

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

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
June 7, 2021  
Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium  
and Zoom Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Board President, Ms. Colbath.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Richter.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Public Announcement was read by Ms. Colbath.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Mrs. Tanya Byers-Kang (6:35 p.m.), Ms. Elisa Cho (7:30 p.m.), Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino (6:36 p.m.), Ms. Julene Stassou, Ms. Paula K. Colbath

**Also Present:** Mr. Kenneth Rota, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker, Frances Febres, Board Attorney (6:47 p.m.)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, at 6:32 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Rota shared there was a serious apartment building fire in Fort Lee Saturday, June 5, 2021. Mr. Rota further shared if anyone is interested in making donations to contact Mayor Sokolich's office at 201-592-3500 ext. 1003.

Mr. Rota shared that there were two (2) HIB investigations; both were unfounded.

Mr. Rota recognized Ayla Kim, a Fort Lee High School student, the winner of the National Merit Scholarship, and Rossana Lopez, a Fort Lee High School student, for being nominated to participate in the Commissioner's Statewide Panel.

Ms. Colbath shared Ayla was the winner of the 1.5 million student participants in the National Merit Program of which only 7,600 gained merit scholarship recognition placing Ayla in the top 1% of the students taking the test. Ms. Colbath then shared Ayla is second in her graduating class and shared several of her other accomplishments.

Ms. Colbath introduced Rossana and shared that Rossana was one of six students selected to be on the Commissioner's Statewide Panel representing Bergen County. Rossana enthusiastically shared her experience participating on the panel advocating for change on a statewide level for student groups including LGBTQ students and racial and ethnic minorities.

Mr. Rota and the Board members congratulated Ayla and Rossana on their outstanding accomplishments.

Mr. Rota shared that he and the administration will be discussing the in-school face mask mandate.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Morell shared the Policy Committee met Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and discussed all the new policies in detail to ensure they each contain all the pertinent information.

### **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Mrs. Richter shared that item #11P needs to be amended to correct a typo of Brad Deitsch's hourly rate.

Motion by Mrs. Richter, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to amend Mr. Deitsch's hourly rate from \$43.43 to \$48.43.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

### **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, 7:43 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

There were no public comments.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to close the floor to the public, 7:44 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 24, 2021  
Private Executive Meeting Minutes    May 24, 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 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education requests to change the Board Committee names from "**Policy**" to "**Policy and Legislative Advocacy**" and "**Curriculum**" to "**Curriculum and Student Achievement**" subject to the official approval of the revision under Policy No. 0155 BOARD COMMITTEES.

- 4B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the appointment of **Dr. Lauren Schoen as Interim Superintendent of Schools for the 2021-2022 school year** for the terms and conditions specified, subject to approval by the County Executive Superintendent.

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

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 \$5,650,809.36 for June 2021 checks**. *Attachment:* [BILLS LIST 2021-06-07](#)
- 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 \$43,143.62 for June 2021 checks**. *Attachment:* [CAFETERIA BILLS 2021-06-07](#)
- 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 Athletic bills list in the amount of \$15,146.00 for June 2021 checks**. *Attachment:* [ATHLETIC BILLS 2021-06-07](#)
- 4F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached **Corrective Action Plan for School Nutrition Program's Procurement Review of the July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019 School Food Service Account**. *Attachment:* [TBD](#)

**5F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the enrollment of Fort Lee High School as a **Member of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) through June 30, 2022** for the annual membership rate of \$2,500.

**6F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Big North Conference and Super Football Conference Officials' Fee Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year**, as per the attached schedule. *Attachment:* [OFFICIALS' FEE SCHEDULE 2021-2022](#)

**7F** **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **rates for official fees for carded clock operators for the 2021-2022 school year** as follows:

Football - \$80.00 per game

Basketball, Soccer, Wrestling - \$55.00 per game

8F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the submission of the **amended allocation of the 2020-2022 CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act ESSER I (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) Fund grant** application, for public and non-public, to the New Jersey Department of Education, and accepts the grant award of these funds upon the subsequent approval of the 2020-2022 CARES Act application.

<b>ESSER Fund I Grant 2020-2022</b>		
<b>Instructional</b>	<b>Original Allocation</b>	<b>Amended Allocation</b>
Salaries	\$133,375	\$111,937
Supplies	\$68,150	\$63,515
Purchased Services	\$0	\$0
<b>Support</b>	<b>Original Allocation</b>	<b>Amended Allocation</b>
Salaries	\$15,000	\$19,500
Professional and Technical Services	\$3,000	\$13,300
Purchased Property Services	\$9,714	\$9,714
Supplies and Materials	\$138,161	\$151,311
Benefits	\$11,351	\$10,014
Program Administration	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$383,751</b>	<b>\$383,751</b>

**9F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the submission of the **amended allocation of the 2021-2023 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.

<b><u>ESSER Fund II Grant 2021-2023</u></b>		
<b>Instructional</b>	<b>Original Allocation</b>	<b>Amended Allocation</b>
Salaries	\$128,100	\$119,300
Supplies	\$578,000	\$578,000
Purchased Services	0	0
<b>Support</b>	<b>Original Allocation</b>	<b>Amended Allocation</b>
Salaries	\$356,459	\$365,316
Professional and Technical Services	\$137,100	\$137,100
Supplies and Materials	\$245,000	\$245,000
Benefits	\$37,067	\$37,010
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$1,481,726</b>	<b>\$1,481,726</b>

**10F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, renew its **participation in the South Bergen Region VII Workers' Compensation Pool** for the 2021-2022 school year.

**11F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the following **Insurance Brokers** through June 30, 2022:

Medical, Vision and Dental	Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors
Flexible Spending & Cobra Administration	Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors
Student Accident	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Fiduciary Liability	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Property & Casualty	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
General Liability & Automobile	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Public Official Bonds	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Boiler & Machinery	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Errors and Omissions	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.

**12F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the execution of the contract for the **Jewish Family and Children’s Services of North Jersey, Inc. (JFCS) Extended School Day Program for the 2021-2022 school year.** *Attachment:* [JFCS EXTENDED SCHOOL DAY PROGRAM 2021-2022](#)

**13F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **attainment of 2020-2021 Merit Goals for Haquisha Q. Taylor**, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education for review and approval. *Attachment:* [H. TAYLOR MERIT GOAL ATTAINMENT 20-21](#)

14F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **disposal/recycling of computer equipment** as per the attached list. *Attachment: [DISPOSAL/RECYCLE EQUIPMENT-JUNE 2021](#)*

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Richter, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #14F.

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 following **resignations**:

<b><u>RESIGNATIONS</u></b>			
<b>Employee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Melissa Gonzalez	Leave Replacement Speech Language Specialist	S2	Declined Position

2P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **appointments**, pending verification of employment:

<b><u>APPOINTMENTS</u></b>						
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Position Control #</b>	<b>Annual Salary Prorated</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Yarenmy	Rojas	School Secretary	LFCIS	05-9300-19	Step 5, \$50,289.00 + \$1,000.00 head secretary totaling \$51,289.00	6/8/2021
Gina	Ruesga	Principal	LFCIS	New Position 21-22	\$135,000.00	7/1/2021

**3P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **leaves**:

<b>LEAVES OF ABSENCES</b>								
Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amend	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Miyoung Brogan	ESL Teacher	S1	Medical	New	5/20/21 to 6/14/21	N/A	N/A	6/15/21
Rachel Healy	Spec Ed Teacher	HS	Medical	New	6/7/21 to 6/30/21	N/A	N/A	9/1/21

**4P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of non-affiliated staff members for the 2021-2022 school year** as per the attached list. *Attachment:* [NON-AFFILIATED STAFF RENEWAL 2021-2022](#)

**5P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **revised appointment** of staff members under the Fort Lee Education Association (FLEA) Collective Bargaining Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year, **for the Secretarial/Clerical category only**, as per the attached list. This resolution supersedes Resolution No. 30800 dated May 10, 2021 for Secretarial/Clerical Staff Members only. *Attachment:* [FLEA SECRETARIAL/CLERICAL RENEWAL 2021-2022](#)

6P **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 2021-2022 school year:

<u>SUBSTITUTES 2021-2022</u>
Vincent Criollo-Rojas Carol Simon Jose Yanes Heidi Cruz Patricia Corke-Ocello

**BE IT FURTHER 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 2020-2021</u>
Jose Yanes

7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the **2021 Extended School Year Summer Program Staff**, based upon IEP needs and pending adequate/appropriate enrollment, as indicated on the attached list. *Attachment: [ESY STAFFING SUMMER 2021](#)*

8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **2021 Summer Employment of Child Study Team staff members**, as outlined below:

<u>SUMMER 2021 ESY CASE MANAGEMENT</u>					
First Name	Last Name	Position	Hourly Rate	# of Hours Not to Exceed	Total Not to Exceed
Johanna	Barrabee	Speech Therapist	\$71.77	30	\$2,153.10
Daniel	Bialik	School Psychologist	\$81.89	54	\$4,422.06

Stephanie	Borgono	Social Worker	\$59.13	54	\$3,193.02
Lorraine	Bortnick	School Psychologist	\$69.27	54	\$3,740.58
Danielle	Christal	Gen Ed Teacher	\$45.00	15	\$675.00
Carmela	DeMaio-Can	LDTC	\$55.98	54	\$3,022.92
Christina	Fitzsimmons	PreK Case Manager	\$68.20	60	\$4,092.00
Sarah	Levy	LDTC	\$62.20	54	\$3,358.80
Marilyn	Lopez	LDTC	\$79.89	54	\$4,314.06
Elisa	Murphy	Social Worker	\$45.00	40	\$1,800.00
Reina	Proto	School Psychologist	\$58.84	54	\$3,177.36
Christina	Ranaudo	LDTC	\$65.34	54	\$3,528.36
Maria	Rivera	Spec Ed Teacher	\$45.00	15	\$675.00
Christine	Romano	Speech Therapist	\$82.61	30	\$2,478.30
Pamela	Rothman	School Psychologist	\$75.34	54	\$4,068.36

9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Summer 2021 Bridge Academy staffing** as per the attached. *Attachment:* [SUMMER 2021 BRIDGE ACADEMY STAFF](#)

10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Summer 2021 Bridge Academy Curriculum Writers** as per the attached. *Attachment:* [SUMMER 2021 BRIDGE ACADEMY CURRICULUM WRITERS](#)

- 11P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of the Middle School Summer 2021 Math Advancement Program Staff**, pending adequate/appropriate enrollment, to be held from July 6, 2021 through August 6, 2021, as indicated below: **[As Amended]**

<b>SUMMER 2021 MATH ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM STAFF</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b># of Hours Not to Exceed</b>	<b>Total Not to Exceed</b>
Angela Johnson	Algebra I Honors Teacher	\$48.43	137	\$6,635.00
Brad Deitsch	Pre-Algebra Honors Teacher	<del>\$43.43</del> \$48.43	137	\$6,635.00

- 12P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **the 2021 Summer Employment for the School Nurse to approve physicals for student athletes prior to camp**, as outlined below:

<b>SUMMER 2021 ADDITIONAL STAFFING</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Maximum # of Hours</b>	<b>Hourly Rate of Pay</b>	<b>Total Not to Exceed</b>
Nateka Brewton	School Nurse	Up to 14 additional hours	\$45.00	\$630.00

- 13P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **2021 Summer Employment for the Guidance Department** for the following staff members:

<b>GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT SUMMER 2021 STAFFING</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Pay Rate</b>	<b>Total</b>
Caddell, Laura	6 Days	\$497.38	\$2,894.25
Acosta, Diana	6 Days	\$570.33	\$3,421.95
Brown, Gabby	6 Days	\$355.88	\$2,135.25
Lawlor, Tara	6 Days	\$449.88	\$2,699.25
Serulle-Green, Luddy	6 Days	\$541.33	\$3,247.95
Cuozzo, David	6 Days	\$430.38	\$2,582.25
Addeo, Matt	4 Days	\$371.88	\$1,487.50
Brigida, Debbie	4 Days	\$588.26	\$2,353.04
Clausman, Kaitlyn	4 Days	\$314.88	\$1,259.50
Waack, Angela	4 Days	\$338.88	\$1,355.50
Dublirer, Katie	4 Days	\$321.88	\$1,287.52
<b>NJSLA Examiners</b>			
Chris DellaFave	Up to 12 hours	\$45.00	\$540.00
Alexandra Motola	Up to 12 hours	\$45.00	\$540.00
Brian Larcheveque	Up to 12 hours	\$45.00	\$540.00
<b>NJSLA Coordinator</b>			
James Puliatte	5 days	\$386.38	\$1,931.90

- 14P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of **unused vacation days for Marta Ortiz, School Secretary at Lewis F. Cole Middle School**, in the amount of \$2,368.89, based upon 9 days at a per diem rate of \$263.21 for the 2020-2021 school year.

- 15P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of **unused vacation days for Silvia Alfaro, Bookkeeper in Central Office**, in the amount of \$8,405.83, based upon 18 days at a per diem rate of \$233.33 for the 2019-2020 school year, and 17.5 days at a per diem rate of \$240.33 for the 2020-2021 school year.

**16P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following appointments of **additional Athletic Game Workers for the 2020-2021 school year**, to be paid at the rate of \$40.00 per game. These people may work in the following capacities and will be reimbursed \$40.00 per event:

<b>Game Workers (Gate Personnel, Crowd Control, Clock Operator, Site Manager, Announcer) 2020-2021 School Year</b>
Mike LoPresti

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #16P (item #11P as amended).

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Colbath shared that several board members participated in the Bergen County School Board Association (BCSBA) meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. The Association gives out two major awards yearly; Archie F. Hay Award and Janet Lobsenz Award. Janet Lobsenz Award was established in honor of Janet, a long term NJSBA Field Representative and former BCSBA member. The BCSBA recognizes an individual board member that exemplifies Janet's strong commitment to personal and professional development and involvement in school governance at the local county and state levels. Ms. Colbath shared that Mrs. Morell won this prestige's award.

Ms. Colbath shared that Mrs. Han Silver received a high-level achieving award for becoming a certificated board leader.

The Board members congratulated Mrs. Morell and Mrs. Han Silver on their outstanding achievements.

Ms. Colbath shared she received the Master Board Member Award.

Mrs. Romba shared that it was an extreme pleasure watching the remarkable students receive awards at the Academic and Service Awards on Tuesday, May 25, 2021.

Ms. Colbath shared that the Athletic Awards will be held on Thursday, June 17, 2021.

Mrs. Morell thanked the Board members, Mr. Rota, Ms. Taylor and Mrs. Baker for all their support and compassion during a very difficult and sad time she experienced this past month.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to adjourn, 7:51 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 06/14/2021