

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION WILL IMMEDIATELY ENTER CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS
CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS.**

THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING WILL COMMENCE AT 7:30 P.M.

Monday, April 24, 2023

Meeting Start Time: 6:30 p.m.

**Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium (in-person limited access) and Zoom (virtual)
Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82838267705>**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Fort Lee Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published on January, 13, 2023 and posted on the district website at www.flboe.com; published in the Board's designated online media outlet/newspapers: The Record and The Star Ledger; filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Fort Lee; and mailed to all persons, if any, who have requested said notice. Please be advised that this meeting is being taped and may be broadcasted on local TV and the district's website at a future date.

The Open Public Meeting Act allows for remote participation at Board Meetings and defines "meeting" as any gathering whether corporeal or by means of communication equipment, which is attended by, or open to, all of the members of a public body, held with the intent, on the part of the members of the body present, to discuss or act as a unit upon the specific public business of that body.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Approximately 6:30 p.m.

The Board shall recess to Executive Session in accordance with New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) (1~9). The general nature of the discussion will involve matters confidential by law, any investigations or tactics or techniques to protect persons or public property, litigation, anticipated litigation and attorney-client matters. These matters will be disclosed to the public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer applies.

**MOTION TO RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION - Immediately following Executive Session –
Approximately 7:30 p.m.**

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT - COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules (per District Policy #0167):

1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate.
2. Participants are limited to three minutes in which to make their statement. Additional time may be granted at the discretion of the presiding officer.
3. The Board will not entertain any comments from persons who communicate obscene material, make statements which are considered bias intimidation in which a person intends to intimidate any individual or group because of race, color, religion, gender, handicap, sexual orientation or ethnicity or makes comments intending to harass or speak any offensive language.
4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.
5. The presiding officer may:
 - a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
 - c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
 - d. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and
 - e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes	March 6, 2023
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	March 6, 2023

Public Business Meeting Minutes	March 16, 2023
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	March 16, 2023

Public Business Meeting Minutes	April 11, 2023
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	April 11, 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 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	Dates
Nine Board Members	NJSBA Annual Workshop	October, 23-26, 2023
Up to four Administrators	NJSBA Annual Workshop	October, 23-26, 2023

- 4B **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **amended 2022-2023 District Calendar**, as per the attached. *Attachment: [Revised 22-23 School Calendar](#)*

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- 1B&G **WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education Long Range Facility Plan designated the renovations and additions to district schools; and

WHEREAS, facing uncertainty as to future availability to school construction funding, the Fort Lee Board of Education has entered the project specific planning stage to address alternative solutions to future availability the continued lack of educational space to meet the need of its students; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Lee Board of Education has identified and approved the acquisition of real property including an educational facility to meet those needs located in the Borough of Fort Lee and designated as:308 Tom Hunter Road, Block 3952, Lot 1; and

WHEREAS, The Board now seeks to take steps in order to proceed with the project and comply with NJAC 6A:26-5.2 and 5.3 and related sections of the code as an “other capital project” and must prepare a Submission Package to the New Jersey Department of Education for review and approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education authorizes the preparation of the Department of Education Submission Package and that the Superintendent of Schools and the Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to amend the approved Fort Lee Long Range Facility Plan to acquire classroom space to increase the capacity above existing schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education authorizes the submission of the Submission Package for the project to the New Jersey Department of Education for consideration and approval.

- 2B&G **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves and authorizes **an agreement for the purchase of the 308 Tom Hunter Road, Fort Lee, New Jersey for the purchase price of \$1,550,000.00** subject to satisfaction of all conditions proceeding set forth in the agreement which is attached to this Resolution and which has been circulated to the Board members.

Attachment: [Deed Tom Hunter Road](#)

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](#)*
- 2CUR **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **program for Summer 2023**:
- Summer 2023 Math Advancement Program for students entering grades 7 and 8 from Wednesday, July 5, 2023 through Friday, August 4, 2023 at Lewis F. Cole Middle School. The cost for in-district students is \$500.00 and \$600.00 out-of-district students.
- 3CUR **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Children's Aid & Family Services as a provider for a parent workshop, to provide a 1-hour virtual Hidden in Plain Sight/Vaping Presentation at no cost**.

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 February 2023** 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: [Secretary Report February](#) [Treasurer Report February](#)*
- 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 February 2023**. 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: [Transfers February](#)*
- 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 \$8,876,010.82 for April 2023 checks**. *Attachment: [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 \$115,703.64 for April 2023 checks**. *Attachment: [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 \$1,718.00 for April 2023 checks.
Attachment: [Athletic Bills List](#)

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 Maria Kolic, a Paraprofessional at Lewis F. Cole Middle School, after dedicating 20 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, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Lynn Roese, a Paraprofessional at School No. 2, after dedicating 10½ years of service to the district, effective July 1, 2023.**
- 4P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Corinne West, an Art Teacher at School No. 2, after dedicating 17 years of service to the district, effective July 1, 2023.**
- 5P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Jack DeNichilo, as Acting Supervisor of Building & Grounds at Central Office, after dedicating 22 years of service to the district, effective July 1, 2023.** (Amended from June 30, 2023).
- 6P **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:

<u>APPOINTMENTS</u>						
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Position Control #	Annual Salary Prorated	Effective Date
Lindita	Agastra	Assistant School Business Administrator	CO	00-0122-01	\$105,000.00	7/1/2023
Sunny	Kim	Part Time (.83) Paraprofessional	S2	02-9101-65	\$24,386.00	4/20/2023 Amended

- 7P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves the appointment of Curriculum Writers for 2023-2024 for services to be performed outside the contractual day, to be paid a stipend at an hourly rate of \$45.00 per hour, for an aggregate total not to exceed \$70,000, to be charged against account # 11-000-221-104-00-000, for the teaching staff members listed below:**

CONTENT AREA	CERTIFICATED STAFF MEMBERS
English Language Arts	Marjorie O'Connell, Jodi Schultz-Etra, Miranda Jurgensen, Alden Etra
Elementary (Multiple content areas)	Alycia Adams, Catherine Arfuso, Jocelyn Levine, Rachel Ventrella, Janine Mendoza
Physical Education	Peter Kraljic
Math	Chloe Shannon, Brittany Lodato, Christina Murphy, Stefanie Katic
World Languages	Cinzia Bernardo, Yiting Zhou, Julissa Cartagena, Ada Acosta Chehirian
Social Studies	Gene Fusco, Justin Williams, Meghan Favorito, Danielle Christal, Arielle Mangiaracina
Science	Faith-Ann Minutolo, Yesenia Jimenez
Library/Media	Douglas Walden

- 8P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **appoints the following faculty members to administer AP exams outside of the normal work day during the month of May 2023, at an hourly rate of \$45.00, with a maximum of 15 hours per faculty member, to be paid from Account # 11-140-100-101.**

- Diana Acosta
- Gabrielle Brown
- Laura Caddell
- Alysia Ott
- Miranda Jurgensen
- Reina Proto
- Jessica Bijari
- Maria Giannattasio
- Fathia Balgahoom
- Yvette Rodriguez
- Douglas Walden
- Erin Powers
- Tara Lawlor
- Kelly McMenamin (Horton)

9P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **2023 Summer OOD ESY Employment for Non-Affiliated, Out of District Registered Nurse, Johanna Reyes**, assign to student SID#5257323628, from **July 5, 2023 to July 28, 2023 for a total of 126 hours @ \$64.74, not to exceed \$8,157.24** for Extended School Year services rendered at Norman A. Bleshman School from Account # 11-422-100-101-00-000.

10P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **termination of employment for Employee #6920, effective April 25, 2023.**

11P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **leaves**:

<u>LEAVES OF ABSENCES</u>								
Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amend	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Jessica Addeo	OT	CST	Maternity	New	9/1/23 - 9/15/23	N/A	9/18/23 - 12/31/23	1/2/24
Christina Agrapidis	Kindergarten Teacher	S1	Maternity	Amend	10/3/22 - 11/30/22	12/1/22 - 6/30/22	7/1/23 - 12/31/23	1/2/24
Helen Altamura	School Secretary	HS	Medical	Amend	4/26/23 - 5/5/23	N/A	N/A	5/8/23
Marilyn Bynum	Bookkeeper	CO	Medical	New	5/4/23 - 5/18/23 (½)	5/18/23 (½) - 6/30/23	N/A	7/1/23
Desiree DiCristoforo	Paraprofessional	S2	Medical	Amend	3/23/23 - 4/28/23	N/A	N/A	5/1/23
Alexandra Infante	ELA Grade 6	IS	Maternity	Amend	4/24/23 - 6/15/23	6/16/23 - 2/22/24	N/A	2/23/24
Genna Kornweiser	Gr 5 & 6 BSI Math	IS	Maternity	Amend	N/A	9/1/23- 3/31/24	4/1/24 - 5/12/24	5/15/24
ID# 6193	N/A		Admin Leave	New	4/19/23	N/A	N/A	TBD

- 12P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **leave replacements** during the 2022-2023 school year, as outlined below:

<u>LEAVE REPLACEMENTS</u>					
Name	Grade/ Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Aleen Artinian	Teacher Gr 5	IS	\$58,875 Step 1 BA, No Benefits Continuous Assignment	9/1/22 to 6/30/23 (amended)	Rita Fermano
Soo Choi	Teacher Gr 2	S1	\$58,875 Step 1 BA, No Benefits Continuous Assignment	9/1/22 - 6/21/23 (amended)	Stefanie Holman
Samantha Gerson	School Counselor	IS	\$62,275.00 (prorated) Step1, MA No Benefits	4/24/2023 - 1/3/2024 (amended)	Kaityn Clausman
Lina Giraldo	Teacher Gr 4	S4	\$58,875 Step 1 BA, No Benefits Continuous Assignment	1/9/23 to 6/21/23 (amended)	Gina DeMartino
Briana Shuki	Teacher Grade 3	S1	\$58,875 Step 1 BA, No Benefits Continuous Assignment	9/1/22 - 6/2/23 Amended	Jessica Karoutsos
Beryl Steinbach	Teacher - LAL	IS	\$58,875.00 (prorated) No Benefits	4/25/2023 - 6/21/2023	Alexandra Infante

- 13P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the change of **Pay Structure for Leave Replacement in Educational Support Positions** effective May 1, 2023. Leave Replacement Educational Support Positions that require a Master's Degree will receive the salary equal to MA, Step 1 on the Teachers Salary Guide from day 1 of the assignment, no benefits.

- 14P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **payment of unused vacation days** for 2022-2023 as follows:

<u>Unused Vacation Day Payout</u>

Last Name	First Name	Salary Year	Salary	Daily	# of Vacation Days	Total
Puentes	Elieser	22-23	\$43,891.00	\$168.81	7.5**	\$1,266.08

* Vacation days awarded annually not accrued

**Custodial daily rate is calculated by dividing salary by 260 days

***Business Admin daily rate is calculated by dividing salary by 260 days

- 15P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of the following staff member as an Anti-Bullying Specialist** effective April 24, 2023 through June 30, 2023:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Anti-Bullying Specialists</u>
Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School	Samantha Gerson (MLR)

- 16P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **amended appointment of a Spring Coach for the 2022-2023 school year, as follows**. All appointments are subject to completion of all personnel documentation and fingerprinting process, prior to starting of said activities.

Coach	Sport	Position	Season	Class	Step	Stipend
Trevor Hedges*	Track/Field	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	1	\$5,955

***Non-Staff Member**

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Dr. Vincent Occhino

Dr. Vincent Occhino
INTERIM SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

VO/ic
Attachments
4-24-2023