

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

MINUTES

**SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
September 22, 2021
Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium
and Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by President, Ms. Colbath.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Ms. Cho.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Elisa Cho, Mrs. Kim Curry, Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell (*4:09 p.m.*), Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba (*departed 5:25 p.m.*), Mr. 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.

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 review Administrative and Affirmative Action Investigations, and discuss personnel and legal matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Ms. Stassou, seconded by Mrs. Richter, at 4:08 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Ms. Colbath announced that the employee involved in the Affirmative Action Investigation was given a statutory RICE Notice and was afforded the opportunity to have the results discussed in public but elected not to do so. Ms. Colbath further announced that as a result of the employee's decision, the Board will not be commenting on the results of those investigations.

Ms. Colbath shared that since a Public Business Meeting was held on Monday, September 20, 2021 with extensive public comments, tonight's Hearing of Citizens will be limited to 20 minutes.

Ms. Colbath introduced the new Superintendent, Mr. Robert Kravitz and read modified Resolution Item #1B.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

None.

HEARING OF CITIZENS- QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to open the floor to the public, 5:09 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Several members of the public shared their comments and concerns including; gratitude for Dr. Schoen's service as the Interim Superintendent and the amazing accomplishments achieved in such a short time; pleasure in welcoming Mr. Kravitz, our new Superintendent; concern regarding Mr. Kravitz' ongoing litigation with the Englewood Board of Education; the importance of showing respect to the Board and Community members; concern regarding the status of the Affirmative Action Investigation; clarification of item #7F [Joint Transportation Agreement with Cliffside Park] that appeared on the September 20, 2021 agenda; and thanks to the Board for their extraordinary efforts during these difficult times. Dr. Schoen and Ms. Taylor addressed all the questions and comments.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to close the floor to the public, 5:31 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

1B RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the contract of employment with **Robert Kravitz for the position of Superintendent**, ~~commencing for including a transition period from September 23 to September 30, 2021, and continuing through his appointment effective~~ **October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025**, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the attached contract, and conditioned upon Interim Executive County Superintendent approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the contract of employment on its behalf.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Stassou, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approve item #1B.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Stassou, to adjourn, 5:33 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor

HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/toc
09/24/2021