

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

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING**

**April 18, 2022**

**Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium  
and Zoom Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board President, Ms. Colbath.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Ms. Stassou.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Public Announcement was read by Mrs. Colbath.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Ms. Elisa Cho, Mrs. Kim Curry, Mrs. Min Jeong Kim, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Ms. Julene Stassou, Ms. Paula K. Colbath

**Also Present:** Mr. Robert Kravitz, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker, Mr. Christopher Buggy, Board Attorney

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, at 6:33 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

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

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Kravitz shared that Priscilla Hsieh, a fourth grade student at School 3, was named winner of the national competition, #ESSArtContest, for the Grades 3-5 group. Mr. Kravitz further shared that an award of \$500 will be awarded to Priscilla Hsieh and School 3.

Mr. Kravitz then shared that the Lewis F. Cole Middle School was only one of two middle schools in the entire country (817 entries) to receive a Crown Award from Columbia University's Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) at its Spring Conference. Mr. Kravitz further shared that our Intermedia 2020-21 magazine was ranked as one of the top two middle school art and literary publications in the United States.

Mr. Kravitz introduced Mr. Charles Koch and Mr. Gus Arnone of ENV, Board Architects, to discuss the 2022-2023 Capital Reserve Projects. Mr. Jack DeNichilo, Supervisor, New Construction, participated in the presentation. Mr. Koch, Mr. Arnone and Mr. DeNichilo addressed the Board's questions and concerns.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Legislative Committee: Ms. Cho shared that Board members had a virtual introductory meeting with Assemblywoman Shama Haider and her staff, and had a very informative conversation on various topics.

Finance Committee: Ms. Cho shared that the committee met prior to today's Public Meeting and reviewed and discussed the March Board Secretary's Report.

### **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Ms. Colbath read the walk-in resolution (Item # 5B) relating to a residency matter.

### **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. Richter, seconded by Ms. Stassou, to open the floor to the public, 9:25 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Public questions and comments included concerns of the Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Policy's controversial sexual content and how it will be taught; concerns that puberty blockers will be part of the K-5 grades curriculum; posting of the 2022-2023 District Calendar on the website; request for the AP Chinese testing to be offered at the Fort Lee High School; important to inform parents of the cost associated with Item #2CUR [Summer 2022 Math Advancement Program] on tonight's agenda; inquiry about the initiatives students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade will be participating in the fall; and the necessity of maintaining the maintenance reserve account due to the old buildings in the district.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to close the floor to the public, 9:59 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    April 4, 2022  
Private Executive Meeting Minutes    April 4, 2022

- 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, approves the **participation of Board Members for Workshops** as outlined below:

<b><u>WORKSHOP</u></b>	<b><u>BOARD MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>PLACE</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT PER PERSON</u></b>
NJSBA Equity Conference 2022	Holly Morell Candace Romba	May 20, 2022	Virtual	\$99
NJSBA Procurement 101 for School Board Members Webinar	Elisa Cho Kim Curry	March 24, 2022	Virtual	-0-

- 4B** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the attendance and travel expenditures for administration and board members to attend the **New Jersey School Boards Annual Workshop in Atlantic City, New Jersey** not to exceed \$1,200 per attendee (as per the GSA maximums):

Attendees	Workshop	Date
Nine Board Members	NJSBA Annual Workshop	October 24 – 26, 2022
Up to Four Administrators	NJSBA Annual Workshop	October 24 – 26, 2022

- 5B** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby:
- Walk-in**

- permits the following non-resident student(s) to continue enrollment at the Fort Lee Public Schools and waives tuition costs for the 2021-2022 school year.

STUDENT ID #
#27090070 (MS, Gr. 7)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #5B.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0 for items #1B through #4B, with exception, Board members abstained on their own names on item #3B, and 6-3 for item #5B as Mrs. Romba, Ms. Cho and Mrs. Richter voted no.

### **CURRICULUM**

- 1CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **class trips listed on the attached summary**. *Attachment:* [2022-04-18 CLASS TRIPS](#)

**2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **program for Summer 2022**:

- Summer 2022 Math Advancement Program for students entering grades 7 and 8 from Tuesday, July 5, 2022 through Friday, August 5, 2022 at Lewis F. Cole Middle School

MOTION by Mrs. Romba seconded by Mrs. Morell, to approve items #1CUR and #2CUR.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call, 7-2, with exception, Ms. Stassou and Ms. Colbath voted no on item #2CUR.

### **FINANCE**

**1F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, has received and accepts the financial reports of the **Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for the month ending March 2022** and certifies that the reports indicate that no major account or fund is over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the school year. *Attachment:* [BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT-MARCH 2022: TREASURER'S REPORT-MARCH 2022](#)

**2F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, confirms the **line item transfers for the month of March 2022**. In order to accomplish the aforesaid purpose, the Business Administrator was authorized to transfer the amount of money into and out of the line items set forth on the attached schedule. *Attachment:* [LINE ITEM TRANSFERS-MARCH 2022](#)

**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 bills list in the amount of \$8,284,151.90 for April 2022 checks**. *Attachment:* [2022-04-18 BILLS LIST](#)

4F **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 \$102,821.18 for April 2022 checks.** *Attachment:* [2022-04-18 CAFETERIA BILLS LIST](#)

5F **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 \$1,134.00 for April 2022 checks.** *Attachment:* [2022-04-18 ATHLETICS BILLS LIST](#)

6F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following **donations**:

<b><u>DONATIONS</u></b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount/ Estimated Value</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>On Behalf Of</b>
Check	\$500	Petroleum Marketing Group, Inc. 2900 Telestar Ct. Falls Church, VA 22042	FLHS Science Program
Sound System	\$7,000	PTA - School No. 3	S#3 - new sound system for the All Purpose Room

7F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a contract with **Grant Specialties, LLC to provide 2022 School Violence Prevention Program grant development, budget proposal, letters of support, and all preparation documents required to submit a competitive grant application to the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), a division of the U.S. Department of Justice at a cost of \$5,000, to be charged to Account # 11-000-266-300-41-000.** *Attachment:* [GRANT SPECIALITIES CONSULTATION PROPOSAL 2022](#)

8F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **an agreement/contract with Joshua Tours to provide student transportation services to and from Bergen County Technical Schools at Teterboro for the contract term April 18, 2022 to June 24, 2022.** *Attachment:* [JOSHUA TOURS CONTRACT 2022](#)

**9F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby **authorizes the cancellation of 62 dated outstanding checks totaling \$27,331.30** with funds from cancelled outstanding checks being realized in the current General Fund as Miscellaneous Revenue. *Attachment:* [DATED OUTSTANDING CHECKS](#)

**10F** **WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education ("Board") has established a Capital Reserve Account pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-31 in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, which is subject to an annual audit.

**WHEREAS**, the Board may use the capital reserve account to implement a capital project in the District's Long-Range Facility Plan (hereinafter referred to as "LRFP") as required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-4(a) and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1, the Board may, by resolution, transfer funds from the capital reserve account to the line items in the capital outlay fund to fund the total costs, less any excess costs, of another capital project, which would otherwise be eligible for State support, as determined in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3; and

**WHEREAS**, a **boiler replacement at School #3** is an "other" capital project within the scope of the District's LRFP, which would otherwise be eligible for State support through a bond ordinance or when funding is again made available from the state.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **authorizes the use of \$324,900 of Capital Reserves to fund the Boiler Replacement at School #3.**

**11F** **WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education ("Board") has established a Capital Reserve Account pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-31 in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, which is subject to an annual audit.

**WHEREAS**, the Board may use the capital reserve account to implement a capital project in the District's Long-Range Facility Plan (hereinafter referred to as "LRFP") as required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-4(a) and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1, the Board may, by resolution, transfer funds from the capital reserve account to the line items in the capital outlay fund to fund the total costs, less any excess costs, of another capital project, which would otherwise be eligible for State support, as determined in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3; and

**WHEREAS**, the **installation of an Energy Recovery Ventilation (ERV) system** on the first floor at School #1 is an "other" capital project within the scope of the District's LRFP, which would otherwise be eligible for State support through a bond ordinance or

when funding is again made available from the state.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the use of **\$451,000 of Capital Reserves to fund the installation of an Energy Recovery Ventilation (ERV) system on the first floor at School #1.**

**12F WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education ("Board") has established a Capital Reserve Account pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-31 in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, which is subject to an annual audit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board may use the capital reserve account to implement a capital project in the District's Long-Range Facility Plan (hereinafter referred to as "LRFP") as required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-4(a) and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1, the Board may, by resolution, transfer funds from the capital reserve account to the line items in the capital outlay fund to fund the total costs, less any excess costs, of another capital project, which would otherwise be eligible for State support, as determined in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3; and

**WHEREAS**, the **installation of an Energy Recovery Ventilation (ERV) system** on the first floor at School #3 is an "other" capital project within the scope of the District's LRFP, which would otherwise be eligible for State support through a bond ordinance or when funding is again made available from the state through a bond ordinance or when funding is again made available from the state.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the use of **\$293,000 of Capital Reserves to fund the installation of an Energy Recovery Ventilation (ERV) system on the first floor at School #3.**



- 13F WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education desires to **participate in The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS), a National Cooperative Purchasing Program offered by Region VIII Education Service Center** located in Pittsburg, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, participation, through membership and utilization of competitively bid and awarded vendor contracts in a cooperative purchasing program specializing in the management of high quality cooperative procurement solutions will be beneficial to the taxpayers through the anticipated savings to be realized by the Fort Lee Board of Education.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Business Administrator to **sign and deliver any and all necessary documents on behalf of the Fort Lee Board of Education to become a member of The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) National Cooperative Purchasing Program.**

MOTION by Mrs. Morell seconded by Mrs. Romba, to approve items #1F through #13F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call, 9-0.

### **PERSONNEL**

- 1P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attendance of staff members at the **staff trips/conferences** listed on the attached summary. [\*Attachment: 2022-04-18 STAFF TRIPS\*](#)
- 2P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the submission of the annual **Statement of Assurance (SOA) for the Comprehensive Equity Plan for the 2022-2023 school year** to the Bergen County Department of Education.
- 3P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Haesook Yook, as a Music Teacher at School 3, after dedicating 22 years of service to the district, effective January 1, 2023.**

- 4P **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
Stefanie Holman	Teacher Grade 2	S1	Medical/ Maternity	Amend	1/13/22 to 6/12/22	6/13/22 to 1/1/23	N/A	1/2/23

- 5P **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:

<b><u>SUBSTITUTES</u></b>
Iryna Shmarakova Jane Giambona Eunbi An YeongGyeong (Clara) An Giankarlo Medina

- 6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment Gene Fusco as the 2022 ESY Program Coordinator** at the rate of \$48.43 per hour, not to exceed \$6,000.00, to be charged to Account # 11-422-100-101-00-000.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell seconded by Mrs. Romba, to approve items #1P through #6P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0. Ms. Colbath thanked Ms. Yook for her dedicated years of service.

MOTION by Ms. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education allows the Board members to change their vote on item #5B [Non-Residency].

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 5-4 for item #5B, with exception Mrs. Kim, Mrs. Richter, Mrs. Romba, and Ms. Cho voted no.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Colbath acknowledged the generous donations the Fort Lee High School Science Program and School #3 received.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Rubino seconded by Ms. Stassou, to adjourn, 10:00 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Haquisha Q. Taylor*

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**HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR**

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/toc 04/21/2022