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

## **MINUTES**

PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA Monday, May 8, 2023 Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium and Zoom (virtual) Meeting

## CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Board Vice President, Mrs. Richter

## FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Curry

#### PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Open Public Meeting announcement was read by Board Vice President, Mrs. Richter

#### ROLL CALL

- Present: Ms. Elisa Cho (*arrival 6:38 p.m. virtually*; *arrival 7:24 p.m. in-person*), Ms. Paula K. Colbath (*virtually*), Mrs. Kim Curry, Dr. Catherine Golfinopoulos, Mr. Kacy Knight, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. Michael Rubino, Ms. Julene Stassou, Mrs. Kristen Richter
- Also Present: Dr. Robert L. Kravitz, Mrs. Dina Messery, Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker, Mr. Lester E. Taylor III, Board Attorney

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Mrs. Morell seconded by Ms. Stassou at 6:37 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Board Vice President, Mrs. Richter asked for a MOTION to adjourn the Executive Session.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino seconded by Mrs. Morell at 7:47 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

# **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Dr. Kravitz reminded the parents that the 2022-2023 school calendar was revised to reflect the district is closed Friday, May 26 and Tuesday May 30. Dr. Kravitz reminded the public that Senator Robert Menendez will be at the High School Saturday, May 13, 2023 to celebrate the 2nd Annual Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month.

Dr. Kravitz shared the results of the 2021-2022 NJ State HIB Grade Report.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

#### **RESOLUTION WALK-IN:**

Mrs. Richter read walk-in resolution item #12P regarding the technology staff receiving extra compensation when working a special event.

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

Ms. Stassou acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked the teachers and administrators for their dedication and hard work. Ms. Stassou then shared the Middle School's baseball team 3-0 standing, and that the Middle School was named #5 in the State by the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE) standard tests scores.

### 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, 7:57 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Public comments included the status of completing the air-conditioning installation at Elementary Schools #1 and #3; School #4 PTA President received several complaints with security issues being one of the main concerns regarding the Right At School aftercare program and inquired if the administrators are considering re-evaluating the renewal of the Right At School contract; incorporate classes to teach students' how to behave in various environments, personal hygiene, sewing, cooking, and the like.

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

MOTION by Mr. Rubino seconded by Mrs. Morell to close the floor to the public, 8:07 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

#### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Mrs. Richter welcomed the High School Student Representatives. The Student Representatives, Skylar Yun and Steffi Song, shared a detailed report of high school student activities and other highlights.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

BOAR	<u>D</u>
1B	<b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> , that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the following <b>minutes</b> :
	Public Business Meeting Minutes April 24, 2023 Private Executive Meeting Minutes April 24, 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										
	<b>WHEREAS</b> , the Board has had the opportunity to review the Superintendent's recommendations with respect to the incident(s) of HIB.										
	<b>NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> , that the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendations.										
	BE IT FURTHER I Superintendent of So students involved in th days of this Board me	chools shall inform nese incidents with th	the app	licable parents/	guardians of the						
	<ol> <li>Whether th</li> <li>Whether di</li> </ol>	e of the investigation ne District found evic iscipline was impose ervices were provide	dence of H ed;		of HIB.						
3B	THEREFORE BE IT F participation of Boar										
	WORKSHOP	<u>BOARD</u> <u>MEMBER</u>	DATE	PLACE	AMOUNT PER PERSON						
	Garden State Coalition of Schools	Paula Colbath, Board President	May 24, 2023	Forsgate Country Club Jamesburg, NJ	\$65.00						
4B	THEREFORE BE IT F	RESOLVED, that the	∋ Fort Lee	Board of Educa	ition, hereby:						
	<ul> <li><u>affirms</u> HIB Investigation #242886_LFC_02142023(Custom ID #MS- 21) findings for the following student(s).</li> </ul>										
		STUD	ENT ID #								
		#28	080563								

5B	<b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> , that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves to delay school on the NJSLA Science Days , May 22 and May 23 for grades 9,10, and 12. Students are to report at 9:45AM.									
	<b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,</b> that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves amending the school calendar to a one-session day for the High School seniors on prom day, May 18, 2023.									
	MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Curry, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #5B.									
	MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0, with exception, Ms. Colbath abstained on items #3B and #4B.									
<u>CURRI</u>	<u>CULUM</u>									
1CUR	<b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> , that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves <b>class trips listed on the attached summary</b> . <i>Attachment: <u>Class Trips</u></i>									
2CUR	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 district-wide workshop, to provide a 1-hour virtual presentation on Coping & Resiliency, at no cost to the district.									
	MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Dr. Golfinopoulos, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR and #2CUR.									
	MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0.									
<u>FINAN</u>	<u>CE</u>									
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 \$830,543.44 for May 2023 checks. <i>Attachment:</i> 2023-05-08 BILLS LIST									
2F	<b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> , that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of the claims on the current <b>Cafeteria bills list in the amount of \$761,761.63 for May 2023 checks.</b> <i>Attachment:</i> <u>2023-05-08 Cafeteria Bills List</u>									
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 \$658.00 for May 2023 checks. <i>Attachment:</i> 2023-05-08 Athletic Bills List									

4F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the renewal of dental and vision benefits for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:								
		DENTAL AND VISION BENEFITS 2023-2024							
	Year	Renewal Terms	Туре						
	2023-2024	5% Increase for 2023-2026	Dental						
	2023-2024	0 Increase for 2023-2024	Vision						
5F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the agreement by and between BeneCard Services, LLC and the Fort Lee Board of Education to provide fixed rate insured prescription drug management services at a 7.5% increase for a one-year period commencing on July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.								
6F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached proposal submitted by Rutgers Center for Literacy Development to provide professional development literacy support to the Fort Lee School District for small group instruction in reading during the 2022-2023 school year, at a total cost not to exceed \$18,000 to be charged to Account #20-270-200-320-30-000. <i>Attachment:</i>								
7F	Rutgers         THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached proposal submitted by Elevate Educators LLC to provide professional development literacy support to the Fort Lee School District for Grade 5 explicit instruction in reading during the 2022-2023 school year, at a total cost not to exceed \$10,000 to be charged to Account #20-270-200-320-30-000. Attachment:								
8F	participation in the Re	RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education V Council for Special Education/River 23-2024 school year. <i>Attachment: <u>Region V</u></i>	r Edge Board of						
9F	recommendation of the <b>Neuropsychology</b> evaluations, for the 20	022-2023 school year at a rate of 13 hours, at 0. Onsite observations will include a travel fee	Ph.D., ABPP, of uropsychological \$400 each, for a						

10F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the Regular and Special Education Annual Tuition Rates for Eligible Non-Resident Students for the 2023-2024 school year.									
	NON-RESIDENT REGULAR TUITION RATES									
	Pre-K – Kindergarten Grades 1 – 5 Grades 6 – 8 Grades 9 - 12									
	\$19,086			\$19,565	\$18,8	30		\$18,744		
		<u>SPECIA</u>	LE	DUCATION	TUITION R	ATES				
	LLD Mild-Mod.	LLD Sev	,	M.D.	Autism	Prek	( FT	E.R.I.		
	\$26,408	\$26,150		\$36,150	\$30,615	\$40,	276	\$37,934		
11F	THEREFORE BE Irecommendation offorthe202\$76,197,057.00.	the Super <b>3-2024</b>	rinte s	endent, appro school y	oves the <b>Scl</b> ear in	nedule the	of Loo ar			
12F	THEREFORE BE I recommendation of Writer/Manager for	the Supe	erin	tendent, app	roves <b>John</b>					
	MOTION by Mrs. Cu approves items #1F t				ell, that the F	Fort Lee	Board	l of Education		
	MOTION carried una	nimously	upo	on roll call vot	e, 9-0.					
<u>PERSC</u>	<u>DNNEL</u>									
1P	THEREFORE BE I recommendation of the staff trips/confe	the Superi	inte	endent, appro	ves the atter	ndance	of staf	f members at		

2P	<b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> , that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following <b>resignations</b> :											
	RESIGNATIONS											
	Employee         Position         Location         Effective Date											
	Jee Y. Kim Teacher IS 7/1/23											
		Daniel Lafalce	F	Paraprofessional	S2	5/25/23						
		Won Jung Park	F	Paraprofessional	IS	6/2/23						
		Khelly Romero	Bustamante F	Paraprofessional	HS	3/16/23						
	Effective	date indicates	the first day of	f payroll.								
	Program, at a is #20-487-20	an hourly rate 00-100-00-00	of \$55.00 f	or the remai		ridgeman Bel e school year.						
	<ul> <li>Justin I</li> <li>Kellie L</li> </ul>	Picache .ane										
	Brianna	a Mattessich										
	-	Colorado										
	-	Villiams Romano										
	<ul> <li>Jessica</li> </ul>											
		IcMenamin (Ho	rton)									
	• William	Straub	-									
	•	s Walden										
	Yiting Z											
	Peter k     Christo	vraijic opher Della Fave	2									
		Warren-Jurgen										
4P		tion of the	Superinten	dent, appro		oard of Educ following add						
			I	RANSFERS								
	Name	From Location	From Position	To Location	To Position	Salary Change	Effective Date					
	Dionysia Floratos	FLHS	Paraprofessional	S3	Paraprofessior	ial N/A	5/9/23					
						d.	·					

recommendation of the Sup Writers for 2023-2024 for s be paid a stipend at an hour	erintendent ervices to b ly rate of \$4 ged against	, approves the performed 15.00 per hou	ee Board of Education, upon ne appointment of <b>Curriculum</b> outside the contractual day, to ir, for an aggregate total not to 1-000-221-104-00-000, for the			
CONTENT AREA		CERTIFICATED STAFF MEMBERS				
English Language Arts		Diane Da Silva,	Jessica Bijari, Kimberly Bouchard			
ESL		Mai Koyo, Mindy	/ Choi			
Elementary (Multiple content a	areas)	Kristine Rodrigu	ez			
Physical Education/Health		Dimitri Nannas,	Tara Gratacos			
Social Studies		Jillian Reicherz				
Business		Chris Della-Fave	9			
Library/Media		Maria Ibelli-Cast	tano, Jaime Antifonario			
the marking period into th	ree section	ns for preser	e following teachers to divide nting, monitoring, and grading 1-140-100-101-00-000, at a rate			
the marking period into th Chemistry assignments. P of \$45.00 an hour, not to e	ree sectior aid througl xceed a tot	ns for preser n account #1 al of 40 hour	nting, monitoring, and grading 1-140-100-101-00-000, at a rate rs each.			
the marking period into th Chemistry assignments. P of \$45.00 an hour, not to ex <u>Name</u>	ree sectior aid through xceed a tot	ns for preser n account #1	nting, monitoring, and grading 1-140-100-101-00-000, at a rate rs each. <u>Hours</u>			
the marking period into th Chemistry assignments. P of \$45.00 an hour, not to ex <u>Name</u> Samantha Palumbo	ree section aid through xceed a tot L	ns for preser n account #1 al of 40 hour	nting, monitoring, and grading 1-140-100-101-00-000, at a rate rs each. <u>Hours</u> Not to exceed 40 hrs			
the marking period into th Chemistry assignments. Po of \$45.00 an hour, not to ex <u>Name</u> Samantha Palumbo Tahreen Chowdhury	ree section aid through xceed a tot HS HS	ns for preser n account #1 al of 40 hour	hting, monitoring, and grading 1-140-100-101-00-000, at a rate rs each. <u>Hours</u> Not to exceed 40 hrs Not to exceed 40 hrs			
the marking period into th Chemistry assignments. P of \$45.00 an hour, not to ex <u>Name</u> Samantha Palumbo	ree section aid through xceed a tot L	ns for preser n account #1 al of 40 hour	nting, monitoring, and grading 1-140-100-101-00-000, at a rate rs each. <u>Hours</u> Not to exceed 40 hrs			

8P 9P	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of staff members under the Fort Lee Administrator's Group (FLAG) Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year, pending negotiations, in the following categories as per the attached list. Attachment: FLAG STAFF RENEWALS SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024         •       Principals         •       Director of Special Education         •       Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health         •       Director of School Counseling Services         •       Supervisors											
				LEAVE:	S OF AB	SENC	ES					
	Name	Position	Loc	Туре	New or Amend	Paid	I Leave	Unpaid Lo with ben		Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date	
	Marilyn Bynum	Bookkeeper	со	Medical	Amend		4/23- 17/23	5/18/23 6/30/2	-	N/A	7/1/23	
	Kaitlyn Clausman	Guidance Counselor	IS	Maternity	Amend	-	4/23 - 31/23	6/1/23 - 12/31/23		N/A	1/2/24	
	Megan Guerrero	Grade 5 Math/Science	IS	Personal	New	1	N/A	N/A		9/1/23 - 6/30/24	9/1/24	
	Corinne West	Art Teacher	S2	Medical	Amend		0/23 - 8/23	N/A		N/A	5/9/23	
	ID# 6193	N/A		Admin Leave	Amend		/19/23 - /30/23	N/A		N/A	5/1/23	
	ID# 6719	N/A		Admin Leave	Amend		6/23 - 24/23	N/A		N/A	4/25/23	
10P	<b>P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> , that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of <b>leave replacements</b> during the 2022-2023 school year, as outlined below:											
	LEAVE REPLACEMENTS											
	Name     Grade/ Subject     Loc     Salary     Effective Dates     Reason for opening							ing				
	Brianna Shuki	Teacher Gr 3	S1	\$58,875 Step 1 E No Benefits Cont		Inment	9/1/22 -	6/1/23	Jess	ica Karoutsos		
	Leo Conwell	Teacher Gr 3	S1	\$58,875 Step 1 E No Benefits Cont		Inment	6/5/23 -	6/21/23	Jess	ica Karoutsos		

11P	recom	mendation of the	<b>RESOLVED</b> , that the Fort Lee Boa Superintendent, approves the appoi 2-2023 school year:	
			SUBSTITUTES	
			Avesha Piraneo Jeanette Weiner	
12P <mark>Walk-</mark> in	upon Depa	recommendation rtment <b>for extra</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> , that the Fort Lee on of the Superintendent, app <b>compensation for the following</b> the 2022-2023 school year, as do	broves the following <b>district assignment</b> ,
		Department	District Assignment	Extra Compensation
		Technology Staff Members	Filming and managing district technology equipment for Special Events	\$175.00 per event
	approv MOTI	ves items #1F throu	seconded by Mrs. Curry, that the Fort ugh #12F. ously upon roll call vote, 9-0, with excep	
POLICY	<u></u>			
1POL	recom	mendation of the	<b>RESOLVED</b> , that the Fort Lee Boa Superintendent, approves the <b>first re</b> <b>tes</b> listed below: <i>Attachment: <u>Polic</u></i>	ading of the following
		Policy/Reg No.	Topic	
		P 6115.02 Fed P 6115.03 Fed	eral Awards/Funds Internal Controls-Allowability of eral Awards/Funds Internal Controls-Mandatory Dis eral Awards/Funds Internal Controls-Conflict of Inte curement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs	sclosures (M) (New) erest (M) (Revised)
		I		

# Fort Lee Board of Education Public Business Meeting

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Kravitz acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked the teachers for their service and exceptional efforts. Dr. Kravitz shared that he would like to have a discussion with the Board members at the next Board meeting regarding opening up the high school track field for community members recreational enjoyment.

Mr. Knight shared that many community members would like to use the school's facilities for recreational activities.

Ms. Colbath shared that the Fort Lee High School Academy of Finance recently achieved a distinguished level status which is the National Academy of Finance highest level achievement.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Ms. Colbath, to adjourn, 8:16 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

## **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

Di<u>na Messery</u>

Dina Messery Business Administrator/Board Secretary

DM/toc 5-10-23