

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
May 10, 2021
Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Board President, Ms. Colbath.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Romba.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Announcement was read by Ms. Colbath.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Tanya 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. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker, Frances Febres, Board Attorney

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Romba, at 6:35 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 five (5) HIB investigations; one was founded. Mr. Rota recognized the Fort Lee coaches of the five (5) teams; Girls Basketball, Volleyball, Indoor Track, Boys Bowling, and Wrestling.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Colbath shared that the NJ School Boards Association (NJSBA) Legislative Committee Meeting was held Saturday, May 8, 2021.

Mr. Rubino shared that the town is still in the process of investigating and interviewing one candidate for the Class III School Law Enforcement Officer.

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 Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to open the floor to the public, 7:40 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Mr. Kyle Sanford thanked the Board members for continuing to do a great job. Mr. Sanford then shared his concerns of learning loss his daughter is experiencing when her teacher is absent and is replaced with a substitute teacher.

Mr. Rota shared that the substitute teachers are responsible to fulfill the instructional daily plan the teacher provides them. Mr. Rota recommended to contact the school counselor if his daughter's learning loss issues do not improve when her teacher is absent.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to close the floor to the public, 7:47 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

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 attached proposal from **Strategic Educational Advantage to conduct a Superintendent Search** for the Fort Lee School District for the 2021-2022 school year. *Attachment: [STRATEGIC EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGE PROPOSAL](#)*

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0 for items #2B and #3B, and 8-0-1. Ms. Cho abstained on item #1B.

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 05-10-21](#)*

2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following program for Summer 2021:

Fort Lee Public Schools **Summer Bridge Academy** for identified students entering grades 1-9 from Tuesday, July 6, 2021 through Friday, July 30, 2021 at School No. 4 for students entering grades 1-4 and the Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School for students entering grades 5-9, to be funded by the ESSER I and ESSER II grant funds.

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

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 \$880,034.00 for May 2021 checks**. *Attachment:* [BILLS LIST 05-10-21](#)

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 Athletic bills list in the amount of \$3,121.00 for May 2021 checks**. *Attachment:* [ATHLETIC BILLS 05-10-21](#)

3F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves the Schedule of Local Tax Levy for the 2021-2022 school year** in the amount of \$73,379,879.00. *Attachment:* [TAX LEVY SCHEDULE 2021-2022](#)

4F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the submission of 2021-2022 **Perkins Secondary Grant Application** to New Jersey Department of Education.

5F **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 LP**, a non-resident student, to attend Fort Lee High School for the 2021-2022 school year. Tuition rate to be determined by the Business Office and according to Board policy.

6F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following **donations**:

<u>DONATIONS</u>			
Item	Amount/ Estimated Value	Donor	On Behalf Of
Check	\$95.70	Box Tops for Education 13700 Oakland Avenue Highland Park, MI 48203	School No. 4 School Supplies and Resources

7F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Prom Date** for Fort Lee High School to be held on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at Fort Lee High School.

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

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. **Attachment: [STAFF TRIPS 05-10-21](#)**

2P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of staff members under the Fort Lee Education Association (FLEA)** Collective Bargaining Agreements for the 2021-2022 school year, in the following categories as per the attached list. *Attachment:* [FLEA STAFF MEMBERS 2021-2022](#)

- Teaching Staff Members
- Custodial and Maintenance Staff Members
- Secretarial/Clerical Staff Members
- Paraprofessionals

3P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of staff members under the Fort Lee Administrator's Group (FLAG)** Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year, in the following categories as per the attached list. *Attachment:* [FLAG STAFF MEMBERS 2021-2022](#)

- Principals
- Assistant Principals
- Director of Special Education
- Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health
- Director of School Counseling Services
- Supervisors

4P **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
Tracey Robinson	Coordinator of Transportation	CO	7-1-2021
Tiana Korsgen	Paraprofessional PT	LFCIS	Declined Position

5P **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
Brianna	Popolo	Speech Language Specialist	District Wide	New Position 21-22	Step 1-2/MA \$61,975.00	9-1-2021
Jessica	Addeo	Occupational Therapist	District Wide	New Position 21-22	Step 10/MA \$78,375.00	9-1-2021 plus 3 days NTO
Priscila	Perez	Teacher Bilingual Spanish	S1, S2, S3, S4	01-1486-06	Step 8/MA+30 \$74,775.00	9-1-2021 plus 3 days NTO

6P **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
Tiffany Phinazee	LFCMS	Instructional Aide Study Skills 06-9101-46	LFCIS	Instructional Aide Grade 6 Inclusion 05-9101-46	N/A	5-11-2021

7P **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	Type	New or Amend	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Melissa Merrill	Teacher Art	S4	Maternity	Amend	5/12/21 to 6/21/21	6/22/21 to 2/1/22	N/A	2/2/22
Ashley Rice	Teacher English	HS	Maternity	Amend	12/1/20 to 2/4/21	2/5/21 to 5/13/21	N/A	5/14/21
Patricia Garay	LR Teacher/PT Para	S4	Maternity	New	5/19/21 to 6/30/21	N/A	N/A	9/1/21
Amanda Schroeder	Speech Language Specialist	S2	Maternity	Amend	11/9/20 to 1/3/21	1/4/21 to 9/30/21	10/1/21 to 6/30/22	9/1/22
Erica Cirone	Library Media Specialist	S1	Maternity	New	9/1/21 to 10/6/21	N/A	10/7/21 to 6/30/22	9/1/22
Natalie Marini	Teacher Grade 2	S4	Maternity	New	9/1/21 to 9/28/21	9/29/21 to 1/2/22	N/A	1/3/22
Janine Mendoza	Teacher Grade 2	S1	Maternity	New	9/1/21 to 11/10/21	11/11/21 to 2/28/22	3/1/22 to 6/30/22	9/1/22
Francesca Park	Art Teacher	S1	Maternity	New	9/1/21 to 9/12/21	9/13/21 to 1/13/22	N/A	1/14/22
Employee #6959	-		Suspend	Amend	11/28/20 to 5/10/21	N/A	N/A	5/11/21

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 2020-2021/2021-2022 school year, as outlined below:

LEAVE REPLACEMENTS					
Nam	Grade/ Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Charles Doell	Teacher English	FLHS	Sub pay for the first 60 days \$150 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	12/15/20 to 5/17/21 (Amended)	Ashley Rice (Maternity)

Anthony Van Zwaren	Teacher Social Studies	LFCMS	Sub pay for the first 60 days \$150 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	4/1/21 to 6/30/21	Donald Picinich (FMLA)
Lisa Colandrea	Teacher Art	S4	Sub pay for the first 60 days \$150 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	5/24/21 to 2/3/22 (plus 3 days NTO)	Melissa Merrill (Maternity)
Denise Mahanian	Teacher Grade 3	S1	Sub pay for the first 60 days \$150 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	9/1/21 to 6/30/22 (plus 3 days NTO)	Janine Mendoza (Maternity)
Taylor Grbelja	Teacher Art	S1	Sub pay for the first 60 days \$150 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	9/1/21 to 1/15/22 (plus 3 days NTO)	Francesca Park (Maternity)
Melissa Gonzalez	Speech Language Specialist	S2	Daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	9/1/21 to 6/30/22 (plus 3 days NTO)	Amanda Schroeder (Maternity)
Dawn Hoth	Elementary Teacher	S1	Continuous Assignment	9/1/21 to 6/30/22	Erika Cirone (Maternity)
Jason Thorne	Teacher Grade 4	S1	Continuous Assignment	9/1/21 to 1/4/22 (plus 3 days NTO)	Amy Paterson (Maternity)
Alyssa Piccinich	Teacher Grade 1	S1	Continuous Assignment	9/1/21 to 2/2/22	Kaitlyn Rakas (Maternity)
Pinshuan Sung	Teacher Grade 3	S2	Continuous Assignment	9/1/21 to 12/1/21 (plus 3 days NTO)	Elisa Karam (Maternity)
Meeta Mahtani	Teacher Kindergarten	S2	Renewed for Continuous Assignment	9/1/21 to 6/30/22 (Extended)	Samantha Milgram (Maternity)
Arleen Artinian	Teacher Kindergarten	S4	Renewed for Continuous Assignment	9/1/21 to 10/2/21	Alicyn Liquori (Maternity)
Laudan Asharian	Teacher Grade 3	S4	Renewed for Continuous Assignment	9/1/21 to 1/4/22	Melanie Markarian (Maternity)

- 9P **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>
Silvia Maresca

- 10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment Gene Fusco as the 2021 ESY Program Coordinator** at the rate of \$48.43 per hour, not to exceed \$6,000.00, to be charged to Account # 11-422-100-101-00-000.

- 11P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, authorizes the execution of the **Standard Residency Agreement**, based upon the terms and conditions provided herein, between the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO) and Fort Lee Public Schools to provide a program of training and supervision as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:9-12.7 for the mentoring of Irene Gray as Assistant Business Administrator. **Attachment: [STANDARD RESIDENCY AGREEMENT ABA](#)**

- 12P **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.

CO-CURRICULAR 2020-2021			
Name	Co-Curricular Activity		20-21 Stipend
Mary Stephenson	Orchestra Director - HS	HS D	\$6,327.00

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Han Silver shared that there were fifty-one (51) participants (including all the panelists) on tonight's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to adjourn, 7:50 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 05/13/2021