

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
October 05, 2020
Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by, Board President, 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, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mrs. Lauran Tuck, Mrs. Han Silver

Also Present: Mr. Kenneth Rota, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker, Dennis McKeever, Board Attorney, Mr. Marty Mafague, Esq.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, at 6:40 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

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

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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

Mr. Rota shared that the successful school opening of the Intermediate School, PreK – 4, and PreK – 6 self-contained programs. Mr. Rota shared that he and the administration will continue to monitor the school opening progress and will make any necessary adjustments to move forward safely.

Mr. Rota shared that we are on target to open the Middle and High School on October 19, 2020

and will send a confirmation of this date to parents.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Tuck shared there was an Equity Committee meeting held on September 29, 2020 where Task Force partnering, action plans and goals, and supporting virtual learning was discussed.

Mrs. Tuck shared highlights of Governor Murphy's Town Hall report noting out of the states almost 3,000 public schools, 11 buildings were related to 43 COVID cases since opening; the State budget and the plan to make up for the lack of State Aid; and the passing of the resolution advocating for the continued funding of the School-Based Youth Services Program.

Mrs. Han Silver commended the Equity Task Force for the work they have been doing and applauded the District for having the foresight to establish the task force. Mrs. Han Silver thanked the Board members and District administrators for recognizing the importance of equity.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education postpone #1POL.

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

Ms. Cho asked for clarification of the derivation of a School #4 diabetic glucose testing number because it appeared high. Mr. Rota shared he will look into her inquiry and report back to her.

HEARING OF CITIZENS - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN

Ms. Taylor shared with the Public that Mr. Rota and/or Mrs. Han Silver will address all public comments after all public participants speak.

MOTION by Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to open the floor to the public, 7:51 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Victoria Place inquired what is preventing the Middle School from opening especially since it is the middle of October. She urged the Board members to prepare a detailed plan and provide constructive data to the public of how they will be working with CDC indicators to continue to minimize the spread of the virus throughout the District.

Tanya Byers-Kang shared that things are going amazingly well at the Elementary School 1. Students are extremely happy to be in school learning and socializing with their friends. She also shared that the Middle School educational instruction has been incredible. Ms. Kang expressed concerns that there might be children home alone and for teachers to be mindful of this possibility. She also shared the importance to have children with learning disabilities to attend in-person instruction if it is the wish of the parents and to explore this option.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to close the floor to the public, 8:01 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-1. Mrs. Cho voted no due to a raised hand.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to reopen the floor to the public, 8:03 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Katerina shared she is extremely happy with how school opening has been positively moving forward, and inquired the plan to safely provide High School students to eat lunch indoors when not wearing a mask.

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, to close the floor to the public, 8:04 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Mr. Rota proceeded to address the questions and concerns of the public. Mr. Rota shared that the delay to open the Middle School is due to staffing concerns and that the Middle School opening is being evaluated on a daily basis.

The administration is working with the Fort Lee Health Department to safely permit more students into the building and with the NJDOE on a plan to reopen schools to accommodate for more in-person instruction. Mr. Rota shared that it is a slow process but that we would continue to work with health officials to benefit the health and safety needs of students.

Mr. Rota shared that Fort Lee High School has an open [lunch] campus and that students are free to leave the building during lunch period. Mr. Rota further shared that students who remain at the High School during the lunch period will have additional space in the cafeteria and auditorium to dine.

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

September 21, 2020
September 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:

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 appointment of the law firm of **Sciarrillo, Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC as Board Attorneys for the period October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.**

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #3B.

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 following **out-of-district placements** for the 2020-2021 school year:

Student	Placement	Dates	Tuition/Costs
#99000284	Windsor Bergen Academy 56 Passaic Street Ridgewood, NJ 07450	9/29/2020 - June 2021	Annual tuition of \$56,592.75 (163 days @r \$309.25 per diem) prorated to \$50,407.75. Annual Transportation cost of \$11,700.00 (\$65.00 per diem).
#9900068	Ridgefield Memorial High School 555 Walnut Street Ridgefield, NJ 07657	9/30/20 – June 2021	Annual tuition of \$54,780.00 (168 days @ \$301.00 per diem) prorated to \$50,658.00. Parent to transport child based upon Parent Transportation Contract

2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **District Nursing Services Plan for the 2020-2021 school year**, as per the attached. [See Appendix Page 12](#)

3CUR **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **Patricia Vitale-Reilly Consulting to provide professional development support** during the 2020-2021 school year, based upon the attached proposal. [See Appendix Page 21](#)

Professional Development Training	Total Not to Exceed	Account
To provide Fort Lee ESL teachers with continued professional development support for the implementation of writing workshop.	\$13,600.00	# 20-241-200-320-30-000

MOTION by Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR through #3CUR.

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

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 \$2,703,267.70 for October 2020 checks**. [See Appendix Page 23](#)

2F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Board President and School Business Administrator to execute a **Non-Resident Private Tuition-Student Agreement** for GZ, a non-resident student, to attend Fort Lee High School for the 2020-2021 school year. Tuition rate to be determined by the Business Office and according to Board policy.

3F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **agreements/contracts** of the following for the Fort Lee School District's 2020-2021 school year. [See Appendix Page 45](#)

<u>AGREEMENTS 2020-2021</u>
Bayada "In-School" Home Health Aide Services

- 4F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Salaries Charged to Grants** for the 2020-2021 school year as follows.

SALARIES CHARGED TO GRANTS					
EMPLOYEE	POSITION CONTROL #	GRANT	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT #	% OF TOTAL SALARY
Rachel DiBartolo	02-1408-05	Title I	\$49,754.00	20-231-100-101-00-002	72.34%
Stefanie Pinajian	06-1408-07	Title I	\$95,162.00	20-231-100-101-00-006	90.22%
Brittany Butler	07-1904-05	Title I	\$52,726.00	20-231-100-101-00-007	77.91%
Ashley Rice	07-1408-06	Title I	\$57,462.00	20-231-100-101-00-007	88.03%
James Puliatte	07-2410-01	Title II	\$16,626.00	20-270-200-100-00-000	21.52%
Tara Deady	02-1411-02	IDEA	\$102,500.00	20-250-100-101-00-100	95.77%

- 5F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a **Parent Transportation Agreement** for student ID #9900068, whose name is on file in Central Office, in the amount of \$4,665.36 as per the State of New Jersey Aid in Lieu Rate, contingent upon required paperwork, for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

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 49](#)
- 2P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **employment contract for Ms. Diane Collazo-Baker, as Assistant Superintendent**, as approved by the Executive County Superintendent, for the period October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, at an annual salary of \$160,000.00 prorated. [See Appendix Page 50](#)
- 3P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Raul Sanchez as District Maintenance Worker**, after dedicating 35 years of service to the district, effective October 1, 2020.

4P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent hereby **terminates Employee #4793**, effective April 26, 2019, pursuant to an order of the Bergen County Superior Court.

5P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **resignations**:

RESIGNATIONS			
Employee	Position	Location	Effective Date
Michael Mattis	PT Paraprofessional PE	S1	10-3-2020
Simone Ballance	Teacher Grade 3	S3	12-1-2020

6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **appointments** for the 2020-2021 school year, pending verification of employment:

APPOINTMENTS						
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Position Control #	Annual Salary Prorated	Effective Date
Anne	Thomas	Instructional Aide Grade 5 Inclusion (.83)	LFCIS	05-9101-70	Step 1/ Degree \$21,976.00	9/30/20 Amend
Alexa	Aramburu	Instructional Paraprofessional Physical Education (.7)	S4	04-9101-44	Step 1/ Degree \$18,534.00	9/8/20 Amend
Jessica	Bijari	Teacher English	FLHS	07-1401-05	Step 8/MA \$71,675.00	9/14/20 Amend
Monique	Kim	Supervisor	CO	00-0300-02	\$100,000.00	TBD
David	Salazar	Interim Spanish Teacher	LFCMS	06-1550-09	Step 1/ MA \$60,575.00 (no benefits)	10/6/20
Omolola	Famuyiwa	Instructional Aide Grade 5 Inclusion (.83)	LFCIS	05-9101-70	Step 1/ Degree \$21,976.00	10/8/20
Tamica	Haye	Instructional Aide PK Spec Ed (.83)	S2	02-9101-18	Step 1/ Degree \$21,976.00	10/8/20

7P **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 Amend	Paid Leave	Paid FFCRA Leave Full Salary up to \$511.00/ day	Paid FFCRA Leave ½ Salary up to \$200.00/ day	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Ashley Rice	Teacher English	HS	Maternity	New	12/7/20 to 1/26/21	N/A	N/A	1/27/21 to 4/30/21	N/A	5/1/21
Marjorie O'Connell	Teacher Special Education	MS	Maternity	Amend	9/29/20 to 10/15/20	N/A	N/A	10/16/20 to 12/31/20	N/A	1/1/21
Andria Fusco	School Counselor	S4	FFCRA	New	N/A	10/16/20 to 12/31/20	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/1/21
Alyssa Marasciulo	School Nurse	S2	FFCRA	New	N/A	09/29/20 to 10/20/20	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/21/20
Myung Chung	Teacher Korean Bilingual	S1/ S4/ IS/ MS	Medical	New	9/29/20 to 10/25/20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/26/20

8P **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
Rachel Harris	Teacher Grade 5 Math/Sci	IS	Sub pay for the first 60 days \$150 per day; and, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	10/5/20 to 5/2/20	E#4336/G. Kornweiser (Medical Accommodation/Maternity Leave)
Maria Faia	Guidance Counselor	S4	At the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	10/5/20 to 12/31/2020	Andria Fusco (FFCRA)

9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Substitute Teacher daily rate of pay** to be amended to \$150.00 per day for the 2020-2021 year, effective October 6, 2020.

- 10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following **Substitutes** for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>SUBSTITUTES</u>
Suzette Rivera - Sub Secretary Joshua Freimark Eunice Kim Katerina Mancevska Saad Quraishi

- 11P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, authorizes the execution of the Standard School Administrator Residency Agreement, based upon the terms and conditions provided herein, between the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and Fort Lee Public Schools to provide a program of training and supervision as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:9-12.5 for the **mentoring of Stephen Dominguez as per Principal Provisional Certification Requirements**. [See Appendix Page 61](#)

- 12P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **rescinding of Resolution No. 30318 dated July 13, 2020 for the appointment of Middle School Coaches** for the 2020-2021 school year, due to current pandemic precautions.

- 13P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of the following Grant Program Coordinator** for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>2020-2021 GRANT PROGRAM COORDINATOR</u>			
Name	Department	Class	Stipend
Stephen Dominguez	ESSA & CARES Grant Coordinator	N/A	\$8,000

- 14P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of **unused vacation days for Dr. Sharon Amato, Assistant Superintendent in Central Office**, in the amount of \$31,416.47, based upon 11 days at a per diem rate of \$657.33 for the 2018-2019 school year, based upon 28 days at a per diem rate of \$688.27 for the 2019-2020 school year and 7 days at a per diem rate of \$702.04 for the 2020-2021 school year.

- 15P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of **unused vacation days for Raul Sanchez, District Maintenance Worker**, in the amount of \$4,229.60, based upon 9 days at a per diem rate of \$301.05 for the 2019-2020 school year, and 5 days at a per diem rate of \$304.03 for the 2020-2021 school year.
- 16P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following staff members to provide **Home Programming and BCBA Supervision (Behaviorist) services** for special education students during the 2020-2021 school year, as follows:

<u>HOME PROGRAMMING & BEHAVIORIST SERVICES 2020-2021</u>				
Name	Hours Per Week	Hourly Rate	Total # of Hours	Total Not to Exceed
Danielle Hanna (Teacher)	2	\$45.00	80	\$3,600.00
Salome Gonzalez (Behaviorist)	1	\$85.00	40	\$3,400.00

- 17P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **appointments of additional Athletic Game Workers** for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid at the rate of \$40.00 per game. These people may work in the following capacities and will be reimbursed \$40.00 per event:

Game Workers (Gate Personnel, Crowd Control, Clock Operator, Site Manager, Announcer) 2020-2021 School Year
Neil Grant Andrew Park

- 18P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **amended appointment of Building Technology Assistants** at a non-pensionable stipend of \$2,000 for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>2020-2021 BUILDING TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANTS</u>		
Location	Name	Duration
School No. 4	Rachel Ventrella	Prorated 9/1/20 – 9/30/20
School No. 4	Jacqueline Tozzi	Prorated 10/1/20 – 6/30/21

- 19P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of additional **Professional Development Trainers** for certificated staff members at the hourly rate of \$45.00 for Summer 2020 as outlined on the attached. [See Appendix Page 69](#)

20P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Co-Curricular Advisors for the 2020-2021 school year**. All appointments are subject to completion of all personnel documentation and fingerprinting process, prior to starting of said activities.

<u>CO-CURRICULAR 2020-2021</u>				
Name	Co-Curricular Activity	Loc	Class	20-21 Stipend
Yuri Resetov	Band Assistant	HS	A	\$2,126.00
Eric Swagger*	Band Assistant	HS	A	\$2,126.00
Michael Wyatt*	Band Assistant	HS	A	\$2,126.00
Kate Davisson*	Band Assistant	HS	A	\$2,126.00
Ken Korlishin	Assistant Band Director-HS	HS	D	\$6,327.00
Harry Welte	Band Director - HS (Plus \$800 bonus)	HS	D + \$800	\$7,127.00
Debra Brigida	Social Problem Solving Coordinator	District	C	\$4,754.00
Marisa Buonomo	SADD Advisor - S#1	S1	B	\$3,161.00

* Out-of-District

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #20P.

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

POLICY

1POL **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon **Postponed** recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **first reading of the following policy/regulation updates** listed below: [Click here for 2020-10-05 #1POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P&R 5200	Attendance (M) (Revised)

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves to postpone #1POL.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Colbath asked that the Board do a symbolic standing ovation for the teachers and administration for all their hard work and dedication while working through these very challenging times.

Mrs. Romba echoed those sentiments and remarked that in her 30+ years of teaching she never experienced such difficult and trying times and greatly appreciates the teachers'

dedication and efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Tuck thanked all of our athletic teams as they start the season.

Mrs. Han Silver shared that the athletic events are being live-streamed on Youtube.

Mrs. Richter inquired if rescheduling Senior Night to an earlier date is being considered. Mr. Rota shared that Mr. Rafferty is working on scheduling the event to an earlier date.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to adjourn, 8:14 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 10/14/2020