FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES

PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING April 26, 2021 Zoom Meeting

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Board President, Ms. Colbath.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Rubino.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Announcement was read by Ms. Colbath.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Byers-Kang, Ms. Elisa Cho, Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly

Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino,

Ms. Julene Stassou. Ms. Paula K. Colbath

Also Present: Mr. Kenneth Rota, Ms. Haqquisha Q. Taylor, Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker,

Frances Febres, Board Attorney

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, at 6:38 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; both were founded. Mr. Rota shared that the Fire & Security Drills for March 2021 and Bus Drills for Period 2 were conducted, and have been posted for the Board's review. Mr. Rota recognized and congratulated Maritina Sardis, Fort Lee High School senior, for being featured in the State Business Administrator's monthly publication.

Fort Lee Board of Education Public Business Meeting

Mrs. Collazo-Baker introduced Ms. Nina Anderson, Lewis F. Cole Middle School Art teacher. Ms. Anderson recognized and expressed accolades to the Middle School students who participated in #UsvsHate and were selected as Finalists, and to the eighteen (18) Middle School students represented in the First NASCO virtual art show.

Mrs. Collazo-Baker introduced Dr. Michele Carlor, 7-12 Supervisor of ELA and Social Studies, and Ms. Monique Kim, K-6 Supervisor of ELA and Social Studies, who presented Diversity of the Fort Lee K-12 Curriculum addressing "where we were", "where we are", and "where we are going."

Mrs. Collazo-Baker shared an update on the Equity Audit being conducted with the Montclair State University Network of Educational Renewal.

Ms. Taylor announced the public budget hearing. Ms. Taylor further announced that the preliminary budget has been approved by the County, and will be submitting the preliminary budget to the county for final approval. Ms. Taylor summarized the 2021 – 2022 budget referenced in item #8F on tonight's agenda. Ms. Taylor clarified that the preliminary budget numbers approved at the March 8, 2021 public meeting are the same budget numbers that appear on tonight's agenda for final budget approval.

HEARING OF CITIZENS ON THE FINAL ADOPTION OF THE 2021-2022 BUDGET

MOTION by Ms. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to open the floor to the public to ask any questions on the adoption of the final 2021 - 2022 budget, 7:50 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

There were no comments or questions from the public on the final adoption of the 2021-2022 budget.

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to close the floor to the public, 7:51 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Mrs. Byers-Kang inquired about high school final exams. Mr. Rota shared that, after meeting with the high school administrators, it has been decided there will be no high school final exams for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

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. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to open the floor to the public, 7:56 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Fort Lee Board of Education Public Business Meeting

Mr. David Sarnoff recognized Mr. Rota's retirement and shared that Mr. Rota made many transformational contributions to the District and is an exceptional educational leader with many amazing achievements. Mr. Sarnoff wished him all the best, and wished the Board good luck and much success in their search for a new Superintendent.

Ms. Amy Kotang expressed her gratitude towards Mr. Rota for being open-minded, an incredible listener, and a kind and caring individual that the parents and students embraced. Ms. Kotang applauded Dr. Carlor and Ms. Kim on their Diversity of the Fort Lee K-12 Curriculum presentation, and recommended parents' inclusion in this project.

Mr. Rota thanked Mr. Sarnoff and Ms. Kotang.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to close the floor to the public, 8:07 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes April 12, 2021 Private Executive Meeting Minutes April 12, 2021

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.

WHEREAS, the Fort Lee Board of Education accepted the Superintendent's recommendation relating to HIB #204184_LFC_10232019 (MS-8) regarding Employee No. 5200, by resolution dated December 16, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Commissioner of Education by decision dated April 6, 2021, agreed with the Administrative Law Judge's findings and conclusion; affirmed the Initial Decision of the Office of Administrative Law; reversed the Board's determination that the employee committed an act of HIB; and directed the Board to remove any reference to the HIB investigation and findings from the employee's personnel file.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Lee Board of Education complies with the New Jersey Commissioner of Education's April 6, 2021 Decision and reverses its HIB determination related to Employee No. 5200, and directs the Superintendent to remove any references to the HIB investigation and findings from the employee's personnel file.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the participation of New Jersey School Board Association (NJSBA) Spring Education Symposium as outlined below:

WORKSHOP	BOARD MEMBER	<u>DATE</u>	PLACE	AMOUNT PER PERSON
NJSBA Spring Education	Candace	May 12-13,	-	\$50.00
Symposium	Romba	2021	Virtual-	

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #4B.

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 **class trips listed on the attached summary**. *Attachment: CLASS TRIPS 04-26-21*

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 and English Language Learner (ELL) Teachers during the 2020-2021 school year, utilizing Title IIA grant funding, as outlined below. Attachment: MARACAS PD PROPOSAL

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 and English Language Learner (ELL Teachers with personalized, need-based professional development aimed a curriculum development, building skills and strategies for online, hybrid and in-person learning. Meetings will be focused on curriculum development necessary to meet new statewide word language standards.		#20-270-200- 320-30-000 (Title IIA funding)

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR and #2CUR.

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

FINANCE

- 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 2021 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. Attachment: BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT MARCH 2021; TREASURER'S REPORT MARCH 2021
- 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 2021. 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. Attachment: LINE ITEM TRANSFERS MARCH 2021
- 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 \$8,093,450.35 for April 2021 checks. Attachment: BILLS LIST 04-26-21

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 \$72,532.19 for April 2021
	checks. Attachment: CAFETERIA BILLS 04-26-21

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 Athletic bills list in the amount of \$16,789.00 for April 2021 checks. Attachment: ATHLETIC BILLS 04-26-21

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following **donations:**

<u>DONATIONS</u>							
Item	Amount/ Estimated Value	Donor	On Behalf Of				
HP Color LaserJet Printer CP2025 (Used) HP OfficeJet 5746 All-In-One Color Printer (Used)	\$900.00	Mr. & Mrs. Dario Marcelli 27 Oxford Drive East Hanover, NJ 07936	School No. 1				
Check	\$500.00	Petroleum Marketing Group 2900 Telestar Ct. Falls Church, VA 22042	FLHS Science Research Program				

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby authorizes the cancellation of the following dated outstanding checks with funds from said outstanding checks being realized in the current General Fund as Miscellaneous Revenue:

	Payroll		A		
Date	Check #	Amount	Date	Check #	Amount
5/30/2019	184542	\$22.71	6/22/2020	73073	\$167.00
5/30/2019	184559	\$22.58	6/22/2020	73099	\$167.00
5/30/2019	184920	\$355.30	6/30/2020	73214	\$160.00
7/30/2019	185401	\$1,694.64	6/30/2020	73384	\$583.00
9/27/2019	185788	\$643.32	6/30/2020	73434	\$398.58
11/15/2019	186039	\$1,782.31	Total-Ag	ency	\$17,306.13
3/13/2020	186357	\$152.28	Public	Special (Cafeteria)	
Total-Pa	yroll	\$4,673.14	Date	Check #	Amount
	Agency		1/22/2019	300576	\$20.00
Date	Check #	Amount	2/20/2019	300579	\$68.55
2/4/2019	68451	\$10.35	4/22/2019	300584	\$20.00
2/4/2019	68612	\$500.00	1/21/2020	300608	\$31.95
4/1/2019	69086	\$190.00	6/30/2020	300652	\$14.50
5/30/2019	69434	\$1,292.00	6/30/2020	300654	\$13.70
6/17/2019	69967	\$500.00	6/30/2020	300660	\$17.45
6/30/2019	70154	\$6,125.00	6/30/2020	300664	\$10.15
6/30/2019	70199	\$30.00	Total-Public Spec	cial (Cafeteria)	\$196.30
6/30/2019	70246	\$9.30	Higl	n School Athletics	
6/30/2019	70298	\$995.00	Date	Check #	Amount
8/27/2019	70378	\$399.00	1/3/2019	12725	\$81.00
8/27/2019	70461	\$20.00	1/9/2019	12873	\$81.00
9/10/2019	70595	\$1,370.82	9/30/2019	13142	\$58.00
9/23/2019	70760	\$2.11	Total-HS A	thletics	\$220.00
10/14/2019	70869	\$500.00	High S	School - GO Account	
11/4/2019	71032	\$125.00	Date	Check #	Amount
11/4/2019	71054	\$200.00	6/8/2020	11306	\$270.00
11/18/2019	71477	\$199.00	6/8/2020	11272	\$540.00
12/17/2019	71697	\$21.70	6/8/2020	11246	\$810.00
1/22/2020	71830	\$13.79	6/8/2020	11321	\$1,040.00
1/22/2020	71925	\$233.48	6/8/2020	11250	\$1,270.00
2/4/2020	72020	\$129.00	6/8/2020	11383	\$1,405.00
2/5/2020	72150	\$500.00	6/8/2020	11364	\$1,540.00
2/20/2020	72197	\$150.00	6/8/2020	11341	\$1,675.00
2/20/2020	72218	\$1,050.00	6/8/2020	11212	\$1,810.00
2/26/2020	72315	\$65.00	6/8/2020	11316	\$1,945.00
3/10/2020	72338	\$500.00	6/8/2020	11305	\$2,060.00
3/24/2020	72478	\$200.00	6/8/2020	11241	\$2,175.00
3/24/2020	72545	\$500.00	Total-HS GC		\$16,540.00

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the inclusion in the Final 2021-2022 School District Budget of a withdrawal from Capital Reserves in the amount of \$3,108,750.

CAPITAL RESERVE PROJECTS	
Fort Lee High School Retaining Wall Repair	\$ 562,500
Fort Lee High School HVAC Upgrade (1st Floor West Wing)	393,750
Fort Lee High School HVAC Upgrade (2nd Floor West Wing)	568,750
Fort Lee High School HVAC Upgrade (1st Floor East Wing)	175,000
Fort Lee High School Window Replacement (Weight Room)	315,000
School #3 HVAC (VRF) Upgrade	437,500
School #1 HVAC (VRF) Upgrade	656,250
Total Capital Reserve Projects	\$3,108,750

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the Final 2021-2022 School District Budget as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$78,450,634	\$69,575,818
Special Revenue Fund	2,642,468	-0-
Debt Service Fund	4,214,366	3,804,061
Total Base Budget	\$85,307,468	\$73,379,879

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

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

PERSONNEL

- 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 04-26-21
- **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			
Salome Gonzalez	Behaviorist	S2	7-1-2021			
Stephanie Kim	Paraprofessional	IS	6-1-2021			

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

LEAVES OF ABSENCES									
Name	Position	Loc	Туре	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
Genna Kornweiser	Teacher BSI	IS	Maternity	Amend	12/1/20 to 1/19/21	N/A	1/20/21 to 6/30/21	N/A	9/1/21
Amy Patterson	Grade 4 Teacher	S1	Maternity	Amend	9/1/21 to 10/7/21	N/A	10/8/21 to 1/2/22	N/A	1/3/22
Kaitlyn Rakas	Teacher Grade 1	S1	Maternity	New	6/1/21 to 6/30/21	N/A	N/A	9/1/21 to 1/31/22	2/1/22

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							
Nam	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 6/30/21 Amended	E#4336/G. Kornweiser (Medical Accommodation/Maternity Leave)		

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:

SUBSTITUTES

Noelle Dadon

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:

CURRICULUM WRITERS						
CONTENT AREA	CERTIFICATED STAFF MEMBERS					
Math & Science	Jee Yeon Kim					
Visual and Performing Arts	Eleni Despotakis					

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment John Giordano as the 2021 Summer Program Coordinator at the rate of \$48.43 per hour, not to exceed \$9,600.00, to be charged to Account # 20-483-100-101-00-000.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #4P.

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

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #5P through #7P that was inadvertently omitted from the initial personnel resolution vote.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rota shared that Governor Murphy announced state-wide increases of the number of people at outdoor gatherings to 500 and state-wide increases of the number of people gathered indoors to 250 depending on the venue's indoor capacity.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, at 8:14 p.m., to reconvene into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 8:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to adjourn, 8:40 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haqquisha Q. Taylor

HAQQUISHA Q. TAYLOR

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/toc 05/07/2021