

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION WILL IMMEDIATELY ENTER CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS
CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS.**

THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING WILL COMMENCE AT 7:30 P.M.

Monday, February 22, 2021

Meeting Start Time: 6:30 pm

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89193469702?pwd=cmNwYWxqTjNxM0VMamd4VzIUOVhWQT09>

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Fort Lee Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published on January 15, 2021 and posted on the district website at www.flboe.com; published in the Board's designated online media outlet/newspaper: The Record; filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Fort Lee; and mailed to all persons, if any, who have requested said notice. Please be advised that this meeting is being taped and may be broadcasted on local TV and the district's website at a future date.

The Open Public Meeting Act allows for remote participation at Board Meetings and defines "meeting" as any gathering whether corporeal or by means of communication equipment, which is attended by, or open to, all of the members of a public body, held with the intent, on the part of the members of the body present, to discuss or act as a unit upon the specific public business of that body.

ROLL CALL

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

- HIB Report
- Fire & Security Drills – January 2021
- School Status
- Observance of Former Board Member Joseph J. Surace
- Black History Month Program
 - Martina Sardis

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORK SESSION - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

PUBLIC COMMENT - COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules (per District Policy #0167):

1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate.
2. Participants are limited to three minutes in which to make their statement. Additional time may be granted at the discretion of the presiding officer.
3. The Board will not entertain any comments from persons who communicate obscene material, make statements which are considered bias intimidation in which a person intends to intimidate any individual or group because of race, color, religion, gender, handicap, sexual orientation or ethnicity or makes comments intending to harass or speak any offensive language.
4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.
5. The presiding officer may:
 - a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
 - c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
 - d. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and
 - e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

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

February 1, 2021
February 1, 2021

- 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 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR MURPHY TO INCLUDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL IN THE OFFICIAL EXPERT VACCINE ALLOTMENT PANEL'S DEFINITION OF FRONTLINE WORKERS

WHEREAS, the **Fort Lee** Board of Education recognizes that the United States, the State of New Jersey and local health authorities, as well as the World Health Organization, have declared a public health emergency regarding the Coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the federal and state authorities have put in place guidance detailing the precautionary measures schools must implement to stop its spread of this disease; and

WHEREAS, public schools have a profound impact on millions of students, families and staff and are charged with the care, education, nourishment of their students and are an integral part of the health and safety of our communities; and

WHEREAS, our district has responded to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, providing students and staff members with the technology and resources necessary to ensure the efficient delivery of instruction, virtually and in-person; and

WHEREAS, the board has a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and ensuring that the district can provide staff and students with a safe and effective educational environment that supports student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the board recognizes that this health emergency made it necessary to close schools and reinvent the educational programs in a virtual setting and that this may have an adverse impact on student achievement and the emotional and social wellbeing of students; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan published by the State of New Jersey Department of Health (December 15, 2020, pgs. 36-37) prioritizes the availability of vaccines to “essential workers” in Phase 1B of the vaccine protocol; and

WHEREAS, school district staff at all levels are essential to the day-to-day operations of this district, responsible for the thorough and efficient education of all students and their social and emotional wellbeing, are critical for virtual and in-class instruction and are “essential workers;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Fort Lee Board of Education finds a substantial public purpose exists to request that Governor Murphy give appropriate priority in the statewide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to all public school district personnel.

COVID-19 Vaccination Plan published by the State of New Jersey Department of Health, see:
<https://nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/NJ%20Interim%20COVID-19%20Vaccination%20Plan%20-%20Revised%2012-15-20.pdf>

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the member of the insert legislative district number legislative district delegation, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Governor Phil Murphy, and to the New Jersey School Boards Association

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
#99000200	Ridgefield Memorial High School 555 Walnut Street Ridgefield, NJ 07657	1/11/21 – June 2021	Annual tuition cost of \$48,478.00, prorated to \$24,658.15 (107 days @ \$230.45 per diem). Transportation cost prorated to \$4,770.00 (106 days @ \$45.00 per diem).

2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves to **create a Cooperative Sports Program with Palisades Park for wrestling**. Under emergency NJSIAA guidelines, this cooperative relationship will be good for one school year (2020-2021).

- 3CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached **professional development proposal for the introduction of work to build capacity for all members of the school district** (administrators, teacher leaders, teachers, and staff) in the area of equity (including audit and evaluation). These services will be provided by Montclair State University, College of Education and Human Services, Network for Educational Renewal (MSUNER) and the Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services (CREEHS), at a total cost not to exceed \$10,000 utilizing Title IIA funding. *Attachment: [MSUNER](#)*

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 \$790,780.24 for February 2021 checks**. *Attachment: [BILLS LIST](#)*
- 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 \$59,481.47 for February 2021 checks**. *Attachment: [CAFETERIA BILLS](#)*

- 3F **WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education approved extending the term of the **Lease Agreement for Central Office space** at 2175 Lemoine Avenue, Fort Lee, New Jersey, for six (6) months from January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 including additional month-to-month extensions with Unlmted Real Estate Group who was, subsequently, purchased by I Lemoine Property, LLC with the continuance of Fort Lee Board of Education Central Office space lease terms and conditions ; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Lee Board of Education approved on July 27, 2016 its intent to lease space from the Parking Authority of the Borough of Fort Lee for Board of Education District Offices;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a **ten-year lease agreement with The Parking Authority of the Borough of Fort Lee, commencing on March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2031, for Board of Education District Offices located at the Third Floor Guntzer Liner Building, 231 Main Street, in the Borough of Fort Lee**, New Jersey, as per the attached agreement and authorizes the Board Secretary to execute said agreement. *Attachment:* [LEASE AGREEMENT - CO](#)

NOW, THEREFORE FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **termination of the Lease Agreement with I Lemoine Property, LLC** effective on or about March 23, 2021.

- 4F **WHEREAS**, a recommendation was made by the Superintendent of Schools to the Fort Lee Board of Education **to seek a contract for Construction Services for Field & Playground Upgrades at Elementary School #1**; and

WHEREAS, Construction Services for Field & Playground Upgrades at Elementary School #1 was properly advertised to prospective bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, the following bids were received from potential bidders in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1, et seq.; and

Contractor	Base Bid A-1	Alt. Bid A-01	Alt. Bid A-02	Alt. Bid-Deduct	Total Bid
Zenith Construction	\$199,000	\$13,000	\$20,000	(\$10,000)	\$222,000
ZN Construction	\$386,000	\$19,000	\$5,500	(\$8,700)	\$401,800

WHEREAS, upon review of the bids submitted together with the bid specifications and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq., and recommendation of the Board Architects, Environetics Group Architects, the Board has determined the bids submitted must be rejected as they exceed the total allowable budget for the Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of Board Architects, Environetics Group Architects, hereby **rejects all bids** in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22(b).

- 5F **WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education **sought proposals for Legal Services**; which was properly advertised to prospective professionals in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-21(a); and

WHEREAS, the Fort Lee Board of Education received the following proposals from prospective firms in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-21(a), et seq. on Tuesday, February 2, 2021; and

Legal Services Firm	Hourly Rate
Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC	\$140.00
Capehart Scatchard	\$175.00 –shareholders \$160.00 – associates
Sciarrillo Cornell Merlino, McKeever & Osbourne, LLC	\$165.00
Machado Law Group, LLC	\$170.00

WHEREAS, the Fort Lee Board of Education retains the right to reject any and all proposals, to accept proposals in whole, in part or parts, and to take any action it deems is in the best interest of the Fort Lee Public Schools.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby **rejects all proposals**.

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. **Attachment: STAFF TRIPS**

- 2P **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
Andrea Pinckney	Leave Replacement	S4	Declined Position

- 3P **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
Kyoungja	Lyu	Instructional Aide Study Skills (.83)	MS	06-9101-01	Step 1/ Degree \$21,976.00	3-1-2021 Amended
Kyle	Flores	Confidential Secretary HR PT .7	CO	00-9300-24	\$15.00/hour	2-25-2021

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

TRANSFERS						
Name	From Location	From Position	To Location	To Position	Salary Change	Effective Date
Ayako Katayana	S2	Personal Aide PK Spec Ed 2:1 02-9101-93	S3	Instructional Aide S-LLD 03-9101-38	N/A	2-22-2021

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

LEAVES OF ABSENCE									
Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amend	Paid Leave	Paid FFCRA Leave Full Salary up to \$511.00/day	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Sally Macaluso	Teacher Preschool Spec Ed	S2	Maternity	Amend	3/5/20 to 5/12/20	N/A	5/13/20 to 1/31/21	2/1/21 to 6/30/22	9/1/22
Randy Schwartz	Teacher Grade 1	S4	Medical	Amend	1/4/21 to 4/5/21	N/A	N/A	N/A	4/6/21
Megan Guerrero	Teacher Grade 5	IS	Maternity	Amend	2/17/21 to 4/21/21	N/A	4/22/21 to 1/31/22	2/1/22 to 6/30/22	9/1/22
Employee #6519	-		Suspend	Amend	1/25/21 to 2/21/21	N/A	N/A	N/A	2/22/21
Melanie Markarian	Teacher Grade 3	S4	Maternity	New	5/24/21 to 6/30/21	N/A	9/1/21 to 1/2/22	N/A	1/3/22

6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **payment of unused vacation days for Belgica Polanco Gomez, Assistant Business Administrator in Central Office**, in the amount of \$2,916.62, based upon 7 days at a per diem rate of \$416.66 for the 2020-2021 school year.

7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Curriculum Writers** for 2020-2021, for services to be performed outside the contractual day, to be paid a stipend at an hourly rate of \$45.00 per hour, for an aggregate total not to exceed \$39,000, to be charged against account # 11-000-221-104-30-000, for the teaching staff members listed below:

<u>CURRICULUM WRITERS</u>	
CONTENT AREA	CERTIFICATED STAFF MEMBERS
English Language Arts	Miranda Jurgenson, Nicole Pacciani, Nicole Boote, Jessica Bijari, Charles Salame, Sophia Karabatsos
ESL	Elizabeth Inomata, Justin Williams, Denise Morales, Encarnacion Vallejos
Elementary (Multiple Content Areas)	Jane Lee, Rachel Ventrella
Math	Faith Minutolo, Stefanie Katic, Sumedha Kumar, Chloe Bass, Brittany Butler, Angela Johnson, Yvette Longobardi, Rita Fermano, Alexandra Scheiman, Jang Yoon, Soomee (Grace) Yoo
Science	Faith Minutolo, Kristina Marquez, Angela Papas, Brian Larcheveque, Tahreen Chowdhury, Genevieve Callahan, Patricia Konstantinova, Erin Power, Gary Glebas, Kevin Oliver
Business	Giuseppa Maceri, Chris Della Fave, Robert Gehres
World Language	Julissa Cartagena, Cinzia Bernardo, Gina Delserro, Rocio Torres
Social Studies	Justin Williams, Diana Ladd, Melissa Rosen, Adam Shrager, Leo Ellison
Visual and Performing Arts	Jennifer Leyton, Nina Anderson, Kate Hetman, Sarah McMahon, Janue Vargas, Mary Stephenson
Health/PE	Peter Kraljic Jr., Dimitri Nannas, Tara Gratacos
Gifted and Talented	Elsa Osso
STEAM	Maria Ibelli-Castano

- 8P **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.

CO-CURRICULAR 2020-2021				
Name	Co-Curricular Activity	Loc	Class	20-21 Stipend
Daniel Cirone	Interact Club	HS	A	\$2,126.00

- 9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following staff members to work for the **Employee ESL program**, during the 2020-2021 school year up to 3 hours per week February 23, 2021 through June 30, 2021, not to exceed \$4,320.00 as outlined below:

EMPLOYEE ESL PROGRAM		
Name	Position	Hourly Rate
Encarnacion Vallejos	ESL Teacher	\$45.00
Silvia Alfaro	Assistant	\$30.00

- 10P **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 2020-2021 school year:

INTERNSHIPS/STUDENT TEACHERS/PRACTICUM CANDIDATES							
Referring University	Student Name	Type of Placement	Subject Area	# Hours	Months From-To	School Placed	Cooperating Staff Member
Seton Hall University	Lindsey Germano	Clinical Experience	ELA/Math	60 Hrs.	2/27/2021 -5/28/2021	S 1	Jill Purritano

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: [*Attachment: 2021-02-22 #1POL*](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P0151	Organization Meeting

- 2POL THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **second reading and adoption of the following policy/regulation updates** listed below: [*Attachment: 2021-02-22 #2POL*](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P & R 5330.05	Seizure Action Plan (M) (New)

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Black History Month Program

- Honors Chorus

ADJOURNMENT

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor

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

HQT/sa
Attachments
02-18-21