

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

MINUTES

**SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
August 2, 2021
Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium
and Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by President, Ms. Colbath.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Ms. Stassou.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Elisa Cho, Mrs. Esther Han Silver (4:11 p.m.), Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Ms. Julene Stassou, Ms. Paula K. Colbath

Also Present: Dr. C. Lauren Schoen, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Ms. Frances Febres, Board Attorney (5:50 p.m.)

Absent: Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker

PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

The purpose of the Special Public Business Meeting is to convene directly into an Executive/Private Meeting of the Fort Lee Board of Education to conduct Superintendent candidate interviews, reconvene to public session to conduct public interviews of Board Member candidates, adjourn back into Executive Session to discuss the Board member candidates and continue the interviews of Superintendent Candidates.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, at 4:05 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 5:53 p.m.

INTERVIEWING OF BOARD CANDIDATES

Kimberly Curry, Marie-Michelle Jean-Louis, Min Jeong Kim the Board of Education candidates shared their statements of interest. The Board members asked the candidates questions pertaining to their qualifications.

HEARING OF CITIZENS- QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Stassou, to open the floor to the public, 6:33 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Members of the public shared their comments including strong encouragement to provide student orientation at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year; timeframe of when parents will be advised of the details of the reopening plan; the need to establish a collaborative plan for all the administrators to work together to initiate the best practices to be shared amongst each school in the district; thanked the board for allowing the community to share their thoughts; and the importance to anticipate and have processes established to address racial and ethnic diversity concerns prior to a crisis occurring in the community.

Dr. Schoen addressed the public members comments and concerns.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to close the floor to the public, 6:49 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Stassou, at 6:52 p.m., to reconvene into Executive Session to discuss the Board member candidates and continue the interviews of Superintendent Candidates.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:12 p.m.

NOMINATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Ms. Colbath thanked the Board of Education (BOE) candidates for attending the meeting and sharing their statements of interest. Ms. Colbath asked for a Motion on the Floor to nominate BOE candidates and will vote in the order of the nominations.

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, to nominate **Marie-Michelle Jean-Louis**.

MOTION carried upon voice vote, 2-6. Ms. Cho, Mr. Rubino, Mrs. Morell, Ms. Stassou, Mrs. Richter and Ms. Colbath dissented.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Stassou, to nominate **Kimberly Curry**.

MOTION carried upon voice vote, 4-4. Ms. Cho, Mrs. Romba, Mrs. Han Silver, and Mrs. Richter dissented.

MOTION by Mrs. Richter, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to nominate **Min Jeong Kim**.

MOTION carried upon voice vote, 2-6. Mr. Rubino, Mrs. Han Silver, Mrs. Morell, Ms. Stassou, Mrs. Romba and Ms. Colbath dissented.

Ms. Colbath shared there will be a run-off of the two candidates that received two votes and whoever receives the most votes during the run-off will run against Kimberly Curry.

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, to nominate **Marie-Michelle Jean-Louis**.

MOTION carried upon voice vote, 2-6. Ms. Cho, Mr. Rubino, Mrs. Morell, Ms. Stassou, Mrs. Richter and Ms. Colbath dissented.

MOTION by Mrs. Richter, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to nominate **Min Jeong Kim**.

MOTION carried upon voice vote, 5-3. Mrs. Han Silver, Mrs. Romba and Ms. Colbath dissented.

Ms. Taylor shared there will be a run-off between Min Jeong Kim and Kimberly Curry.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Stassou, to nominate **Kimberly Curry**.

MOTION carried upon voice vote, 4-4. Ms. Cho, Mrs. Romba, Mrs. Han Silver, and Mrs. Richter dissented.

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, to nominate **Marie-Michelle Jean-Louis**.

MOTION carried upon voice vote, 4-4. Mr. Rubino, Mrs. Morell, Ms. Stassou, and Ms. Colbath dissented.

Ms. Taylor shared the final results of the nominations vote, 4-4. Ms. Taylor then shared that it was not a unanimous vote. Therefore, the Executive County Superintendent will select a candidate for the board vacant seat.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Stassou, to adjourn, 7:21 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor

HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY