

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
May 4, 2020
Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/93744717680>
6:45 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:49 p.m. by Mrs. Han Silver.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Morell.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Announcement was read by Mrs. Han Silver.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Paula K. Colbath, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell, 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

Absent: Ms. Elisa Cho

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, at 6:52 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:31 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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

Mr. Rota shared there was no Fire, Security or Bus Drill reports for March or April.

Mr. Rota proudly announced that the FLBOE brand new online registration portal was activated today allowing not only kindergarten registration but new entrants into the District to register. Mr. Rota thanked Mr. Ruggiero, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Frate, and Ms. Alfaro for a job well done working together to activate the online registration successfully.

Mr. Rota shared that the online education program continues to progress and the teachers are expanding their skills providing students with a very positive online learning experience. He encouraged parents to contact the teachers and principals with any concerns and/or questions regarding the distance learning programs and student assignments.

Mrs. Han Silver expressed kudos to the kindergarten online registration team who feverishly worked on establishing the online portal.

Mrs. Han Silver reminded all in attendance at the Zoom Board meeting that it is Teacher Appreciation Week and the importance to express gratitude for the fantastic job they are doing teaching while balancing their home lives during these very difficult and struggling times.

Mrs. Han Silver shared that the Preliminary 2020-2021 budget was approved by the Board of Education at the March 9th Board meeting and subsequently approved by the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools on March 24th. The Preliminary 2020-2021 Budget Presentation was posted on the district's website on March 10th. Tonight is the Public Hearing on the FINAL ADOPTION OF THE 2020-2021 Budget.

PUBLIC HEARING – COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON TONIGHT'S FINAL ADOPTION OF THE 2020-2021 BUDGET

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, to open the floor to the public for the Final Adoption of the 2020-2021 Budget only, at 7:40 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Public Comments

None.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to close the floor to the public, 7:41 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

Ms. Colbath shared there are twelve (12) items under the Policy Resolution and provided an overview of these policies that will require the District's attention.

Dr. Amato addressed a couple of the policies and how the District is prepared to handle them. Dr. Amato encouraged anyone with any concerns and/or questions to feel free to reach out to her. If anyone has any suggestions regarding these policies, they will be taken into consideration for the

second read.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Ms. Colbath inquired about the tax levy increase.

Ms. Taylor shared the details of the percentage increases year-over-year for general and revenue tax levy, and addressed the waiver increase.

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. Tuck, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to open the floor to the public, 7:49 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Mr. Jordan Sarnoff inquired if there is a plan to certify graduating seniors on June 26th and if Diplomas will be conferred on that date. Mr. Rota shared administrators and himself have been strategizing to ensure seniors will be awarded their Diplomas and will be certified as graduates. The plan has not been formalized at this time.

Mr. David Sarnoff expressed his gratitude for an extraordinary role Dr. Amato played in bridging the past to the future helping build a strong Fort Lee District and how she was instrumental in developing an amazing curriculum. He sincerely thanked Dr. Amato for all her efforts and support towards his family and the community.

Ms. Julene Stassou inquired if there can be discussion to reduce the student instructional days to 180 days. Mr. Rota shared that the Board members are currently having discussions regarding the end of the year calendar considering multiple options to reduce the contractual days from 183 to 180.

Ms. Stassou inquired if snow days can be eliminated and substituted with virtual/distance learning in the future. Mr. Rota shared it certainly is being considered. However, if there is an unpredicted storm, students and teachers would be unable to prepare for a virtual lesson online.

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to close the floor to the public, 7:58 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 following minutes:

Public Business Meeting Minutes
Private Executive Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2020
April 20, 2020

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

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

CURRICULUM

1CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **submission of 2020-2021 Perkins Secondary Grant Application to New Jersey Department of Education.**

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

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 \$753,203.34 for May 2020 checks.** *See Appendix Page 7*

2F 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 \$8,286.23 for May 2020 checks.** *See Appendix Page 21*

3F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the use of the Enrollment Adjustment in the amount of \$788,372 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-38 in the Final 2020-2021 School District Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves **the inclusion in the Final 2020-2021 School District Budget** of a withdrawal from Capital Reserves in the amount of \$1,820,000. Budgeted Fund Balance in the amount of \$912,000 will combine with a withdrawal from Capital Reserves to total \$2,732,000 as follows:

Capital Reserve Projects	
School #3 Security Vestibule Completion	\$100,000
Fort Lee High School Window Replacements	\$800,000
School #1 Window Replacement	\$300,000
Fort Lee High School Locker Replacements	\$300,000
Fort Lee High School Cafeteria/Office A/C Installation	\$412,000
Lewis F. Cole Middle School Cafeteria A/C Installation	\$320,000
School #1 Field Renovation	\$125,000
School #4 Field Renovation	\$375,000
Total Capital Reserve Projects	\$2,732,000

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the **Final 2020-2021 School District Budget** as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$76,332,507	\$68,211,586
Special Revenue Fund	1,348,092	-0-
Debt Service Fund	4,273,338	3,863,731
Total Base Budget	\$81,953,937	\$72,075,317

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #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, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Mark Adams, as a Technology Teacher at Lewis F. Cole Middle School**, after dedicating 15 years of service to the district, effective July 1, 2020.

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
Stacey Dee	Teacher Grade 3	School 3	7-1-20
Peter Vilardi	Assistant Principal	High School	7-1-20

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

<u>APPOINTMENTS</u>						
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Position Control #	Annual Salary Prorated Pending Negotiations	Effective Date
Peter	Romano	Teacher Special Education English	FLHS	07-2404-01	BA+10 Step 12 \$81,530.00	9/1/2020
Katie	Dublirer	School Social Worker	LFCMS	New 20-21	MA Step 5 \$63,730.00	9/1/2020
Julianna	Bottiglieri	Teacher Math Special Education (Pending Certification)	LFCMS	06-2400-13	MA Step 1 \$59,530.00	9/1/2020
Jacy	Macias	Teacher Grade 5 LAL/SS with Spec Ed	LFCIS	New 20-21	BA Step 2 \$56,530.00	9/1/2020
Meredith	Gavzy	Teacher Grade 2	S1	01-1000-07	BA Step 8 \$67,830.00	9/1/2020
Kathleen	Miller	Teacher Kindergarten	S1	01-1003-06	BA Step 2 \$56,530.00	9/1/2020
Ariana	Glogower	Teacher Grade 1	S1	01-1000-03	MA Step 1 \$59,530.00	9/1/2020

4P **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
Allison	Teacher	HS	Personal	New	N/A	N/A	9/1/20 to	9/1/21

Evangelista	Physical Education and Health						6/30/21	
Lauren Carney	Speech Language Specialist	S1	Maternity	Amended	5/4/20 to 5/31/20	N/A	6/1/20 to 6/30/20	9/1/20
Karen Simone-Osso	Teacher Grade 3	S1	Maternity	New	9/14/20 to 10/12/20	10/13/20 to 1/14/21	N/A	1/15/21
Courtney Teitell	Teacher Grade 5	IS	Maternity	Amended	3/11/20 to 4/6/20	4/7/20 to 5/20/20	N/A	5/21/20
Raul Sanchez	Maintenance	CO	Medical	New	4/6/20 to TBD	N/A	N/A	TBD

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

LEAVE REPLACEMENTS					
Name	Grade/ Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Arleen Artinian	Teacher Grade 2	S3	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 Continuous Assignment	5/21/20 to 1/5/21	Mishell Chung (Maternity)
Meeta Mahtani	Teacher Kindergarten	S2	Renewed for Continuous Assignment	9/1/20 to 6/30/21	Samantha Milgram (Maternity)
Jennifer Cella	Teacher Special Ed Pre-K	S2	Renewed for Continuous Assignment	9/1/20 to 6/30/21	Sally Macaluso (Maternity)

6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **salary adjustment for Anthony Duffy, a Custodian, to include the \$350.00 Black Seal stipend**, to be prorated effective as of December 1, 2019.

7P **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 Administrator's Group (FLAG) Agreement for the 2020-2021 school year**, in the following categories as per the attached list. [See Appendix Page 23](#)

- Principals
- Assistant Principals
- Director of Special Education
- Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health
- Director of School Counseling Services
- Supervisors

8P **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
Montclair State University	Peter Krajlic, Jr.	Internship	School Administrator	150	5-2020 to 7-2020	Central	Mr. Kenneth Rota

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Richter, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #8P.

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 **first reading of the following policy/regulation updates** listed below: [Click here for 2020-05-04 #1POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P1581	Domestic Violence (M) (Revised)
R1581	Domestic Violence (M) (New)
P2422	Health and Physical Education (M) (Revised)
P3421.13	Postnatal Accommodations (New)
P4421.13	Postnatal Accommodations (New)
P5330	Administration of Medication (M) (Revised)
R5330	Administration of Medication(M) (Revised)
P7243	Supervision of Construction (M) (Revised)
P8210	School Year (Revised)
P8220	School Day (M) (Revised)
R8220	School Closings (Revised)
P8462	Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children (M) (Revised)

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Rota shared he will review end of the year calendar dates and share various options with the Board members.

Mrs. Han Silver shared that Mr. Rota informed the Board members that the number of lunches being picked up has increased and she asked Mr. Rota to share an update with the public the lunches that are being picked up at the Middle School and High School. He was pleased to share that the Middle School lunches being picked up has almost doubled.

Ms. Taylor shared a new development due to the ongoing pandemic the NJ Department of Agriculture will be offering free lunches to all families regardless of their eligibility status. The District will be informing all families tomorrow of the free lunch pick-ups at the Fort Lee High School and Lewis F. Cole Middle School.

Ms. Colbath shared that in March they approved the joint committee with the Mayor and Ms. Colbath asked that the committee be appointed because there is much work to be done for the preparation of the upcoming school year. She volunteered to be on this committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Tuck inquired if there was any update on the e-sports teams. Mr. Rota is waiting to hear a response from the Athletic Director, Mr. Raftery, and will keep the Board members informed of the status.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Ms. Colbath, to adjourn, 8:08 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor

HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/toc 05/07/2020