

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium
and Zoom (virtual) 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 Mr. Rubino

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Open Public Meeting announcement was read by Board President, Ms. Colbath

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Elisa Cho, Mrs. Kim Curry, Mr. Kacy Knight, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mr. Michael Rubino, Ms. Julene Stassou, Ms. Paula K. Colbath

Also Present: Mr. Robert L. Kravitz, Dr. Vincent Occhino, Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker, Mr. Lester E. Taylor III, Board Attorney

Absent: Dr. Catherine Golfinopoulos

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Rubino seconded by Mrs. Curry at 6:43 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.^[1]_[SEP]

President Colbath asked for a MOTION to adjourn the Executive Session.

Mr. Rubino moved the resolution and it was seconded by Mrs. Morell at 7:38 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.^[1]_[SEP]

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Ms. Colbath welcomed the High School Student Representatives, Katherine Lee and Amaya Patel. Ms. Lee and Ms. Patel shared a detailed report to include participation in the 2023 Steam Team Challenge Regional Competition; the #1 winner in both Bergen County and Region One Auditions; students performed as members of the Region One Honors Choir on February 4, 2023 at the Morris Knolls High School; announced the Scholastic Art Awards winners; the student selected for the Youth Musicians Program; the Harlem Wizards will be at the Fort Lee High School on Thursday, March 16th; and the High School Orchestra has been invited to play at the

New York Invitational Music Festival at Carnegie Hall on Tuesday March 14th.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent Kravitz complimented the boys' basketball team for their winnings..

Mr. Kravitz proudly introduced and congratulated newly appointed administrators, Dina Messery, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Viveca Williams-Glover, Principal of School Number 3.

Superintendent Kravitz introduced Steven D. Wielkotz,, Principal of Wielkotz & Company Certified Public Accountants to present the Annual Audit Report. Mr. Wielkotz stated that the financial statements in the Audit Report for the period beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 indicate that the district continues to be fiscally. Their findings also revealed some non-compliant accounting practices that are being addressed and monitored.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Athletic & Activities Committee: Chairperson Mr. Rubino shared the Girls Basketball team defeated the first round of the Championship.

Curriculum & Student Achievement Committee: Chairperson Ms. Stassou shared the committee met Monday, February 13th and reviewed policies on student achievement.

Strategic Planning Committee: Chairperson Mrs. Morell shared the committee met on Monday, February 13th and discussed strategies that will be very beneficial for the District.

Building & Grounds Committee: Chairperson Ms. Cho shared the committee met on Monday, February 13th and shared an update on the air conditioning projects at School 1 and 3, and the 4 classrooms at the High School . The committee discussed the capital reserve projects, and that there is \$2 million in maintenance reserves which will be helpful to perform maintenance on our aging school buildings. Ms. Cho shared that we have passed the first QSAC walk-through.

WALK-IN RESOLUTION

Ms. Colbath read Walk-in item #6B pertaining to a residency issue.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

Ms. Cho asked if the Personnel Policy pertaining to interviewing administrators should be reviewed and/or revised.

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. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino to open the floor to the public, 7:59 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Public comments included buildings and grounds safety issues at the Middle School and Intermediate School, recommendations to improve the aftercare program, minimize teacher-student ratio, more timely evaluations with children with learning difficulties, incorporate religion in our curriculum; and an inquiry if there will be a parent committee to review and comment on the 2023-2024 program studies.

Mr. Kravitz and Mrs. Collazo-Baker addressed all questions and concerns.

MOTION by Mrs. Stassou, seconded by Mr. Rubino to close the floor to the public, 8:10 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Colbath thanked Janet Elmers, Paraprofessional, and Nina Anderson, Art Teacher, for their many years of dedicated service and valuable contributions.

BOARD

1B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, **approves the following minutes:**

Public Business Meeting Minutes	January 17, 2023
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	January 17, 2023
Public Business Meeting Minutes	February 6, 2023
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	February 6, 2023

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:**

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>AMOUNT PER PERSON</u>
NJSBA School Finance Conference	Paula Colbath	3/1/2023	Virtual	\$50.00
Bergen County SBA - Unsung Heroes	Paula Colbath Kim Curry Catherine Golfinopoulos Holly Morell Kacy Knight Michael Rubino	3/30/2023	Ridgefield Memorial High School 555 Walnut Street, Ridgefield, NJ	-0-

4B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the **amending of the school calendar to reflect a Delayed Opening for 9th, 10th, & 12th grade students to arrive at 9:45 a.m. from March 13-16, 2023, due to NJGPA Testing and for 10th, 11th, & 12th grade students from and May 15-16, 2023, due to NJSLA testing.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the **amending of the school calendar to reflect a Delayed Opening for 9th, 10th, & 12th grade students to arrive at 9:45 a.m. on April 25, 2023 for SAT testing.**

ALSO, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the **amending of the school calendar to reflect a Delayed Opening, May 11-12, 2023 for 7th grade students for NJSLA testing.**

5B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the **Approval of Michael DiBartolomeo to provide a remote College Search and Admissions Process presentation for parents/guardians of high school students. There is no cost for the presentation.**

6B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby:

Walk-in

- disenrolls the following non-resident student(s) from the Fort Lee Public Schools.

STUDENT ID #
<u>4710857749</u> (FLES4, Gr. 4)
<u>8439585818</u> (HS, Gr. 9)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Curry, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #6B.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 4-0-4, with the exception Mr. Knight, Mr. Rubino, Mrs. Morell and Ms. Colbath abstained on their own names on item #3B.

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:* [CLASS TRIPS](#)

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

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

FINANCE

1F 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 \$1,266,497.48 for February 2023 checks.** *Attachment:* [2023-02-11 BILLS LIST](#)

2F 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 \$90,816.72 for February 2023 checks.** *Attachment:* [2023-02-11 CAFETERIA BILLS](#)

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 Athletic bills list in the amount of \$21,725.00 for February 2023 checks.** *Attachment:* [2023-02-22 ATHLETICS BILLS](#)

4F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to **utilize joint transportation services with the River Edge Public Schools Board of Education for out-of-district transportation of students at a cost not to exceed \$174,750 for the 2022-2023 school year.** *Attachment:* [2022-2023 JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT](#)

5F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Board President and School Business Administrator to **execute Non-Resident Tuition Student Agreements for non-resident students whose parent(s) are employed by the district for the 2022-2023 school year. Prorated Tuition rates to be determined by the Business Office and according to Board policy.**

NON-RESIDENT TUITION STUDENT AGREEMENT		
STUDENT	GRADE	SCHOOL ATTENDING
LS	Kindergarten	School #1

6F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, **hereby accepts the Audit Report for the year ending June 30, 2022 as prepared by Wielkotsz and Company, LLC, Certified Public Accountants.** *Attachment: [AUDIT SYNOPSIS 6-30-2022](#)*

7F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves the contract with Fiesta Catering for the Fort Lee High School 2023 Athletics Awards Dinner to be held on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at a price not to exceed \$35.00 per person.** *Attachment: [FIESTA CONTRACT](#)*

MOTION by Mrs. Curry, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves Items #1F through #7F.

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

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: [STAFF TRIPS](#)*

2P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Nina Anderson as a Teacher-Art at the Lewis F. Cole Middle School, after dedicating 27 years of service to the district, effective July 1, 2023.**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Janet Elmers as a Paraprofessional at School 2, after dedicating 13 years of service to the district, effective July 1, 2023.**

3P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves the following resignations:**

<u>RESIGNATIONS</u>			
Employee	Position	Location	Effective Date
Craig Kramer	Custodian	LFCMS	3/3/23
Soo Han	Paraprofessional	LFCMS	2/28/23

4P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **following appointments for the 2022-2023 school year, pending verification of employment:**

APPOINTMENTS						
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Position Control #	Annual Salary Prorated	Effective Date
Carly	Adam	Speech Language Specialist	S2	02-3120-03	\$62,475.00 Step 2-3/MA	2/23/23
Stephani	Fonseca	Paraprofessional	S2	02-9101-104	\$21,090.00 Step1/ND	3/13/2023 or sooner
Jonathan	Melendez	Teacher - Social Studies	FLHS	07-2322-05	\$59,075.00 Step 2-3/BA	2/23/23
Melissa	Thompson	Paraprofessional	S4	04-9101-102	\$24,386.00 Step1/Deg	2/23/23
Viveca	Williams-Glover	Principal	S3	03-0231-03	\$130,000	4/24/23 or sooner

5P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **employment of Dina Messery, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, effective on or before May 1, 2023.** Pending approval by the Executive County Superintendent, for the 2022-2023 school year.

6P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **additional staff transfers during the 2022-2023 school year.**

TRANSFERS						
Name	From Location	From Position	To Location	To Position	Salary Change	Effective Date
Salma Major	S3	Teacher- BSI	S2	Teacher - Special Education	N/A	2/22/23
Daniel Cignarella	MS	Teacher-Special Education	S2	Teacher - Special Education	N/A	2/22/23

7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves the following leaves:**

LEAVES OF ABSENCES								
Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amend	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Laura Caddell	Counselor	HS	Medical	Amended	1/11/23 - 2/24/23	N/A	N/A	2/27/23
Rosa DiPuma	Paraprofessional	S2	Medical	New	3/14/23 - 4/7/23	N/A	N/A	4/10/23
Rosa Pelletier	Bus Driver	CO	Medical	New	1/31/23 - 2/10/23	N/A	N/A	2/13/23

8P **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 2022-2023 school year:**

SUBSTITUTES
Juni Kim, Substitute Teacher Brian Kim, Substitute Teacher Danna Attiyyeh, Substitute Teacher Roberto Yan, Substitute Custodian Mariela Sanchez, Substitute Custodian

9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **amending** the compensation for the staff members for **After-School Tutoring Program during the 2022-2023 school year**. Rates were \$45.00 per hour and will now be \$55.00 per hour, effective January 3, 2023. This compensation is **funded by ESSER II Learning Acceleration and ARP ESSER funds. Account codes #20-484-100-100-00-000 and #20-487-100-100-00-000.**

Name	Assignment	Location	Extra Compensation
Michael Mottershead	After-School Tutoring Program	S2	\$55.00 per hour
Rachael Standish	After-School Tutoring Program	S2	\$55.00 per hour
Amy Patterson	After-School Tutoring Program	S1	\$55.00 per hour
Jonathan Reinsdorf	After-School Tutoring Program	S1	\$55.00 per hour

10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **amended payment** for Dr. Sharon Amato, to **Mindful Leadership Consultants, LLC**, who is serving as Interim Principal at School No. 3, effective January 10, 2023 at a per diem rate not to exceed \$500/day during the 2022-2023 school year as per the previously approved contract from 12/21/2023.

11P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **amended reimbursement of substitute teacher certification fees funded from account #20-487-200-300-00-000 for the employees listed below:**

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CERTIFICATION FEE REIMBURSEMENT		
First Name	Last Name	Amount
Veronica	Marin Fuentes	\$128.38

12P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **reimbursement of professional development fees funded from account #11-000-262-890-40-000 for the employee listed below:**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FEE REIMBURSEMENT		
First Name	Last Name	Amount
Demba	Mane	\$195.00

13P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following 2023 Spring Season Coaching names and stipends for the High School:

NAME	SPORT	POSITION	SEASON	CLASS	STEP	STIPEND
Peter Kraljic, Jr	Baseball	Head Coach	Spring	II	2	\$8,975
Mike LoPresti	Baseball	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Ian Oates	Baseball	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Anthony Medaglia	Baseball	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
William Straub	Softball	Head Coach	Spring	II	2	\$8,975
Kellie Lane	Softball	Asst. Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Brianna Mattessich	Softball	Asst. Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Peter Romano	Softball	Asst. Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Charlie Salame	Boys Track	Head Coach	Spring	II	2	\$8,975
Demba Mane	Boys Track	Asst. Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Jacob Williams	Boys Track	Asst. Coach	Spring	II	1	\$5,955
Nicole Pacciani	Girls Track	Head Coach	Spring	II	1	\$7,829
Sean Scully	Golf	Head Coach	Spring	III	2	\$5,349
Philip Zappel	Boys Tennis	Head Coach	Spring	III	2	\$5,349

14P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following 2023 Spring Season Coaching names and stipends for the Middle School:

NAME	SPORT	POSITION	SEASON	CLASS	STEP	STIPEND
Lewis Maira	Co-ed Track	Co-Coaches	Spring	N/A	N/A	\$1,000
Renee Mattesich	Co-ed Track	Co-Coaches	Spring	N/A	N/A	\$1,000
Justin Picache	Baseball	Head Coach	Spring	N/A	N/A	\$2,000
Todd Church	Softball	Head Coach	Spring	N/A	N/A	\$2,000

15P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Volunteer Athletic Coaches for the 2022-2023 Spring Season, with no compensation, as follows:**

High School volunteer coaches are as follows:

Tom Kraljic*	Baseball
Erik Holzapfel*	Baseball
Justin Santiago*	Baseball
Neil Grant*	Golf

***Denotes non-staff member**

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Curry, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves Items #1P through #15P.

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

POLICY

1POL THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **first reading of the following Policy/Regulation updates listed below: Attachment: [POLICIES/REGULATIONS FIRST READING](#)**

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
R 5751	Sexual Harassment of Students (M)
P 0152	Board Officers

2POL THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **second reading and adoption of the following Policy/Regulation updates listed below: Attachment: [POLICIES/RESOLUTIONS SECOND READING](#)**

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P 1648.11	The Road Forward COVID-19 – Health and Safety (M) (Abolished)
P 1648.13	School Employee Vaccination Requirements (M) (Abolished)
P 0161	Call, Adjournment, and Cancellation (Revised)
P 0162	Notice of Board Meetings (Revised)
R 8420.2	Bomb Threats (M) (Revised)
R 8420.7	Lockdown Procedures (M) (Revised)
R 8420.10	Active Shooter (M) (Revised)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1POL and #2POL.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Knight expressed concerns regarding Ap2 artificial intelligence program negatively impacting the students if utilized inappropriately.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Curry, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to adjourn, 8:15 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Dr. Vincent Occhino

Dr. Vincent Occhino
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

VO/toc
Attachments
02-22-23