

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
February 3, 2020
FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL – MEDIA CENTER
6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Mrs. Romba.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Rubino.

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; 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, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, , Mrs. Esther Han Silver (6:45 p.m.)

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

Absent: Ms. Paula K. Colbath, Mrs. Lauran Tuck

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mr. Rubino, at 6:39 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Rota shared that there were eight (8) HIB investigations. Six (6) were founded.

Mr. Rota posted for the Board's review the School Safety Data System (SSDS Report) for the 1st period (July 1st to the end of 2019).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

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. Romba, seconded by Ms. Cho, to open the floor to the public, 7:38 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

Tyrene Gibson, parent of a former FLHS student, distributes to Board members copies of FLBOE Regulation 5512 [HIB]. Ms. Gibson expressed displeasure that a HIB investigation was never completed in her daughter's case as the FLBOE Regulation requires.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to close the floor to the public, 7:48 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**:

Private Executive Meeting Minutes	November 18, 2019
Public Business Meeting Minutes	January 21, 2020
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	January 21, 2020

- 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:

17. The nature of the investigation;
18. Whether the District found evidence of HIB;
19. Whether discipline was imposed;
20. Whether services were provided to address the incident of HIB.

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1B through #2B.

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 8](#)

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 2019-2020 school year:**

Student	Placement	Dates	Tuition/Costs
#23100133	Cornerstone Day School 12 Commerce Drive Cranford, NJ 07016	1/21/2020 – June 2020	Annual Tuition of \$86,358.50 prorated to \$41,216.70 (105 days @ \$392.54 per diem). Transportation Cost of \$26,040.00 (105 days @ \$248.00 per diem).
#23080403	Cornerstone Day School 12 Commerce Drive Cranford, NJ 07016	1/28/20 – June 2020	Annual Tuition of \$86,358.50 prorated to \$39,254.00 (100 days @ \$392.54 per diem). Transportation Cost of \$28,500.00 (100 days @ \$285.00 per diem).
#33099	BCSS-Washington South Elementary 355 East Ridgewood Avenue Paramus, NJ	1/21/20 – June 2020	Annual Tuition of \$64,480.00 prorated to \$35,464.77 (99 days @ \$358.23 per diem). Related Services OT 2x30 individual; Speech 3x30 individual, PT 2x30 individual, home programming services 2x120. Cost of 1:1 Aide prorated to \$28,600.00. Transportation costs TBD.

MOTION by Mrs. Richter, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #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, has received and accepts the **financial reports of the Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for the month ending December 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 9*
- 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 December 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 45*
- 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 \$5,525,917.68 for February 2020 checks**. *See Appendix Page 47*
- 4F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby accepts the **Audit Report for the year ending June 30, 2019** as prepared by PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP, Certified Public Accountants. *See Appendix Page 71*
- 5F **WHEREAS**, the Audit Report for the year ending June 30, 2019 as prepared by PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, was accepted by this Board on January 21, 2020; and
- WHEREAS**, the Audit contains recommendations which were read and discussed at the public meeting as indicated on the Corrective Action Plan attached to this resolution.
- NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of this Board is hereby directed to proceed as indicated in said Corrective Action Plan; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution, together with a copy of the synopsis of the **Audit Report and the Corrective Action Plan**, will be filed with the County Superintendent of Schools. *See Appendix Page 76*
- 6F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **contract with the DoubleTree by Hilton for the Fort Lee High School 2020 Performing Arts Awards Banquet** to be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at a price of \$40.00 per person.

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, 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 69*

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

<u>LEAVES</u>								
Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amended	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Claribel Kwon	Personal Aide	MS	FMLA	New	N/A	N/A	1/22/20 -to 2/18/20	2/19/20
Christina Lopez	Teacher ESL	S3	Maternity	New	5/23/20 to 6/12/20	N/A	6/13/20 to 6/30/20	9/1/20

3P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Spring Coaches** for the 2019-2020 school year, as follows. All appointments are subject to completion of all personnel documentation and fingerprinting process, prior to starting of said activities.

Coach	Sport	Position	Season	Class	Step	Stipend
Peter Kraljic Jr	Baseball	Head Coach	Spring	II	2	\$8,975
Ian Oates	Baseball	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Diego Lombardo	Baseball	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Gerard Carroll	Baseball	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Crystal Vargas	Softball	Head Coach	Spring	II	2	\$8,975
Zachary Schlemm	Softball	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	1	\$5,955
Brianna Mattessich	Softball	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Dana Amato*	Softball	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Daniel Cirone	Boys Track	Head Coach	Spring	II	2	\$8,975
Demba Mane	Boys Track	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Nicole Pacciani	Boys Track	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Charlie Salame	Girls Track	Head Coach	Spring	II	2	\$8,975
Angela Johnson	Girls Track	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Sean Scully	Golf	Head Coach	Spring	III	1	\$4,893
Philip Zappel	Boys Tennis	Head Coach	Spring	III	2	\$5,349

*Non-Staff Member

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Volunteer Athletic Coaches** for the 2019-2020 Spring Season, with no compensation, as follows:

William Straub – Baseball	Leo Ellison - Baseball
Nicole Piccinich – Track & Field	Kellie Lane – Track & Field
Renee Mattesich – Track & Field	Neil Grant – Boys Tennis

4P **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
Simona Ardolina

5P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **payment of unused vacation days for Suzette Rivera, Secretary to the Intermediate School Principal, in the amount of \$4,847.75**, based upon 13 days at a per diem rate of \$193.91 for the 2018-2019 school year, and for 12 days at a per diem rate of \$193.91 (pending negotiations) for the 2019-2020 school year.

6P **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:

<u>Internships/Student Teachers/Practicum Candidates</u>							
<u>Referring University</u>	<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Type of Placement</u>	<u>Subject Area</u>	<u># Hours</u>	<u>Months From-To</u>	<u>School Placed</u>	<u>Cooperating Staff Member</u>
Seton Hall University	Silvia Maresca	Clinical Experience	Upper Literacy & Mathematics	60	2/4/20 – May 2020	S1	Jill Purritano
William Paterson University	Donovan Figueroa	Clinical Experience	Athletic Training	150	2/4/20 – May 2020	HS	Tom Hur

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #6P.

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

POLICY

1POL **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **first reading of the following policy/regulation updates** listed below: [Click here for 2020-02-03 #1POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P 2431	ATHLETIC COMPETITION

2POL **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 2020-02-03 #2POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P 5536	STUDENT RANDOM DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Cho shares that there appears to be water leaking at the Intermediate School. Ms. Cho further commented that there are visible water marks in the hallway.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Amato announced that they are going to have a Go Math night on Wednesday night, February 5th at the Fort Lee High School Media Center that will be open to the community.

Mrs. Han Silver announced that Mrs. Colbath recently attended the National School Board Association Workshop – Advocacy Institute in Washington, DC, and Mrs. Tuck attended the National School Board Association Workshop – Equity Symposium in Washington, DC. Mrs. Han Silver shared that we look forward to hearing their respective reports on the workshops.

Ms. Taylor introduced Belgica Polanco, new Assistant Business Administrator.

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. Romba, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, to re-open the floor to the public, 7:52 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

Ms. Mahogany Sanders, School No. 4 parent, expressed the importance of Black History month and requested that the Board review for distribution to School 4 staff a package that includes "Culturally Responsive Teaching" principles.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to close the floor to the public, 7:59 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

MOTION by Mr. Rota, seconded by Mr. Rubino, at 8:00 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Cho, to adjourn, 8:38 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor

HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/toc
02/10/2020