

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
December 14, 2020
Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by, Board President, Mrs. Han Silver.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. DiMeglio.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Announcement was read by Mrs. Han Silver.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Elisa Cho (6:38 pm), Ms. Paula K. Colbath, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mrs. Lauran Tuck (6:37 pm), Mrs. Esther Han Silver

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, at 6:34 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 were two (2) HIB investigations. One (1) was founded.

Mr. Rota shared that the Fire and Security Drills were conducted, and have been posted for the Board's review.

Mr. Rota shared we lost the parents of two (2) students unexpectedly. Mr. Rota then asked for a moment of silence for those families.

Mr. Rota shared that the County Superintendent confirmed there is no additional information on how the state testing will be conducted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Tuck shared updates on the Legislative Committee and that Action was Taken at the November 21st meeting regarding NJQSAC legislation is back and advancing, relevant COVID-19 legislation pertaining to studying learning loss, and retired school nurses.

Mrs. Tuck shared an update on the Equity Committee. The meeting was joined by District Equity Committee leader Stephen Dominquez. Members of the committee highlighted the updates consisting of engaging student participation and re-engaging staff participation, professional development, promoting community outreach, and registration is open for the 2021 equity online symposium and recommends current and newly elected Board members to register.

Mrs. Tuck shared an update on the Curriculum Committee discussing new courses to be introduced in the Program of Studies at the Fort Lee High School, mid-term exams, new curriculum time saver platform, changes to the New Jersey Learning Standards, and that Specials are being considered at the Elementary Schools.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Mrs. Han Silver and all other Board members expressed their gratitude towards Mrs. Tuck and Mr. DiMeglio for their outstanding contributions while serving on the Fort Lee Board of Education.

Mrs. Tuck and Mr. DiMeglio thanked the Board members for their gracious comments.

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. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to open the floor to the public, 7:50 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Several public attendees voiced their views including concerns of staff salary payments upon a school closure, the difficulty in re-opening schools if we go fully remote, the ongoing struggle of remote learning, kudos for our hardworking paraprofessionals, the logistics of student learning if there is a snow storm, the Fort Lee in-school transmission rate and if there has been any in-school transmission, the impact COVID is having on staffing, the justification of maintaining in-person classes with a small number of students attending, and the importance to continue in-person learning.

Cean Spahn, President of Fort Lee Education Association (FLEA), read a statement on behalf of FLEA to transition to 100% remote learning for the safety of the students and staff.

Howard Lipoff, Treasurer of FLEA, echoed Mrs. Spahn's plea to transition to 100% remote learning.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Ms. Colbath, to close the floor to the public, 8:21 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Mr. Rota responded to all community member questions and comments.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes	November 16, 2020
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	November 16, 2020
Special Public Business Meeting Minutes	December 7, 2020
Special Private Executive Meeting Minutes	December 7, 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.

MOTION by Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #2B.

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
#8868083062	The Bancroft School 311 Walton Avenue Mount Laurel, NJ 08054	12/4/20 – June 2021	Tuition cost prorated to \$48,995.00 (125 days @ \$391.96 per diem). 1:1 Aide at a cost of \$37,440.00 prorated to \$26,000.00 (125 days @ \$208.00 per diem). Transportation cost N/A.

2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **Amanda Seewald of MARACAS, LLC, as a consultant to provide a professional development training for World Language Teachers** during the 2020-2021 school year, utilizing Title IIA grant funding, as outlined below. [See Appendix Page 13](#)

Professional Development Training	Total Not to Exceed	Account
To provide four (4) days (or equivalent) of online educational coaching and innovative learning experiences to World Language Teachers with personalized, need-based professional development aimed at curriculum development, building skills and strategies for online, hybrid and in-person learning	\$4,000.00	#20-270-200-320-30-000 (Title IIA funding)

3CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached proposal submitted by the **Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL Solutions) to provide professional development services on the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) Model** to the Fort Lee School District, at a total cost not to exceed \$18,530.00 to be charged against Account #20-241-200-320-30-000. [See Appendix Page 14](#)

4CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached proposal submitted by **Tinashe Blanchet to provide professional development training with online tools to assist with instruction for Middle School and High School Math and Science Teachers**, at a total cost not to exceed \$5,000.00, utilizing Title IV grant funding, to be charged against Account #20-280-200-600-30-000. [See Appendix Page 26](#)

5CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Program of Studies for the 2021-2022 school year**. [See Link: Program of Studies 2021-2022](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR through 5CUR.

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 October 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 74*
- 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 October 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 103*
- 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 \$7,569,205.06 for December 2020 checks**. *See Appendix Page 36*
- 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 **Cafeteria bills list in the amount of \$62,320.48 for December 2020 checks**. *See Appendix Page 70*
- 5F **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 \$14,322.00 for December 2020 checks**. *See Appendix Page 72*
- 6F **WHEREAS**, the Bergen County CARES Act Finance Team, in order to address school funding needs within the controlling CARES Act period, have elected to use a new formula (30% x ESSER funding) and distribute lump sum Expansion Coronavirus Relief Fund allocations; and
- WHEREAS**, the Bergen County CARES Act Finance Team will be able to disburse funds quickly while conforming to all CARES, Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) reporting requirements.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **accepts the Expansion Coronavirus Relief Fund Aid in the amount of \$109,161.00**.
- 7F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **contract for the Jewish Family and Children's Services of North Jersey, Inc. (JFCS) Extended School Day Program for the 2020-2021 school year**. *See Appendix Page 28*
- 8F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the submission of an **amendment of the 2020-2021 IDEA (Individual with Disabilities Education Act) application** to the New Jersey Department of Education appropriating carryover monies from the 2019-2020 school year as detailed below:

IDEA Grant			
Grant Class	Original Application	Carryover	Amended 20-21 Application
Basic	\$936,223	\$421,369	\$1,357,592
Preschool	\$23,700	\$23,373	\$47,073
Total 2020-2021 IDEA Grant			\$1,404,665

9F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent authorizes the submission of an **amendment of the 2020-2021 ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) application** to the New Jersey Department of Education appropriating carryover monies from the 2019-2020 school year as detailed below:

ESEA Grant			
Grant Class	Original Application	Carryover	Amended 20-21 Application
Title I-A	\$468,176	\$90,182	\$558,358
Title II-A	\$101,614	\$26,418	\$128,032
Title III	\$84,475	\$36,549	\$121,024
Title IV	\$33,420	\$3,679	\$37,099
Total 2020-2021 ESEA Grant			\$844,513

MOTION by Mr. DiMelgio, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #9F.

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 35*

2P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **amended retirement of Roberto Yan as a Custodian at School No. 2**, after dedicating 14 years of service to the district, effective September 1, 2021.

3P **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
Rushan Buerano	PT Registered Nurse	FLHS	12-11-2020
Jungim Ha	PT Paraprofessional	S2	12-2-2020
Belgica Polanco Gomez	Assistant Business Administrator	CO	2-22-2021

4P **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
Miranda	Jang	Teacher Art	FLHS	07-1200-05	Step 1/MA \$60,575.00	1-4-2021
Lesly	Alfaro	Health Care Assistants PT .72 (25 hours/week)	S1	01-3115-01	\$20.00/hour	1-4-2021
Maylyn	Espiritu	Health Care Assistants PT .72 (25 hours/week)	S2	02-3115-02	\$20.00/hour	1-4-2021
Donna	Heron	Health Care Assistants PT .72 (25 hours/week)	S3	03-3115-03	\$20.00/hour	1-4-2021
Mario	Fernandez	Health Care Assistants PT .72 (25 hours/week)	S4	04-3115-04	\$20.00/hour	2-9-2021
Sir Jonathan	Flestado	Health Care Assistants PT .72 (25 hours/week)	LFCIS	05-3115-05	\$20.00/hour	1-4-2021
Darren	Roberts	Health Care Assistants PT .72 (25 hours/week)	LFCMS	06-3115-06	\$20.00/hour	1-4-2021
Johanny	Garcia	Health Care Assistants PT .72 (25 hours/week)	FLHS	07-3115-07	\$20.00/hour	1-4-2021
Margaret	Sobieski	Health Care Assistants PT .72 (25 hours/week)	Floater/ FLHS	07-3115-08	\$20.00/hour	1-4-2021

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 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
Michele Avella	Teacher Kindergarten	S1	Maternity	New	1/27/21 to 3/3/21	N/A	N/A	3/4/21 to 6/6/21	N/A	6/7/21
Ashley Rice	Teacher English	HS	Maternity	Amend	12/1/20 to 1/31/21	N/A	N/A	2/1/21 to 5/2/21	N/A	5/3/21
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	1/1/21 to 3/7/21	3/8/21
Karen Simone-Osso	Teacher Grade 3	S1	Maternity	Amend	9/8/20 to 10/12/20	N/A	N/A	10/13/20 to 2/7/21	N/A	2/8/21
Kerri-Lynn Maurer	Teacher Grade 1	S3	Medical	New	12/15/20 to 4/5/21	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4/6/21
Elisa Karam	Teacher Grade 3	S2	Maternity	New	2/19/21 to 4/25/21	N/A	N/A	4/26/21 to 11/28/21	N/A	11/29/21
Andria Fusco	School Counselor	S4	FFCRA	Amend	N/A	10/16/20 to 12/6/20	N/A	N/A	N/A	12/7/20
Kristina Gonzalez	Teacher Grade 1	S4	FFCRA - Childcare	Amend	9/1/20 to 9/9/20	N/A	9/10/20 to 12/10/20	12/11/20 to 12/31/20	N/A	1/1/21
Kristina Gonzalez	Teacher Grade 1	S4	Personal Leave	New	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/1/21 to 6/30/21	9/1/21
William Diaz	Assistant Principal	HS	FFCRA	New	N/A	12/7/20 to 1/3/21	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/4/21
Jennifer Saperas	Teacher Grade 3	S1	Maternity	New	1/25/21 to 2/28/21	N/A	N/A	3/1/21 to 6/30/21	N/A	9/1/21
Employee #6959	-		Suspend	New	11/28/20 to TBD	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD
Darrell DeLuise	Custodian	S1	Medical	New	12/21/20 to 2/21/21	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2/22/21

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:**

<u>LEAVE REPLACEMENTS</u>					
Name	Grade/ Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Charles Doell	Teacher English	HS	Sub pay for the first 60 days \$150 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	12/16/20 to 5/4/21	Ashley Rice (Maternity)
Dawn Hoth	Teacher Grade 3	S1	Continuous Assignment	1/21/21 to 6/30/21	Jennifer Saperas (Maternity)
Alyssa Piccinich	Teacher Grade K	S1	Continuous Assignment	1/25/21 to 6/30/21	Michele Avella (Maternity)
Maria Faia	School Counselor	S4	Continuous Assignment	1/4/21 to 2/28/21 Amended	Andria Fusco (Medical)
Patricia Garay	Teacher Grade 1	S4	Continuous Assignment	9/1/20 to 6/30/21 Amended	Kristina Gonzalez (Child Care/Personal)
Mervat Said	Teacher Grade 3	S1	Continuous Assignment	9/1/20 to 2/9/21 Amended	Karen Simone-Osso (Maternity)
Deborah Famiglietti	Teacher Grade 1	S3	Continuous Assignment	9/8/20 to 4/7/21 Amended	Kerri-Lynn Mauer (FMLA/Medical)

7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of World Language 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 \$6,500, to be charged against account # 11-000-221-104-00-000, for the teaching staff members listed below:

<u>WORLD LANGUAGE CURRICULUM WRITERS</u>	
CONTENT AREA	CERTIFICATED STAFF MEMBERS
K-4 Spanish	Christine Teitelbaum
5-6 Spanish	Julissa Cartagena
All Levels and Languages	Gina Delserro
All Levels and Languages	Cinzia Bernardo
All Levels and Languages	Suzanne Elkhechen
All Levels and Languages	Rocio Torres

8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a pensionable stipend of \$6,500, for each teaching staff member assigned to **teach a sixth period for the 2020-2021 school year** as outlined below:

<u>6th Period Stipends</u>		
Fort Lee High School		
Name	Subject	Duration
Julissa Cartagena	Spanish	Prorated from 12/14/20 to 6/30/21

9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the **inactivation of the position of Registered Nurse (Position Control #07-3114-09) and the creation of Health Care Assistant (Position Control #07-3115-08)** Account #11-000-213-107-00-000.

- 10P **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.

<u>CO-CURRICULAR 2020-2021</u> <u>(Marching Band)</u>				
Name	Co-Curricular Activity	Loc	Class	20-21 Stipend
Jonathan Feis *	Marching Band Assistant (Marching Band Camp)	HS	-	\$500.00

- 11P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following additional **District translators for 2020-2021 school year**, at the rate of \$30.00 per hour, on an as needed basis:

<u>DISTRICT TRANSLATORS 2020-2021</u>	
Name	Language
Sangeeta Jain	Hindi/Gujrati/Urdu/Punjabi

- 12P **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:

<u>INTERNSHIP/STUDENT TEACHERS/PRACTICUM CANDIDATE</u>							
Referring University	Student Name	Type of Placement	Subject Area	Duration	Months From-To	School Placed	Cooperating Staff Member
University of Pennsylvania	Penelope Min	Fieldwork Internship	School Counseling	300 hours	1/6/2021 – 5/30/2021	S2	Meghan Lynch
Seton Hall University	Silvia Maresca	Clinical Practice II	Elementary	15 Weeks	1/11/2021 – 5/7/2021	S2	Catherine Arfuso

MOTION by Mr. DiMeglio, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #12P.

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 **first reading of the following policy/regulation updates** listed below: [Click here for 2020-12-14 #1POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P 1620	Administrative Employment Contracts (M) (Revised)
P 2431	Athletic Competition (M) (Revised)
R 2431.1	Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity (M) (Revised)
P & R 5330.05	Seizure Action Plan (M) (New)
P 6440	Cooperative Purchasing (M) (Revised)
P & R 6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification (M) (New)
P & R 7440	School District Security (M) (Revised)
P 7450	Property Inventory (M) (Revised)
P & R 7510	Use of School Facilities (M) (Revised)
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations (M) (Revised)

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: [Click here for 2020-12-14 #2POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P2464	Gifted And Talented Students (M) (Revised)
P&R 5200	Attendance (M) (Revised)

MOTION by Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1POL through #2POL.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Romba thanked all the parents for expressing their appreciation and gratitude to all the teachers during these very difficult times.

Ms. Colbath is sending a holiday note to local county and state representatives and asked the Board's permission to list all the Board members name on the card.

Ms. Cho thanked Mrs. Tuck and Mr. DiMeglio for their dedication and hard work while serving on the Fort Lee Board of Education and shared they will be greatly missed.

Mr. Rota shared that the Administration is currently working on the development of the 2021 - 2022 school calendar.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, to adjourn, 8:34 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 12/18/2020