19 - 1/14/20	N/A	N/A	1/15/20
Eleni Despotakis	Teacher Art	IS	Maternity	New	3/2/20 - 3/29/20	3/30/20 - 6/30/20	NA	9/1/20
Darrell Deluise	Custodian	S1	Medical	New	11/18/19 - 12/13/19	N/A	N/A	12/16/19
John Ziemba	Teacher Physical Education	S4	Medical	New	11/11/19 - 12/6/19	N/A	N/A	12/9/19
Lauren Brickner	Teacher Special Education Resource	IS	Maternity	New	1/13/20 - 1/31/20	N/A	2/1/20 - 6/30/20	9/1/20

Janine Mendoza	Teacher Grade 2	S1	Maternity	Amended	11/4/19 - 1/14/20	1/15/20 - 3/31/20	N/A	4/1/20
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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:

LEAVE REPLACEMENTS					
Name	Grade/ Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Stela Bastijancic	Teacher Special Education	MS	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	Amended 10/17/19 to 5/4/20	Marjorie O'Connell
Genesis Martinez	Teacher World Language Spanish	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 (pending certification)	11/14/19 to 3/3/20	Ada Acosta Cheherian (Maternity)
Jacy Macias	Teacher Grade 5	IS	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	11/18/19 to 1/3/20	Christine D'Anna (Medical)
Kathleen Miller	Teacher Grade 2	S1	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 - Continued Assignment	Amended 11/4/19 to 4/2/20	Janine Mendoza (Maternity)

7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following as **Substitutes** for the 2019-2020 school year:

SUBSTITUTES
Destinee Fornes Genesis Martinez Gerald Crane Katrina Dumcic

8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of the following additional Faculty Coordinator** for the 2019-2020 school year:

Faculty Coordinators		
Name	Department	Stipend
April Coniglio	Special Education-HS	\$5,000 prorated from 11/18/19 to 6/30/20

- 9P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Yordanis Morales, a Custodian who maintains a CDL license, to fill the capacity of a Bus Driver on an as needed basis**, at a non-pensionable stipend of \$2,000 for the 2019-2020 school year:
- 10P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **Lola Nannas to provide up to 30 hours of proofreading for the high school yearbook** at the hourly rate of \$20.00, for a total not to exceed \$600.00.
- 11P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **placement of the following Student Teachers or Practicum Candidates** during the Spring 2020 semester:

Referring University	Student Name	Type of Placement	Subject Area	Duration	Months From-To	School Placed	Cooperating Teacher
New Jersey City University	Julia Haviland	Clinical Practice	Music Education	600 hours	January – May 2020	S1	Lisandra Hernandez
Columbia University	Samuel Ko	Field Internship	Social Work	600 hours	November 19 – June 2020	IS	Stephanie Borgono

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #2P and items #4P through #11P. Mrs. Morell expressed with regret on item #2P.

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

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #3P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 6-3.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Tuck remarked on how great the newsletter came out.

Mrs. Han Silver mentioned about the reports with regards to New Jersey School Boards and wanted to know if anyone remembered, and being that a second Executive Session was going to take place if it can be pushed to the December meeting.

Ms. Colbath asked if there were any developments on a retreat date. Ms. Colbath recommends maybe a book club idea for consideration as a board retreat.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Han Silver shared in terms to the Negotiations. There is a small group meeting on Wednesday morning and a Negotiations meeting with FLEA and the mediator will be held in the evening on Thursday, November 21, 2019.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, at 8:27 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 8:54 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Colbath, to adjourn, 8:57 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
11-25-19