

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
May 24, 2021
Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium
and 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. Morell.

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 Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, at 6:36 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 April 2021 have been posted for the Board's review.

Mr. Rota introduced Mrs. Ro Giacomelli, Principal at Elementary School #1. Mrs. Giacomelli shared the achievements of several School #1 students.

1. David DiPuma, 4th grade student, wrote a poem titled "My Amazing Mom" and shared it with Appelley Publishing. David's entry into Appelley publishing's Rising Star publication has been added to their collection of poems.
2. Two (2) Fort Lee Elementary students won the Port Authority's First Earth Month poster contest. The students were chosen by a panel of Port Authority judges from 37 submissions.
3. Four (4) School #1 students received Honorable Mention for the Port Authority poster contest: 3rd graders; Yujin Choi, Kayla Park, Jiwon Woo, and 4th grader; Jeongwon (Stella) Han.
4. Mrs. Giacomelli shared a video titled "We Love NJ" made by Mrs. Accetta and Ms. Marcelli's 4th grade class.

Mr. Rota introduced Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker who shared an overview of the Summer Learning Program. Board conversation ensued about the program including total enrollment, funding, criteria for entrance, cost, and middle-tier students.

Mr. Rota introduced Ms. Haquisha Taylor, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who shared a Capital Projects status update. Ms. Taylor asked the Board Members if they had any questions; and there were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rubino shared that the Fort Lee Police Department is very close to identifying a Class III School Law Enforcement Officer.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Mrs. Richter inquired if it is being considered to have one graduation ceremony instead of multiple ceremonies even though the CDC guidelines are constantly changing. Mr. Rota shared that he and the Principals are examining graduation ceremony options.

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

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to open the floor to the public, 8:05 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Public members expressed concerns that a few classrooms in School #1 and #3 have no fans or air conditioning, and with the rising temperatures believes it is too hot for the students to sit in the classrooms with their masks on. The parents asked for an immediate solution until the building classrooms provide the necessary air conditioning, and then requested a timeline when

all the classrooms will have proper air conditioning. Mr. Rota will address the immediate issue with the buildings Principals. Mr. Rota further shared that the 2021 – 2022 Capital Improvement Projects include additional air conditioning at School #1 and #3.

Another public member inquired if the COVID-19 pandemic will negatively impact the students moving up to their next grade. Mr. Rota shared that students will be promoted as they have been in the past providing they satisfy the necessary requirements to advance to the next grade level.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to close the floor to the public, 8:15 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes May 10, 2021
Private Executive Meeting Minutes May 10, 2021

Special Public Business Meeting Minutes May 17, 2021
Special Private Executive Meeting Minutes May 17, 2021

Special Public Business Meeting Minutes May 20, 2021
Special Private Executive Meeting Minutes May 20, 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.

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

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

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

1B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education authorizes the continued use of **Temporary Instructional Space** at the following elementary schools, for the 2021-2022 school year.

School No. 1 Rooms 100 and 105

2B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education authorizes the continued use of alternate methods of compliance of **Toilet Room facilities** at the following elementary schools, for the 2021-2022 school year.

School No. 2	Room 211
School No. 2	Room 212
School No. 2	Room 213
School No. 3	Rooms 111 and 119
School No. 4	Rooms 4, 6 and 10

3B&G WHEREAS, bids for Construction Services for Field & Playground Upgrades at Elementary School #1 were received and rejected on Resolution No. 30627 dated January 19, 2021, and Resolution No. 30680 dated February 22, 2021, respectively; and

WHEREAS, minor deviations from the earlier rounds of bids are base bid and alternate bid scope revisions to solicit lower prices; and

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of Environetics Group Architects, PC (ENV), Architect of Record, the Board concludes that the terms, conditions, and restrictions of the specifications set forth within the proposed negotiated contract in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 are not substantially different from those that were previously the subject of the bid solicitation; and

WHEREAS, a reasonable effort has been made by the Fort Lee Board of Education through its Business Administrator who as determined that the same or equivalent goods or services at a cost which is lower than the negotiated price is not available from any agency or authority of the United States, the State of New Jersey, or Bergen County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby **approves the negotiated contract with V&K Construction, Inc. in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 for Construction Services for Field & Playground Upgrades at Elementary School #1** at an amount not to exceed \$151,000, including base bid of \$131,000 plus Alternate #2, new storm drainage line, at a cost of \$18,000.

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

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 April 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 REPORT - APRIL 2021; TREASURER'S REPORT - APRIL 2021](#)**

- 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 April 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 - APRIL 2021](#)*
- 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 \$6,332,871.13 for May 2021 checks**. *Attachment: [BILLS LIST - MAY 2021](#)*
- 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 \$128,291.30 for May 2021 checks**. *Attachment: [CAFETERIA BILLS - MAY 2021](#)*
- 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 Athletic bills list in the amount of \$2,298.00 for May 2021 checks**. *Attachment: [ATHLETIC BILLS - MAY 2021](#)*

6F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **second renewal of the Food Service Management contract with Pomptonian, the Food Service Management Company (“FSMC”), for the 2021-2022 school year**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FSMC shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, an administrative/management fee of \$0.2612 per reimbursable meal and meal equivalent to compensate the FSMC for administrative and management costs with fees being billed monthly as a cost of operation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the total number meals are calculated by adding reimbursable meal pattern meals served to meal equivalents with the number of reimbursable meals served to the children determined by actual count; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that cash receipts, other than from sales of reimbursable program meals served to the children, shall be divided by the meal equivalent rate, \$3.66, to arrive at an equivalent meal count; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that administrative/management fees are calculated by multiplying \$0.2612 by the total number of meals.

7F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the **Annual Tuition Rates for Eligible Non-Resident Students for the 2021-2022 school year**.

<u>NON-RESIDENT TUITION RATES</u>			
Pre-K – Kindergarten	Grades 1 – 5	Grades 6 – 8	Grades 9 - 12
\$13,821	\$14,891	\$15,279	\$15,205

- 8F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Special Education Annual Tuition Rates for Eligible Non-Resident Students for the 2021-2022 school year**.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TUITION RATES				
LLD	M.D.	Autism	PreK FT	E.R.I.
\$23,138	\$25,457	\$21,837	\$30,312	\$17,543

- 9F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the 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.

- 10F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the submission of the 2021-2022 **CRRSA Act (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations) ESSER Fund II grant application** to the New Jersey Department of Education, and accepts the grant award of these funds upon the subsequent approval.

CRRSA Act (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations) ESSER Fund II Grant 2021-2022	
<u>INSTRUCTIONAL</u>	
Salaries	\$162,000.00
Supplies	\$613,240.00
Purchased Services	\$28,115.00
<u>SUPPORT SERVICES</u>	
Salaries	\$380,759.00
Professional and Technical Services	\$151,183.00
Supplies and Materials	\$245,000.00
Benefits	\$41,519.00
TOTAL CRRSA Act ESSER Fund II Grant	\$1,621,816.00

- 11F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **disposal/recycling of office furniture from Central Office**.

<u>DISPOSAL/RECYCLING OF OFFICE FURNITURE</u>			
Description	Location	FLBOE ID#s	Reason
Office Furniture (Various file cabinets, desks, bookcases, conference room table, chairs & cubicles)	Old Central Office	1227, 1263, 1308, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1318, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1329, 1330, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1342, 1344, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1351, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365	Spare furniture recycled or donated to the Borough of Fort Lee

- 12F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves renewal of the annual agreement with **Bergen County Special Services School District (BCSSSD) for services to non-public schools, Public Law 1977 Chapters 192-193**, for the 2021-2022 school year. *Attachment: [BCSSSD 192-193 AGREEMENT 21-22](#)*

MOTION by Mrs. Han Silver, seconded by Mrs. Richter, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #12F.

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 05-24-21](#)*
- 2P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Ockjoo Baek, as a Bilingual Korean Teacher at School No. 1**, after dedicating 25 years of service to the district, effective October 1, 2021.
- 3P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Vanda Sorrentino, as a Paraprofessional at School No. 4**, after dedicating 20 years of service to the district, effective July 1, 2021.
- 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
Lisa Colandrea	Leave Replacement Art	S4	Declined Position
Taylor Grbelja	Leave Replacement Art	S1	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 2021-2022 school year, pending verification of employment:

APPOINTMENTS						
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Position Control #	Annual Salary Prorated	Effective Date
Kaitlin	Bussanich	Teacher LLD (pending certification)	LFCIS	New Position 21-22	Step 1-2/MA \$61,975.00	9-1-2021 plus 3 days NTO
Doraine	Francisco	Teacher Spec Ed ASD	S2	New Position 21-22	Step 1-2/BA \$58,575.00	9-1-2021 plus 3 days NTO
Erin	McCabe	Teacher Spec Ed BD	S2	New Position 21-22	Step 3-4/MA \$62,475.00	9-1-2021 plus 3 days NTO
Dana	Cafasso	Teacher Gifted and Talented	S2/S4/LFCIS	02-1001-01	Step 9/MA+50 \$79,375.00	9-1-2021 plus 3 days NTO
Lauren	Baldonado	Behaviorist	District	02-3125-001	Step 5/MA+30 \$67,575.00	9-1-2021 plus 3 days NTO
Mohammed	Obaid	Technician	CO	New Position 21-22	\$35,000.00	7-1-2021

6P **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
Solanly Ortega	Interim Asst Principal	IS	Maternity	New	6/1/21 to 7/21/21	7/22/21 to 10/17/21	N/A	10/18/21
Mary Terry	Music Teacher	FLHS	Medical	New	6/4/21 to 6/30/21	N/A	N/A	9/1/21
Kaitlyn Rakas	Teacher Grade 1	S1	Maternity	Amend	5/19/21 to 6/30/21	9/1/21 to 1/31/22	N/A	2/1/22

7P **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 and 2021-2022 school years, as outlined below:

LEAVE REPLACEMENTS					
Name	Grade/ Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Charles Doell	Teacher English Spec Ed	FLHS	Continuous Assignment	5/18/21 to 6/30/21	Miranda Jurgenson (Medical)
Areleen Artinian	Teacher Kindergarten	S4	Renewed for Continuous Assignment	3/16/21 to 10/2/21	Alicyn Liquori (Maternity) Amended
Rachael Harris	Teacher Grade 5 Math/Science	LFCIS	Renewed for Continuous Assignment	9/1/21 to 6/30/22 (Extended)	Megan Guerrero (Maternity)

8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following **Substitute** for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>SUBSTITUTES</u>
Myles Campbell

9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the **District Substitutes Rates and District Substitutes for the 2021-2022 school year** as indicated on the attached list. *Attachment: [DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE RATES & LIST 2021-2022](#)*

- 10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of additional Certificated Home Instructors for the 2020-2021 school year, at the hourly rate of \$45.00 per hour for teaching staff.

<u>HOME INSTRUCTORS</u>	
Name	Content Areas
Jodi Etra	English

- 11P **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 2021-2022 school year:

<u>INTERNSHIPS/STUDENT TEACHERS/PRACTICUM CANDIDATES</u>							
Referring University	Student Name	Type of Placement	Subject Area	# Hours	Months From-To	School Placed	Cooperating Staff Member
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Megan Cooper	Student Teaching I	Elementary Education	210 Hrs.	9/9/2021 - 12/22/2021	School No. 4	Giana Dente

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #11P.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to adjourn, 8:18 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 06/03/2021