

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

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
April 20, 2020  
Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/95524582123>  
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 Mr. Rubino.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Public Announcement was read by Mrs. Han Silver.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Ms. Elisa Cho, Ms. Paula K. Colbath, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell (6:48 p.m.), Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mrs. Lauran Tuck, Mrs. Esther Han Silver.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Ms. Cho, at 6:49 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:34 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Rota shared that there are no HIB investigations to report.

Mr. Rota introduced Dr. Sharon Amato to present the NJSLA science scores. Dr. Amato made a brief statement regarding the scores and then introduced Ms. Lauren Carrubba, Director of School Counseling Services, to present the NJSLA science exam scores data for grades 5, 8 and 11. Mr. Mark Bitar, Supervisor, also commented on the science exam scores.

Ms. Colbath inquired about the next level of action, suggesting professional development and a short presentation at a future Board meeting to allow concrete timeliness to move ahead.

Mrs. Tuck inquired if the Equity Task Force has any updates. Board conversation ensued discussing the disparities in race and economic test scores. Ms. Cho asked about a breakdown of sub-groups. Dr. Amato advised that there is a breakdown on the School Report Card which is available on the website.

Mr. Rota and Ms. Taylor thanked Dr. Amato, Ms. Carrubba and Mr. Bitar for their explanations on the NJSLA science exam score data.

Mr. Rota turned the meeting over to Ms. Taylor to open the discussion on the Refinancing of the Bond Ordinance.

Ms. Taylor explained that tonight we present the second reading of the Refinancing of the Bond Ordinance. School districts can refinance their bonds just like homeowners can refinance their mortgages, and tonight's agenda #3B poises to do just that. In 2012, the district issued \$1.845 Million in tax-exempt school bonds and the Board seeks to refinance a little over \$10 Million of them. Adopting tonight's Bond Ordinance enables the Board to potentially realize going forward debt services savings for Fort Lee property tax payers. The sale of the Refinancing Bond is contingent upon a favorable interest rate environment.

Ms. Taylor introduced the Board's Municipal Financial Advisor, Ms. Robbie Acampora of Phoenix Advisors, and the Board's Bond Counsel, Ms. Lisa Gorab of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer to summarize the Bond Refinancing process. After hearing from them, the Board President will formally open the floor to the public for any comments on the proposed Bond Refinancing Ordinance.

Ms. Acampora of Phoenix Advisors introduced herself as the District's Financial Advisor and explained the process and potential savings of the refinancing of the bonds and tax laws. She mentioned that the Federal Government is going to begin looking for some relief for municipalities in the future. Once the legal proceeding is approved on tonight's agenda, they will still need a month or so to get a bond rating, do all the official documents and actually sell the bonds.

Ms. Lisa Gorab of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer explained the logistics of the process through the first reading of the Bond Ordinance. This is the second process for the final adoption that authorizes the sale of bonds explaining; (1) The interest rates come down and you are able to finance these closer to the call date; or (2) if the Federal laws change and allows you to refinance the bonds now at the tax-exempt rate to take advantage of that revision in the law as well. All of the savings that the Board would be receiving on the bond issue are not of any cost of issuance. You are not going to be extending the time period of the bond (same as 2012). This is an opportunity for the Board to take bonds that are outstanding at a rate which is higher than the current rate and refinance them at a lower rate.

Ms. Han-Silver thanked Ms. Taylor, Ms. Acampora and Ms. Gorab for explaining the details for the proposed Bond Refinancing adoption.

**PUBLIC HEARING – COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON TONIGHT'S PROPOSED REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE ADOPTION**

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, to open the floor to the public for the Bond Refinancing only, at 8:03 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

**Public Comments**

None.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Colbath, to close the floor to the public, 8:05 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

#1P was addressed regarding Dr. Amato's departure from the Fort Lee School District. The Board applauded Dr. Amato for her outstanding performance and contributions during her 36 years with the Fort Lee School District. Mrs. Han Silver shared that Dr. Amato successfully achieved many milestones while working through the ranks of the District. She has thorough knowledge of the curriculum, and will be sadly missed. All the Board members shared the same sentiments and commended her on her outstanding performance over 36 years.

Ms. Cho inquired if we anticipate a projected surplus renewing our contract with Pomptonian. Ms. Taylor shared that we are projecting a deficit with a detailed explanation of this projection. She also shared that the projected deficit is the first time occurring in the Fort Lee School District's history.

**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 Mrs. Romba, to open the floor to the public, 8:18 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Mr. Howard Lipoff requested clarification of the job description noted in the attachments. Ms. Taylor explained that the job description was not a topic of discussion and recommended if Mr. Lipoff has any questions to discuss with Jaime Murphy, Human Resource Director.

Uriel Sapir inquired how the Board of Education plans on handling remote schooling because it does not appear the students will be returning to school anytime soon. Mr. Rota shared that an instruction online program has been in place for the past four weeks with the exception of the Spring Break week, and the teachers continue to improve their online teaching skills.

Stephen Dominquez thanked Dr. Amato for being an amazing teacher and leader in many sense of the words. She will be sorely missed.

Julene Stassou shared her appreciation of all Dr. Amato has done for her and her daughters and that she will be truly missed at the Fort Lee School District.

Lisa Li inquired if kindergarten registration will be online or via email. Mr. Rota shared that the BOE is in the process of working on electronic registration.

Amy Ko-Tang thanked teachers, principals, staff and BOE for all their extraordinary efforts during this time of crisis. Ms. Ko-Tang especially thanked Dr. Amato for her compassion towards the students over the years.

Audrey Greenberg wishes all to maintain good health, and that she is completely amazed at the teachers for conducting remarkable distant learning. She shared that this is an extreme pandemic that is tremendously effecting the education system in all districts. She expressed concern that the grading system is not changing and inquired if there has been discussion on this topic. Mr. Rota shared that he is discussing various options of grading with administrators and teachers to include pass/fail at the Middle and Intermediate Schools and possibly the High School. He acknowledged that teaching methods should be consistent.

Ping-Fang Kinney shared that she is pleased that the teachers established a collaborative website for the kindergartners and it is working well. She would like to see more consistency with the teaching methods for the third grade students. Ms. Kinney expressed concerns that students' questions are not being responded to by some of the teachers which is very stressful. She shared that students miss the socialization with other students and teachers. Mr. Rota shared that the PTA establishes activities for the students, and that he will have the principal contact Ms. Kinney to address her questions and concerns.

Kyle Sanford inquired the status of students utilizing Zoom. Mr. Rota shared that the teachers are utilizing the online platform that they are most comfortable working with. Mr. Sanford expressed concerns if the Governor permits the students to return to school that it will be a challenge for them to abide by the social distancing regulations. Mr. Rota shared that if the students can return to school the social distancing will need to be relaxed.

Mimi Jean-Louis inquired if the administration is researching all options for an online graduation ceremony.

Bonnie Weisner inquired if there has been consideration for conducting end-of-the year activities (i.e., academic and sports awards).

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to close the floor to the public, 8:52 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to re-open the floor to the public, 8:53 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Louise LaMotte shared that her and her children's experience with the teachers' educational online instructions has been fantastic.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to close the floor to the public, 8:55 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

**RESOLUTIONS**

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes	April 6, 2020
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	April 6, 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:

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** **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIONS NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$12,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF REFUNDING SCHOOL BONDS AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO DO ALL ACTS AND THINGS DEEMED NECESSARY AND ADVISABLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE, ISSUANCE AND DELIVERY OF SAID BONDS**

**WHEREAS**, on August 16, 2012, The Board of Education of the Borough of Fort Lee in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) issued \$18,450,000 aggregate principal amount of tax-exempt School Bonds (the "2012 School Bonds"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined that the interest rate environment may enable it to realize going-forward debt service savings for property taxpayers residing in the School District through the issuance by the Board of Refunding School Bonds (the "Refunding School Bonds") to refund all or a portion of the \$10,120,000 aggregate principal amount of the outstanding 2012 School Bonds maturing on or after November 1, 2023 (the "Refunded Bonds"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board introduced a refunding school bond ordinance (the “Refunding Bond Ordinance”) on first reading by resolution of the Board on April 6, 2020, and

**WHEREAS**, on the date hereof, the Board has held a public hearing on the Refunding Bond Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined to issue and sell such Refunding School Bonds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board now desires to authorize certain actions in connection with the sale and issuance of the Refunding School Bonds.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The Refunding Bond Ordinance is hereby adopted and shall take effect immediately.

**SECTION 2.** The Refunding School Bonds are hereby authorized to be sold to an Underwriter (the “Underwriter”), as selected by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with the Municipal Advisor (as defined herein) after a proposal process.

**SECTION 3.** There is hereby delegated to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, subject to the limitations contained herein and in consultation with Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Woodbridge, New Jersey, Bond Counsel to the Board (“Bond Counsel”) and Phoenix Advisors, LLC, as Municipal Advisor to the Board (the “Municipal Advisor”) the power with respect to the Refunding School Bonds to determine and carry out the following:

- a) the sale of the Refunding School Bonds at private sale, provided that the purchase price paid by the purchaser thereof shall not be less than ninety-five percent (95%) of the principal amount of the Refunding School Bonds so sold;
- b) the principal amount of Refunding School Bonds to be issued, provided that (i) such amount shall not exceed \$12,000,000, and (ii) such amount shall not exceed the amount necessary to pay the costs of issuance associated with the Refunding School Bonds and to fund the deposit to the escrow fund as set forth in the Escrow Deposit Agreement (as defined herein) in an amount that, when invested, will be sufficient to provide for the timely payments required for the Refunded Bonds;
- c) the maturity dates and the principal amount of each maturity or sinking fund redemption amount of the Refunding School Bonds, provided that no Refunding School Bonds refunding the Refunded Bonds shall mature later than the maturity date of the Refunded Bonds;

- d) the interest payment dates and the interest rates on the Refunding School Bonds, provided that the true interest cost on the Refunding School Bonds shall produce a present value debt service savings of at least three percent (3%) of the principal amount of the Refunded Bonds;
- e) the denomination or denominations of and the manner of numbering and lettering the Refunding School Bonds, provided that all Refunding School Bonds of like maturity shall be identical in all respects, except as to denominations, amounts, numbers and letters;
- f) provisions for the sale or exchange of the Refunding School Bonds and for the delivery thereof;
- g) the Refunding School Bonds shall be substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto with such additions, deletions and omissions as may be necessary for the Board to market the Refunding School Bonds in accordance with the requirements of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, ("DTC") and the Purchase Contract (as defined herein); [See Appendix Page 14](#)
- h) the direction for the application and investment of the proceeds of the Refunding School Bonds;
- i) the terms of redemption of the Refunding School Bonds, if any; and
- j) any other provisions deemed advisable by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary not in conflict with the provisions hereof.

In addition, the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds shall comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 5:30-2.5, including that within ten (10) days of the date of the closing on the Refunding School Bonds, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall file a report with the Local Finance Board within the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs setting forth (a) a comparison of the Refunding School Bonds' debt service and the Refunded Bonds' debt service, which comparison shall set forth the present value savings achieved by the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds; (b) a summary of the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds; (c) an itemized accounting of all costs of issuance in connection with the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds; and (d) a certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary that (i) all of the conditions of Section (b) of N.J.A.C. 5:30-2.5 have been met, and (ii) this resolution authorizing the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds, adopted pursuant to 18A:24-61.5(b), was approved by a two-thirds vote of the full membership of the Board.

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall execute a certificate evidencing the determinations or other actions taken pursuant to the authority

granted hereunder, and any such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the actions or determinations of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary as to the matters stated therein.

**SECTION 4.** The President and Vice President of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to execute by manual or facsimile signature the Refunding School Bonds in the name of the Board and the corporate seal (or facsimile thereof) shall be thereunto affixed, imprinted, engraved or otherwise reproduced thereon. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to attest to such signature and to the affixing of said seal to the Refunding School Bonds.

**SECTION 5.** The Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with Bond Counsel and the Municipal Advisor, is hereby authorized and directed to approve a Bond Purchase Contract (the "Purchase Contract"), if required, for the Refunding School Bonds, to be dated the date of sale of such Refunding School Bonds and to be executed by the Purchaser. The President, Vice President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed on behalf of the Board to execute and deliver said Purchase Contract. [See Appendix Page 17](#)

**SECTION 6.** The Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with Bond Counsel and the Municipal Advisor, are hereby authorized and directed to apply and qualify for the issuance of any policy of municipal bond insurance and to approve a Commitment for Municipal Bond Insurance (the "Commitment") setting forth the terms and conditions (including premium charges) upon which a bond insurer proposes to issue its bond insurance policy covering the Refunding School Bonds. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed on behalf of the Board to execute and deliver said Commitment.

**SECTION 7.** The Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with Bond Counsel and the Municipal Advisor, is hereby authorized and directed to approve the Escrow Deposit Agreement (the "Escrow Deposit Agreement") with an escrow agent (the "Escrow Agent") to be selected by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with Bond Counsel and the Municipal Advisor, with respect to the Refunded Bonds, to be dated the date of the closing on the Refunding School Bonds. The President and Vice President of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Escrow Deposit Agreement in the name of the Board and the corporate seal (or facsimile thereof) shall be thereunto affixed, imprinted, engraved or otherwise reproduced thereon. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to attest to such signature and to the affixing of said seal to the Escrow Deposit Agreement. The Municipal Advisor is hereby authorized to act as the agent and representative of the Board for the purpose of subscribing for the purchase of United States Treasury Securities – State and Local Government Series to be held by the Escrow Agent. In the alternative, if United States Treasury Securities – State and Local Government Series are not available, the Municipal Advisor is hereby authorized to seek bids for the acquisition of United States Treasury Securities – Open Market Securities.



**SECTION 8.** The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to select a verification agent (the "Verification Agent"), if required, in consultation with Bond Counsel and the Municipal Advisor, with respect to the Refunded Bonds. The Verification Agent shall prepare the verification report required to verify the sufficiency of the escrowed monies to refund the Refunded Bonds.

**SECTION 9.** It is hereby delegated to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary the authority to "deem final" (as defined under Rule 15c2-12, as amended and supplemented (the "Rule") promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended and supplemented) a Preliminary Official Statement (the "Preliminary Official Statement") and such officials are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver a certificate to the Underwriter evidencing the same. The preparation and distribution by the Board, in consultation with Bond Counsel, and counsel to the Underwriter, if any, of a Preliminary Official Statement for the Refunding School Bonds to be used in connection with the marketing of such Refunding School Bonds, is hereby approved and any previous actions undertaken by various representatives and officers of the Board with respect thereto are hereby ratified and confirmed. Upon the sale of the Refunding School Bonds to the Underwriter, the Preliminary Official Statement shall be so modified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with Bond Counsel, to reflect the effect of the pricing of the Refunding School Bonds and the Purchase Contract and any other revision not inconsistent with the substance thereof deemed necessary or advisable by Bond Counsel, and said Preliminary Official Statement as so modified shall constitute the final Official Statement (the "Official Statement"). The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized and directed on behalf of the Board to execute and deliver said Official Statement.

**SECTION 10.** The Board hereby covenants and agrees that it will comply with and carry out all of the provisions of a Continuing Disclosure Certificate (the "Certificate") which will set forth the obligation of the Board to file budgetary, financial and operating data on an annual basis and notices of certain enumerated events deemed material in accordance with the provision of the Rule. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver this Certificate evidencing the Board's undertaking with respect to the Rule. Notwithstanding the foregoing, failure of the Board to comply with the Certificate shall not be considered a default on the Refunding School Bonds; however, any Bondholder may take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandamus or specific performance to cause the Board to comply with its obligations hereunder.

**SECTION 11.** The President, Vice President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary or any other appropriate officer or representative of the Board, are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents and to do and cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary or proper for carrying out the transactions contemplated by this resolution, the Purchase Contract, the Escrow Deposit Agreement and the Commitment, and for the authorization, sale and issuance of the Refunding School Bonds. The execution by such officials and officers of any such documents, with changes, insertions or omissions approved by the Business

Administrator/Board Secretary, in consultation with Bond Counsel, as hereinabove provided, shall be conclusive and no further ratification or other action by the Board shall be required with respect thereto.

**SECTION 12.** All other resolutions adopted in connection with the Refunding School Bonds and inconsistent herewith are hereby rescinded to the extent of such inconsistency.

**SECTION 13.** This resolution shall take effect immediately. The foregoing resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote on April 20, 2020.

**4B WHEREAS,** the Fort Lee Board of Education properly advertised to prospective firms in accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:18A-21(a) et seq. on February 27, 2020 and received proposals due March 17, 2020 for Legal Services; and

**WHEREAS,** in response to the health emergency posed by COVID-19, the Bergen County Executive issued Executive Order No. 2020-01 on March 10, 2020 declaring a State of Emergency in Bergen County establishing mandates to combat COVID-19 including the mandate ordering all Bergen County schools to close effective 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby **rejects all Legal Services proposals due to the interruption of the procurement process caused by the Public Health Emergency.**

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

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

### **CURRICULUM**

**1CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the establishment of new special education programs or services for 2020-2021 for submission to the County Office for final approval. [See Appendix Page 18](#)

Location	Special Education Program
School No. 2	Full Day Preschool Disabilities Class
School No. 3	K/1 Learning/Language Disabilities (LLD) - Severe
School No. 4	3/4 Grade Learning and Language (LLD) Class
Fort Lee High School	HS Learning and Language Disabilities (LLD) Class

**2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following NJDOE accredited **public school academic program providers that offers courses for advancement and credit recovery, to be delivered in either traditional or online format, for the 2020 Summer Session and the 2020-2021 school year at no cost to the district.** Advancement and credit recovery will be granted only with written consent from the Guidance Department. Students are responsible for all fees associated with these programs.

Bogota High School  
Dwight Englewood High School  
Educere Online  
PAMOJA Online  
Paramus Catholic High School  
Leonia High School  
Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOECS)/NJ Virtual School  
The Virtual High School  
Ridgewood High School

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, 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 February 2020** 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 February 2020**. 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 \$269,968.06 for April 2020 checks**. *See Appendix Page 32*
- 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 **Athletics bills list in the amount of \$21,284.00 for April 2020 checks**. *See Appendix Page 41*

**5F** **WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education awarded the 2019-2020 Food Service Management Contract to Pomptonian on June 17, 2019 per its proposal response including all terms, conditions, and specifications contained therein for an administrative/management fee of \$0.25 per meal; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the health emergency posed by COVID-19, the Bergen County Executive issued Executive Order No. 2020-01 on March 10, 2020 declaring a State of Emergency in Bergen County establishing mandates to combat COVID-19 including the mandate ordering all Bergen County schools to close effective 3pm on Friday, March 13, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education's commitment to continued meal service for students who qualify for free and reduced-priced meals during the School District's closure require Pomptonian to distribute meals at a reduced number of school sites with daily meals served going from the initial projected 2,556 per day to an average of 20 per day beginning March 16, 2020;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the execution of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Emergency Procurement 2019-2020 Contract Modification for Pomptonian including a \$535 per diem administrative/management fee, all payroll costs associated with the emergency feeding, all purchases of food and supplies and any other direct expenses beginning retroactively from March 16, 2020 until school reopening but cannot extend past June 30, 2020. [See Appendix Page 43](#)

**6F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the first renewal of the Food Service Management contract with Pomptonian, the Food Service Management Company ("FSMC"), for the 2020-2021 school year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the FSMC shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, an administrative/management fee of \$0.255 per reimbursable meal and meal equivalent to compensate the FSMC for administrative and management costs with fees being billed monthly as a cost of operation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the total number meals are calculated by adding reimbursable meal pattern meals served to meal equivalents with the number of reimbursable meals served to the children determined by actual count; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that cash receipts, other than from sales of reimbursable program meals served to the children, shall be divided by the meal equivalent rate, \$3.66, to arrive at an equivalent meal count; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that administrative/management fees are calculated by multiplying \$0.255 by the total number of meals.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the FSMC guarantees Fort Lee Board of Education, the School Food Authority ("SFA") a minimum profit of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) for school year 2020-2021.

**7F THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby **authorizes the cancellation of the following dated outstanding checks** with funds from said outstanding checks being realized in the current General Fund as Miscellaneous Revenue:

Agency			High School Athletics		
4/20/2018	2252	\$283.48	10/4/2017	12232	\$160.00
5/4/2018	2254	\$283.48	4/2/2018	12472	\$83.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$566.96</b>	10/26/2018	12667	\$58.00
Custodian			11/15/2018	12691	\$58.00
11/21/2016	61858	\$65.00	11/15/2018	12695	\$91.00
1/17/2017	62215	\$375.00	11/15/2018	12696	\$58.00
1/17/2017	62363	\$1,326.00	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$508.00</b>
1/17/2017	62367	\$884.00	Payroll		
1/17/2017	62453	\$442.00	12/23/2015	176185	\$40.00
1/17/2017	62457	\$442.00	10/25/2016	179039	\$271.03
4/17/2017	63058	\$10.54	10/25/2016	179040	\$514.97
5/22/2017	63309	\$550.00	11/4/2016	179074	\$2.64
6/19/2017	63625	\$417.00	11/4/2016	179101	\$433.66
6/19/2017	63747	\$884.00	11/18/2016	179190	\$465.69
6/30/2017	63857	\$47.12	12/2/2016	179247	\$30.80
8/21/2017	63982	\$85.00	1/27/2017	179674	\$90.32
8/21/2017	64010	\$442.00	2/10/2017	179797	\$90.90
9/5/2017	64090	\$65.97	3/10/2017	179980	\$180.65
1/16/2018	65191	\$500.00	3/24/2017	180072	\$270.97
1/16/2018	65340	\$1,000.00	4/7/2017	180209	\$55.05
1/16/2018	65372	\$500.00	10/6/2017	181053	\$182.27
1/16/2018	65375	\$500.00	12/15/2017	181330	\$1,317.95
2/5/2018	65534	\$240.00	3/23/2018	181884	\$2,095.98
4/2/2018	65975	\$105.00	4/30/2018	181999	\$416.25
5/7/2018	66196	\$275.00	4/30/2018	182192	\$1,847.14
6/18/2018	66681	\$500.00	4/30/2018	182212	\$112.98
6/18/2018	66722	\$500.00	4/30/2018	182256	\$69.48
6/18/2018	66742	\$500.00	4/30/2018	182282	\$1,101.41
6/18/2018	66759	\$500.00	4/30/2018	182383	\$1.23
8/27/2018	67133	\$7.92	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$9,591.37</b>
9/12/2018	67236	\$387.93	Public School Special		
11/5/2018	67584	\$115.88	9/28/2017	300504	\$7.80
11/5/2018	68428	\$2,754.00	10/19/2017	300507	\$27.65
11/30/2018	68429	\$470.00	8/27/2018	300547	\$23.40
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$14,891.36</b>	8/27/2018	300548	\$13.70
			<b>Total</b>		<b>\$72.55</b>

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Ms. Cho, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #7F.

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, with regret, **the retirement of Dr.**

**Sharon Amato, as Assistant Superintendent**, in Central Office, after dedicating 36 years of service to the district, effective September 1, 2020.

**2P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of staff members under the Fort Lee Education Association (FLEA) Collective Bargaining Agreements for the 2020-2021 school year, pending negotiations**, in the following categories as per the attached list. [See Appendix Page 44](#)

- **Teaching Staff Members**
- **Custodial and Maintenance Staff Members**
- **Secretarial/Clerical Staff Members**
- **Paraprofessionals**

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

<b><u>RESIGNATIONS</u></b>			
<b>Employee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Natalie Khatchadourian	PT Paraprofessional	S1	7-1-2020

**4P 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>								
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>New or Amended</b>	<b>Paid Leave</b>	<b>Unpaid Leave with benefits</b>	<b>Unpaid Leave No Benefits</b>	<b>Return Date</b>
Gabrielle Sietsma	Teacher Grade K ASD	S2	Maternity	Amended	5/13/20 to 6/19/20	6/20/20 to 6/30/20	N/A	9/1/20

**5P 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 and 2020-2021 school years:

Internships/Student Teachers/Practicum Candidates							
Referring University	Student Name	Type of Placement	Subject Area	# Hours	Months From-To	School Placed	Cooperating Staff Member
NJ Excel	Diane Baker	Internship	School Administrator	150	2-2020 to 9-2020	Central Office	Dr. Sharon Amato

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #5P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0 on Item #2P through #7P. Item #1P (to accept the retirement of Dr. Amato) was approved, with reluctance, upon roll call vote 7-2. Mrs. Morell voted no on Item #1P.

**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 2020-04-20 #1POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
R3432.1 / 4432.1	FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

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, 9-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Cho inquired if a new site has been established to pick up lunches. Mr. Rota and Ms. Taylor shared that the new site is the Middle School and the turnout of families picking up lunches has been low and are not seeing the demand that the administration anticipated.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Morell gave a huge shout out to the teachers that created videos for the students. They are heart-warming, enlightening, and simply phenomenal. Mr. Rota shared that all the videos will be posted on the Fort Lee District website for all to see.

Ms. Cho expressed her opinion that pass/fail should be a topic of discussion with the Board. Board conversation ensued regarding instituting pass/fail for grades 5 through 12.

Mrs. Han Silver shared deepest condolences to Mr. DiMeglio and his family for the recent loss of his mother. She thanked him for his participation in tonight's Board meeting considering his devastating loss.

Mrs. Han Silver closed the meeting with heartwarming words and thanked all the parents, teachers, and the kids for staying strong during these difficult times.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to adjourn, 9:06 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Haquisha Q. Taylor*

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

HQT/toc  
04/23/2020