

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

MINUTES

**SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
September 13, 2021
Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium
and Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by President, Ms. Colbath.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Curry.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Elisa Cho, Mrs. Kim Curry, Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morel, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mrs. Michael Rubino, Ms. Julene Stassou, Ms. Paula K. Colbath

Also Present: Dr. C. Lauren Schoen, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker, Frances Febres, Board Attorney (*arrived 7:45 p.m.*)

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 finalist candidate interviews, and discuss personnel and legal matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino, at 6:07 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:54 p.m.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Ms. Colbath read the updated Resolutions Item #1B and #2B that were discussed and finalized in Executive Session.

Mrs. Han Silver expressed her displeasure of the rushed Board process to appoint the permanent Superintendent at tonight's meeting. Ms. Colbath detailed the Board's methodical Superintendent

search process and expressed the hiring of the Superintendent was not rushed and accomplished within the anticipated timeline.

HEARING OF CITIZENS- QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to open the floor to the public, 8:08 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Several members of the public shared their comments and concerns including: congratulating Mrs. Curry on her Board appointment; clarification of the hiring and funding of six new custodians; requests to hire an additional guidance counselor at the elementary level; clarification of Mr. Robert Kravitz' educational background and qualifications; dissatisfaction of the Superintendent hiring process; displeasure in not reinstating Mrs. Giacomelli; concerns about student desk shields impairing students' views of the [chalk/white] board. Ms. Colbath and Dr. Schoen addressed all questions and comments.

MOTION by Ms. Stassou, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to close the floor to the public, 8:40 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESOLUTIONS

POLICY

1POL THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, approves the **second reading and adoption of the following policy update** listed below: [*Attachment: 2021-09-13 #1POL POLICY UPDATE*](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P 7250	School and Facility Names (New)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1POL.

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

BOARD

1B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the appointment of **Robert Kravitz as Superintendent of Schools, effective on or before September 29, 2021**, for the terms and conditions negotiated, subject to approval by the Interim Executive County Superintendent.

- 2B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the naming of the field house located at the Lewis F. Cole Middle School property to the “**Joseph J. Surace Field House**” effective immediately.

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

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 6-3-0; Mrs. Romba, Ms. Cho, and Mrs. Han Silver dissented on Item #1B.

PERSONNEL

- 1P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Interim 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
Ghassan	Nazi	Teacher Physics	FLHS	07-2236-02	Step 15/MA \$95,025.00	11-15-21
Gylbere	Kabashi	Personal Aide Grade 6 2:1 (.83)	LFCIS	05-9101-88	Step 1/ Non-Degree \$20,501.00	9-14-21
Yolanda	Morel	Personal Aide BD 1:1 (.83)	S2	02-9101-18	Step 1/ Non-Degree \$20,501.00	9-17-21
Anthony	Medaglia	Teacher Physical Education (.6)	S1	New Position 21-22	Step 1/BA+10 \$32,496.00	9-14-21
Melissa	Grudic	Registered Nurse (.83) Amended	FLHS	07-3114-08	\$40.00/hour	9-9-21 (Amended)
Silvano	Pena	Custodian	CO	New Position 21-22	\$41,449.00	9-14-21
Craig	Kramer	Custodian	CO	New Position 21-22	\$41,449.00	9-20-21
Brandon	O'Connell	Custodian	CO	New Position 21-22	\$41,449.00	9-20-21
Edward	Foley	Custodian	CO	New Position 21-22	\$41,449.00 + Black Seal \$350.00 = \$41,799.00	9-20-21
Elieser	Puentas	Custodian	B&G	New Position 21-22	\$41,449.00 + Black Seal \$350.00 = \$41,799.00 Amended	8-31-21
Camillo	Rodriguez	Custodian	B&G	New Position 21-22	\$41,449.00 + Black Seal \$350.00 = \$41,799.00 Amended	8-31-21

- 2P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent approves the appointment of **leave replacements** during the 2021-2022 school year, as outlined below:

<u>LEAVE REPLACEMENTS</u>					
Name	Grade/ Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Anthony Van Zwaren	Teacher Social Studies	FLHS	Continuous Assignment	9/1/21 to 11/12/21	Seara Moon (Medical)
Michelle Lee-Ein	Teacher Art	LFCIS	Sub pay for the first 60 days \$150 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	9/13/21 to 6/2/22	Eleni Despotakis (Maternity)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #2P.

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to adjourn, 8:42 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
09/21/2021