FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES

PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA Monday, May 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 6:31 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. Paula K. Colbath (virtually), Mrs. Kim Curry, Dr. Catherine Golfinopoulos

(arrival 6:42 p.m.), Mr. Kacy Knight (virtually), Ms. 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

Absent: Ms. Elisa Cho

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Ms. Morell seconded by Mrs. Curry at 6:34 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

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

MOTION by Ms. Morell seconded by Mr. Rubino at 6:52 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Dr. Kravitz welcomed the High School Student Representatives. The Student Representatives, Hallie Seo and Hannah Jung, shared a detailed report of high school student activities and other highlights.

Fort Lee Board of Education Public Business Meeting

Dr. Kravitz shared there will be moving up ceremonies at all the Elementary Schools and at the Lewis F. Cole Middle School. Dr. Kravitz then shared that the High School Academy of Finance (AOF) has achieved the Distinguished Level status which is the National Academy of Finance's highest level of achievement. Fort Lee Board of Education awarded the Certificate of Appreciation to AOF teachers for their hard work in achieving this highest honor. AOF advisory members thanked the Fort Lee Board of Education for supporting the AOF program and thanked all the teachers that are part of the AOF for their exceptional efforts.

Dr. Kravitz shared that there were two (2) HIB investigations; both were unfounded.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Sick Day Bank Committee</u>: Chairperson Mrs. Richter shared that the committee met Tuesday, May 16, 2023 and discussed an employee's request to use sick days for an unexpected medical condition.

<u>PUBLIC WORK SESSION - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA OR ANY OTHER TOPIC</u>
None.

HEARING OF CITIZENS- QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN

MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino to open the floor to the public, 7:45 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Public comments included thanking the Intermediate School staff for doing an amazing job organizing a very fun-filled field day and thanked Pomptonian for doing a great job with the barbeque; the importance to acknowledge all the hard work high performing students do, and continue to encourage these students to remain dedicated to their studies; asked that the area where work is being conducted at the High School be sectioned off to the students; are the Fort Lee Schools grounds being inspected; when it's decided to perform renovations would like the parents to have the opportunity to view all new design plans; and, expressed concern that the HVAC system is not working properly at the Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School.

Dr. Kravitz addressed all questions and concerns.

MOTION by Ms. Morell seconded by Mr. Rubino to close the floor to the public, 7:58 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESOLUTIONS

1B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the following minutes: Public Business Meeting Minutes May 8, 2023 Private Executive Meeting Minutes May 8, 2023

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.

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>	BOARD MEMBER	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	AMOUNT PER PERSON
NJSBA Delegate Meeting	Delegate Meeting Holly Morell May 202		Conference Center at Mercer 1200 Old Trenton Road, Princeton Junction, NJ	-0-
BCSBA Hybrid Meeting Celebrations & County Teachers of the Year	Kim Curry Kristen Richter Holly Morell Paula Colbath Kacy Knight Amended	May 31, 2023	Clinton Inn 145 Dean Drive, Tenafly, NJ or Virtual	-0-

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Ms. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #3B.

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-1, as Board members abstained on their own names on item #3B only and Dr. Golfinopoulos abstained on item #2B only.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent authorizes the continued use of alternate methods of compliance of Toilet Room facilities at the following elementary schools, for the 2023-2024 school year.

School No. 2 Rooms 211, 212 and 213 School No. 3 Rooms 111, 119 and 121

School No. 4 Rooms 6, 8 and 10

2B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following net credit change order #1:

CHANGE ORDER SUMMARY SHEET OWNER: Fort Lee Board of Education

PROJECT NO.: 21062 ARCHITECT: ENV

PROJECT: Fort Lee Board CONTRACTOR: TM Brennan Services

of Education VRF HVAC

Elementary School #3 DATE: March 1, 2022

CONTRACT	OR C.O.	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	ALLOWANCE
TM Brennan #1 Services		The specified Trane HVAC controller was substituted with an equal Honywell controller resulting in savings.	(\$20,000.00)	
		Repairs to the existing electrical main switchgear breaker switch. The existing switch was found to be faulty as it would not hold in the power off position. Repairs were made to fix the switch.	\$15,950.00	
		Allowance Draw down	(\$5,000.00)	(\$5,000.00)
		TOTAL	(\$9,050.00)	

MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino to approve item #1B&G and #2B&G.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call, 8-0.

FINAN	<u>CE</u>											
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 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: BOARD SECRETARY REPORT-MARCH 2023; TREASURER'S REPORT -MARCH 2023											
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 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: LINE ITEM TRANSFER - MARCH 2023											
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 \$7,468,452.44 for May 2023 checks. Attachment: MAY BILLS LIST											
4F	recomm current	endation of the Supe Cafeteria bills lis	DLVED, that the Fort Lee erintendent, approves the past in the amount of \$23-05-22 CAFETERIA BILLS	yment of the claims on the								
5F	recomm current	endation of the Super Athletic bills lis	DLVED, that the Fort Lee erintendent, approves the past in the amount of \$2-05-22 ATHLETIC BILLS	yment of the claims on the								
6F			VED , that the Board of Educate ts the following donations : DONATIONS	ation, upon recommendation								
			DONATIONS									
	Item	Amount/ Estimated Value	Donor	On Behalf Of								
7F	Check \$9.60 Box Top for Education April Payout School Supplies and/or resources											

8F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent authorizes Dina Messery to invest Fort Lee Public Schools District Funds in the New Jersey Asset & Rebate Management (NJ/ARM) District account effective May 1, 2023.
9F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the <u>amended</u> service agreement between CarePlus and the Fort Lee School District for the 2022-2023 school year. Attachment: <u>CAREPLUS AMENDED SERVICE AGREEMENT</u>
10F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves renewal of the annual agreement with Bergen County Special Services School District (BCSSSD) for services to non-public schools, Public Law 1977 Chapters 192-193, for the 2023-2024 school year. Attachment: BCSSSD CHAPTERS 192-193 AGREEMENT 2023-2024
11F	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves renewal of the annual agreement with ACB Services (custodial services) for a one (1) year term with four (4) one-year renewal options, not to exceed five (5) years,
12F Pulled	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves renewal of the annual agreement with UFS Personnel (school security services) for the two (2) year term with three (3) one-year renewal options, not to exceed five (5) years.
13F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached Student Transportation Contract between Fort Lee Public Schools and Joshua Tours to provide transportation to St. Peter's University during the Summer of 2022, to be funded by ARP ESSER Account #20-490-200-500-00-000. Attachment: JOSHUA TOURS TO SPU - SUMMER 2023
14F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached Student Transportation Contract between Fort Lee Public Schools and Joshua Tours to provide transportation to St. Peter's University during the Summer of 2022, to be funded by amended ARP ESSER Account #20-490-200-500-000. This resolution supersedes Resolution No. 31562 dated May 23, 2022. Attachment: JOSHUA TOURS TO SPU - SUMMER 2022

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of CBIZ Property & Casualty as the Broker of Record for Property & Casualty Insurance for the 2023-2024 school year at the insurance carriers standardized fee rate schedule, with the fee being included in the gross premiums charged as follows:

CBIZ PROPERTY & CASUALTY RATE SCHEDULE 2023-2024							
Coverage Commission Rate							
Property, Crime, General Liability, Auto, Excess Liability	15%						
Pollution	10%						
School Board Leaders Liability	12%						
Excess Liability	5%						
Student Accident	10%						

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Ms. Morell to approve items #1F through #11F and #13F through #15F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call, 8-0. Item #12F was administratively pulled.

PERSONNEL

- 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: 2023-05-22 MAY STAFF TRIPS
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the retirement of Rocio Torres, as a World Language Teacher at School Fort Lee High School, after dedicating 13 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, approves the following **resignations**:

RESIGNATIONS							
Employee	Position	Location	Effective Date				
Erin McCabe	Teacher - Special Education	IS	7/1/2023				

Termination date indicates first day off payroll

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **appointments** for the 2023-2024 school year, pending verification of employment:

	<u>APPOINTMENTS</u>									
First Last Position Name Name			tion Loc Position Control		Annual Salary Prorated	Effective Date				
	Thomas	Atkinson	Teacher - Chemistry	FLHS	07-2235-03	\$63,375 BA, Step 5-6	9/1/2023 + NTO			

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			
Marilyn Bynum	Bookkeeper	со	Medical Leave	Amend	5/4/23 - 5/16/23(½)	5/16/23 (½) - 6/30/23	N/A	7/1/23			
Desiree DiCristoforo	Paraprofessional	S2	Medical Leave	Amend	3/20/23 - 4/28/23	N/A	N/A	5/1/23			

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

Natalie Rodriguez Aysun Gul Yasti

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the 2023 Extended School Year (ESY) Summer Case Management Staff, based upon IEP needs and pending adequate/appropriate enrollment, as indicated on the attached list. Attachment: ESY SUMMER 2023 PROGRAM STAFF

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves School personnel for additional compensation for time beyond their contractual day to attend field trips.

Name	School	Time
Guiseppina Erika Ragusa	S1	45 Mins.
Alejandra Limones	S1	30 Mins.
Giuseppa Maceri	HS	5 hrs.
Robert Gehres	HS	5 hrs.

9P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following **2023 Summer Bridge Academy Clerical Staff**, as indicated below.

Name	Name Position		Position Rat		Position Rate Hour		Hours	Total Not To Exceed	Account Code	
Colette Cutrona	Part Time Clerical Assistants	\$32.27	150	\$4,840.50	20-483-200-100-00- 000 20-487-200-100-00- 000					
Sheilynn Perrone	Part Time Clerical Assistants	\$32.27	150	\$4,840.50	20-483-200-100-00- 000 20-487-200-100-00- 000					

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the amended renewal of staff members under the Fort Lee Education Association (FLEA) Collective Bargaining Agreements for the 2023-2024 school year, pending agreement of salary guides, for the following staff members:

EMI	LAST P# NAME	FIRST NAME	LOC	JOB TITLE	UPC	FTE	STEP	SALARY GUIDE	BASE SALARY	HEAD SEC	TOTAL SALARY
				ADMIN	06-			12 MTH SEC.			
735	9 AYALA	ALEJANDRA	05	ASST	9300-01	1	4	SECRETARY	56,514.00		56,514.00
				ADMIN	07-			12 MTH SEC.			
736	1 DATO	CHRISTINE	HS	ASST	9300-09	1	5	SECRETARY	59,014.00		59,014.00

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the placement of the following Internships, Student Teachers or Practicum Candidates during the 2023-2024 school year:

INTERNSHIPS/STUDENT TEACHERS/PRACTICUM CANDIDATES										
Referring University				Subject Area Duration		School Placed	Cooperating Staff Member			
American College of Education	Cecilia Kim	Clinical Practicum	Master's of Nursing in Education	150 Hrs/ 10 Wks.	8/21/2023- 10/29/2023	High School	Nateka Brewton			

MOTION by Ms. Morell seconded by Mrs. Curry, to approve items #1P through #11P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call, 8-0.

POLICY

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: First Read Policies/Regs 5-22-2023

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P 0163	Quorum (Revised)
P 1511	Board of Education Website Accessibility (M) (Revised)
P 2415	Every Student Succeeds Act (M) (Revised)
P & R 2432	School Sponsored Publications (Abolished)
P & R 5513	Care of School Property (M) (Revised)
P 5517	School District Issued Student Identification Cards (M) (Revised)
P 5722	Student Journalism (M) (New)

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 5-22-2023

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P 6115.01	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls-Allowability of Costs (M) (New)
P 6115.02	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls-Mandatory Disclosures (M) (New)
P 6115.03	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls-Conflict of Interest (M) (Revised)
P 8561	Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs (M) (Revised)

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Kravitz shared that the District will open up the High School track on a trial basis for the community members recreational enjoyment. Dr. Kravitz reminded the public that the field can only be used if school is not in session and the students have priority to utilize the field.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Kravitz shared that the Fort Lee Board of Education has been asked to participate in the VFW Memorial Day Parade.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Curry, to adjourn, 8:05 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

<u>Dina Messery</u> Dina Messery

Business Administrator/Board Secretary

DM/toc 5-24-23