

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

MINUTES

**SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
November 29, 2021
Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium
and Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Ms. Julene Stassou, Ms. Paula K. Colbath

Also Present: Mr. Robert Kravitz, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker, Frances Febres, Board Attorney, Matthew Giacobbe, Board Attorney

Absent: Mr. Michael Rubino

PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

The purpose of tonight's Special Public Meeting is to convene in open session and then immediately proceed into closed, Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, legal matters and deliberate and determine whether to certify tenure charges. Action might be taken in closed, executive session or in public session. The Board will return to Public Session at approximately 9:00 p.m. to hear public comments from the community and adjourn.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, at 7:03 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 9:04 p.m.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

None.

HEARING OF CITIZENS- QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to open the floor to the public, 9:04 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Victoria Kim talked about a stalking incident that happened that day (followed to her car with her child, told "Justice will be served" and given a look). She wants to make public record of the incident and requests proper protection of her child. She has concerns about the suitability of the School #1 principal after the July 20th PTA election, stating that 176 students were endangered and lost instruction time. She asked about the certification results and the process timeline. A board member responded that they don't discuss personnel matters in public as prohibited by law.

Christina Suh was disturbed by what happened to Victoria Kim. She asked why the Board is not allowed to discuss. She said Mrs. Giacomelli has been warned of abusive and inappropriate actions in 2012, 2015, 2017, and 2020. She said on 9/22 there were affirmative charges (mistreatment of parents from 2006 to present) from 42 parents and 34 teachers. She noted that these are not frivolous claims; but harassment and legitimate issues.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to close the floor to the public, 9:12 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to adjourn, 9:13 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Tayler

HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/sa
12/10/21