

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
June 1, 2020
Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84135697426>
6:45 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mrs. Han Silver.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Romba.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Announcement was read by Mrs. Han Silver.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Elisa Cho, Ms. Paula K. Colbath, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio (6:51 pm), Mrs. Holly Morell, 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, Dr. Sharon Amato, Dennis McKeever, Board Attorney

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, 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 7:35 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Rota shared that there are no HIB investigations nor Fire, Security or Bus Drills to report.

Ms. Taylor shared that the State Treasurer's report paints a grim picture of the national and New Jersey state economy. Budgeted fy21 State Aid will be reduced. Districts will be asked to re-do budgets without the additional state aid (year over year) originally planned for. For Fort Lee, the additional State Aid was \$351,933 (10% of fy21 budgeted Aid. Ms. Taylor further shared that all economic indicators (unemployment, stock market, housing sales) point toward a recession (2 consecutive quarters of GDP decline) or worse. Ms. Taylor reported that the State's "rainy day fund" (surplus revenue fund) will be completely depleted and re-purposed to ensure a balanced

budget for the period ending June 30, 2020. Ms. Taylor believes we are in for a tough year but with thoughtful and deliberate decision making based on the ever-changing information we have at hand, we will get through this.

Mr. Rota shared the Governor's recent orders permitting in-person graduations after July 6th consisting of only 25 individuals which would make it extremely challenging to organize excessive number of graduations. Mr. Rota shared there is a plan to have a virtual graduation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Tuck shared that there was a Curriculum Committee meeting held on June 1st. The Committee discussed; 1) graduation plans; 2) extended school year will be virtual; 3) CARES Act and how Dr. Amato will be developing the budget; 4) racial injustice and social unrest throughout the country and how the District is working on providing resources and websites to share with the parents in order to navigate conversations with their children; 5) how this unrest relates to our curriculum, and 6) the work The Equity Team is doing.

Mrs. Han Silver shared there was a virtual Bergen County School Board Meeting last week. The Interim Executive County Superintendent was in attendance. All the Districts are pondering how graduations will be handled and what to anticipate regarding schools re-opening in September. Mr. Louis DeLisio's advice is to please be patient as we are all in this together and will get through it together.

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 Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, to open the floor to the public, 7:45 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

No Public Comments

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to close the floor to the public, 7:46 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	May 18, 2020
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	May 18, 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, 9-0.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

1B&G **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education authorizes the use of alternate method of compliance of Toilet Room facilities at the following elementary school, for the 2020-2021 school year, for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education for approval.

School No. 2 Room 211

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

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 March 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 March 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 \$523,070.32 for June 2020 checks**. *See Appendix Page 9*

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 **Athletics bills list in the amount of \$13,048.00 for May 2020 checks**. *See Appendix Page 19*

5F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Bergen County Directors of Athletics Association Officials' Fees for the 2020-2021 school year only**, as per the attached schedule. *See Appendix Page 21*

6F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the enrollment of Fort Lee High School as a **Member of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA)** through June 30, 2021 for the annual membership rate of \$2,500.

7F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **second aid-in-lieu installment to be prorated** due to COVID-19 for eligible parents who transported their children from February 1, 2020 through March 13, 2020 at the rate of \$5.55 per day.

8F **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the following **insurance brokers** through December 31, 2020:

Medical, Prescription, Vision and Dental	Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors
Flexible Spending & Cobra Administration	Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors
Student Accident	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Fiduciary Liability	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Property & Casualty	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
General Liability & Automobile	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Public Official Bonds	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Boiler & Machinery	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Errors and Omissions	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.

9F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **renewal of dental and vision benefits** as per the following:

Provider	Type	Year	Renewal Terms
Delta Dental	Dental	2020-2021	0% Increase for 2020-2021
VSP	Vision	2020-2021	0% Increase for 2020-2021

10F **SOUTH BERGEN REGION VII WORKERS COMPENSATION POOL
RESOLUTION TO JOIN SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF ASSESSMENT**

WHEREAS, a number of boards of education in the state of New Jersey have joined together to form a Workers Compensation Pool as permitted by chapter 372 Laws of 1983 (40A:10-36) and;

WHEREAS, said Pool was approved to become operational by New Jersey Department of Insurance and the Department of Community Affairs and has been in operation since that date, and;

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a Joint Insurance Fund contain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a Fund;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Fort Lee Board of Education do hereby agree to join the Fund subject only to the right to approve the initial assessment when the same is received from the Fund following processing of the application, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fort Lee Board of Education is applying to the Fund for the following types of coverages:

Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Body hereby adopts and approves of

the bylaws of the Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Haquisha Q. Taylor, Board Secretary, is authorized to execute the application for membership and the accompanying certification on behalf of the Governing Body; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Body is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the Fund as are required by the Fund's bylaws and to deliver same to the Executive Director of the Fund with the express reservation that said document shall become effective only upon the applicant's admission to the Fund following approval by the Fund, passage by the Governing Body of a Resolution Accepting Assessment and approval by the New Jersey Department of Insurance and the Department of Community Affairs. *See Appendix Page 27*

- 11F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **attainment of 2019-2020 Merit Goals for Haquisha Q. Taylor, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary**, for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education for review and approval. *See Appendix Page 30*

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Ms. Cho, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #11F.

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, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Dragica Viducic, as a Grade 6 Teacher at Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School**, after dedicating 19 years of service to the district, effective October 1, 2020.
- 2P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **accepts the following resignations:**

<u>RESIGNATIONS</u>			
Employee	Position	Location	Effective Date
John Fossella	Teacher Science - Chemistry	FLHS	Declined Position

- 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
Jack	Hamparian	Teacher Special Education Biology	FLHS	New	Step 1/MA \$59,530.00 + 3 days NTO (Pending Certification)	9/1/2020
Jocelyn	Levine	Teacher Grade 3	S3	03-1007-11	Step 1/MA \$59,530.00 + 3 days NTO	9/1/2020
Nazanin	Ostovar	Paraprofessional (.83)	S2	02-9101-101	\$21,906.00 (Amended)	20-21 Renewal

- 4P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **staff transfers** during the 2020-2021 school year.

<u>TRANSFERS</u>						
Name	From Location	From Position	To Location	To Position	Salary Change	Effective Date
Brianna Mattessich	S2	Teacher Physical Education 02-1630-02	HS	Teacher Physical Education and Health 07-1630-07	N/A	9/1/2020
Jee Yeon Kim	MS	Teacher Special Education Math 06-2400-13	IS	Teacher Grade 5 Math/Science 05-1005-13	N/A	9/1/2020
Amanada Apice	S1	Teacher Grade 1 01-1000-07	S1	Teacher Special Education Inclusion 01-2412-03	N/A	9/1/2020
Margot Solimano	S1	Teacher Kindergarten 01-1003-06	S1	Teacher Special Education Inclusion 01-2412-11	N/A	9/1/2020
Brittany Sikoryak	S1	Teacher Special Education Inclusion 01-2412-03	S1	Teacher Grade 3 01-1007-15	N/A	9/1/2020
Colleen Giordano	S3/S4	Teacher Special Education Resource 03-2400-03	S1	Teacher Special Education Resource 01-2400-03	N/A	9/1/2020
Cara Becher	S2	Teacher Special Education ASD 02-2401-05	S3	Teacher Special Education SLD 03-2415-01	N/A	9/1/2020

Simone Ballance	S3	Teacher Grade 1 03-1000-10	S3	Teacher Grade 3 03-1007-16	N/A	9/1/2020
Olivia Matsoukas	S3	Teacher Grade 1 03-1000-17	S3	Teacher Grade 3 03-1007-08	N/A	9/1/2020
Carrie Hodge	S4	Teacher Special Education Inclusion 04-2412-07	S4	Teacher Special Education LLD 04-2411-08	N/A	9/1/2020
James Puliatte	HS	Staff Developer 07-2410-01	HS	Teacher Business - Class Size Reduction/Staff Developer 07-1301-04	N/A	9/1/2020
Kristina Marquez	MS	Teacher Grades 7-8 Science 06-1103-04	MS	Teacher Technology 06-1897-01	N/A	9/1/2020
Danielle Hanna	MS	Teacher Special Education Resource - Science 06-2400-11	MS	Teacher Special Education Resource - Life Skills 06-2400-06	N/A	9/1/2020
Marjorie O'Connell	MS	Teacher Special Education Resource - Life Skills 06-2400-06	MS	Teacher Special Education Resource - Science 06-2400-11	N/A	9/1/2020
Joanne Hong	S2	Teacher Grade 3 02-1007-08	S2	Teacher Kindergarten 02-1003-01	N/A	9/1/2020
Clara Min	S2	Teacher Kindergarten 02-1003-01	S2	Teacher Grade 1 02-1000-17	N/A	9/1/2020

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
Marjorie O'Connell	Teacher Special Education	MS	Maternity	New	9/13/20 to 9/15/20	9/16/20 to 12/31/20	1/1/21 to 1/31/ 21	2/1/21
Anastasia Findanis	Teacher Grade 2	S1	Maternity	Amended	5/27/20 to 6/30/20	9/1/20 to 1/31/21	N/A	2/1/21
Cassandra Gonzalez	Teacher Grade 2	S3	Maternity	New	10/7/20 to 12/8/20	12/9/20 to 6/30/21	N/A	9/1/21
Lauren Carney	Speech Language Specialist	S1	Maternity	Amended	5/4/20 to 6/3/20	N/A	6/4/20 to 11/24/20	11/25/20

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 2020-2021 school year, as outlined below:

LEAVE REPLACEMENTS					
Name	Grade/Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Sandra Tarabokija	Teacher Grade 2	S1	The daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1. Continuous Assignment.	9/1/20 to 2/2/21	Anastasia FIndanis (Maternity)
Krista Rambala	School Counselor	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)	9/1/20 to 11/24/20 + 3 days NTO	Gabrielle Brown (Maternity)
Dawn Hoth	Teacher Grade 1	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	9/1/20 to 1/5/21 + 3 days NTO	Stephanie Chevalier (Maternity)
Mervat Said	Teacher Grade 3	S1	The daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1. Continuous Assignment.	9/1/20 to 1/19/21	Karen Simone-Osso (Maternity)

7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **the payment of 2 additional days to Courtney McMillan as Confidential Secretary/Student Registrar in Central Office** to be paid her per diem rate of \$208.33 from 5-27-20 through 5-28-20 for days worked prior to her June 1, 2020 start date.

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

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

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 2020-06-01 #1POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)

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

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rota reminded all that the Athletic Award Ceremony will be held virtually on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. and encourages all to attend.

Mrs. Romba thanked Lauren Glynn, High School Principal, and Mr. Rota for the organization of the high school pictures on the FLHS front lawn. The pictures were very well done, and they all looked great.

Mrs. Han Silver commended Lauren Glynn and all the participating staff that organized the Virtual Academic & Service Awards Ceremony and kudos to the winning students. She also shared that it was a great tribute to the FLHS seniors.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Rubino, seconded by Ms. Colbath, to adjourn, 7:52 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor

HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/toc 06/04/2020