

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
Monday, August 7, 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 President, Ms. Colbath

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Richter.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Elisa Cho, Ms. Paula K. Colbath, Mr. Kacy Knight (*remote*), Ms. Holly Morell (*arrival 6:58 p.m.*), Ms. Julene Stassou, Mr. Michael Rubino

Also Present: Dr. Robert L. Kravitz, Mrs. Dina Messery, Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker, Mr. Christopher Buggy, Board Attorney

Absent: Mrs. Kim Curry, Dr. Catherine Golfinopoulos

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Rubino seconded by Mrs. Richter at 6:33 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

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

MOTION by Mr. Rubino seconded by Mrs. Richter at 6:42 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Kravitz shared that the District has been working hard on many facilities projects. We look forward to a smooth opening and getting our children back in our schools to witness the great things that are happening. Dr. Kravitz then shared that the new teacher orientation begins on August 29th, Convocation is September 5th and classes begin September 7th. We will be sending out an email blast soon with the opening of our Genesis portal as we are going to push out a lot more information through our student information system.

Dr. Kravitz shared that there was one (1) HIB investigation, and it was founded. Dr. Kravitz also reported that the Student Safety Data System [SDSS] report for the 2nd period of 2022-2023 school year has been reported and is on file.

Dr. Kravitz reported an administrative change to the agenda on item #7P, and that it will be updated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

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

Ms. Cho requested a copy of the Right at School renewal contract, and inquired if we will need to amend the June 20, 2023 approved resolution since we did not have the 2023-2024 renewal contract only the renewal pricing. Ms. Cho asked to have the calendar updated on the District website to reflect the 2023-2024 school year.

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 Mrs. Richter to open the floor to the public, 7:35 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

Mrs. Tanya Byers-Kang expressed that she is saddened that Ms. Anastasia Findanis resigned from the District. Mrs. Byers-Kang shared that Ms. Findanis is a great educator, and will be missed.

MOTION by Ms. Morell seconded by Mr. Rubino to close the floor to the public, 7:37 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes July 19, 2023
Private Executive Meeting Minutes July 19, 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.

MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Ms. Stassou to approve item #1B and #2B.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call, 7-0.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

1B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent approves the **Integrated Pest Management Plan for each school building for the 2023-2024 school year.** (*Attachments available in Central Office*)

2B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **rescinds the 18-21-Year-Old Program & Preschool at 308 Tom Hunter Road Annex at School No.2 ROD Grant Project Application submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education;** and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the submission of the **18-21-Year-Old Program & Preschool at 308 Tom Hunter Road Annex at School No.2 Project Application to the New Jersey Department of Education as a Level IV Other Project Application Not Seeking State Share Grant Funding.**

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call, 7-0.

CURRICULUM

1CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached proposal submitted by the Patty Vitale-Reilly Consulting to provide professional development support to the Fort Lee School District ESL teachers for the implementation of writing workshop during the 2023-2024 school year, at a total cost not to exceed \$12,000 to be charged against Account #20-270-200-320-30-000. *Attachment: [Vitale-Reilly Consulting](#)*

2CUR 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 reading and writing instruction in the intermediate grades during the 2023-2024 school year, at a total cost not to exceed \$14,000 to be charged to Account #20-488-200-300-00-000. *Attachment: [Elevate Educators](#)*

MOTION by Mrs. Richter, seconded by Mr. Rubino to approve item #1CUR and #2CUR.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call, 7-0.

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 \$620,116.86 for June 30, 2023 checks. *Attachment: [2nd JUNE 30th 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 \$19,381.46 for June 30, 2023 checks. *Attachment: [CAFETERIA BILLS LIST](#)*

3F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves renewing the following agreements/contracts for the Fort Lee School District's 2023-2024 school year. *Attachment: [AGREEMENTS 2023-2024](#)*

<u>AGREEMENT RENEWALS FOR 2023-2024</u>
ATLAS RUBICON (Curriculum Software)
BRAINPOP
NEWSELA

MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter to approve items #1F through #3F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call, 7-0.

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, approves the following **resignations**:

<u>RESIGNATIONS</u>			
Employee	Position	Location	Effective Date
Anastasia Findanis	Teacher	S1	8/2/23
Jordan Fleming	Teacher - Math	FLHS	7/18/23
Sunny Kim	Part Time Paraprofessional	S2	7/1/23 (Amended)
Daniel Long	Part Time Paraprofessional	S3	7/31/23
Loraine McFarlane	Part Time Paraprofessional	S2	8/11/23
Kayleigh Morpeth	Marching Band Assistant	FLHS	7/31/23
Johanna Reyes	One to One Registered Nurse	Out of District	8/1/23
Yuberiry Rodriguez	Part Time Paraprofessional	S2	8/3/23

- 3P 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 Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Position Control #	Annual Salary Prorated	Rationale	Effective Date
Arleen	Artinian	Teacher - Special Education LLD	S4	04-2411-10	\$61,075.00 Step 3-4/BA	Transfer	9/1/2023
Marilyn	Bryslawskyj	Teacher - Math	FLHS	07-2409-03	\$109,029.00 Step 17/MA	Resignation	9/26/2023 or sooner + 3 days NTO
Frank	Calautti	Bus Driver	CO	00-9402-07	\$31,000.00	Resignation	9/1/2023
Victoria	Corso	Teacher - Biology	FLHS	07-2231-01	\$112,388.00 Step17/MA+20	Resignation	9/26/2023 or sooner + 3 days NTO

					AMEND		
Diane	Di Prima	Teacher - Art	S2	02-1200-02	\$61,075.00 Step 3-4/BA	Retirement	9/1/2023 + 3 days NTO
Lina	Giraldo	Teacher - Grade 2	S4	04-1002-12	\$61,075.00 Step 3-4/BA	Retirement	9/1/2023 + 3 days NTO
Ellen	Murphy	Teacher - Special Education	LFCMS	05-2412-13	\$107,379.00 Step 17/BA20	Transfer	9/26/2023 or sooner + 3 days NTO
Kim	Sookchung	PT Paraprofessional (.83)	S2	02-9101-89	\$24,386.00 Step1/Deg	Resignation	9/1/2023

4P 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
Melissa Merrill	Art K-4	S4	Maternity	New	11/27/23 - 1/1/24	1/2/24 - 6/30/24	N/A	9/1/24
Genna Kornweiser	BSI Math Gr 5 & 6	IS	Maternity	Amended	6/12/23 - 6/30/23	9/1/23 - 3/8/24	3/31/24 - 5/14/24	5/15/24

5P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **leave replacements** during the 2023-2024 school year, as outlined below:

LEAVE REPLACEMENTS					
Name	Grade/Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Sarah Rho	Gr 3	S2	\$59875.00 prorated	9/1/23 - 11/28/23	Elisa Karam
Samantha Sebbio	BSI Gr 5 & 6	IS	\$59875.00 prorated	9/1/23-5/16/24 plus 3 days NTO	Genna Kornweiser
Beryl Steinbach	Gr 6 ELA	IS	\$59875.00 prorated	9/1/23 - 2/26/24	Alexandra Infante

- 6P **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: Amended ESY SUMMER CASE MANAGEMENT**

- 7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **the additional staff members, Marisa Buonomo*, Salma Major* to attend MTSS planning and preparation meetings during the summer 2023, not to exceed 30 hours and \$1350 and funded by account #20-488-200-300-00-000.**
**administrative change added in Superintendent’s Report*

- 8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **payment of unused vacation days for Jack DeNichilo, Acting Supervisor of Building and Grounds, in the amount of \$11,167.86, based upon 22 days at a per diem rate of \$507.63 for the 2022-2023 school year.**

- 9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **sick day payouts for 2022-2023 retirees.** **Attachment: SICK DAY PAYOUT**

- 10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves the appointment of Co-Curricular Advisors for the 2023-2024 school year.** All appointments are subject to completion of all personnel documentation and fingerprinting process, prior to starting of said activities.

First Name	Last Name	Co-Curricular Activity	Class	23-24 Total Stipend
Kristina	Lodato*	Cheerleader Advisor	Class D + \$1000	\$7,327.00

* Out of district staff member

- 11P **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 2023-2024 school year:

<u>SUBSTITUTES</u>
Kaitlyn Morgan

12P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **new job descriptions**: [Attachment: ELEMNTARY TEACHER INTERVENTIONIST](#)

13P 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:

<u>INTERNSHIPS/STUDENT TEACHERS/PRACTICUM CANDIDATES</u>							
Referring University	Student Name	Type of Placement	Subject Area	Duration	Months From-To	School Placed	Cooperating Staff Member
New Jersey City University	Aben Lee	Practicum	Nursing	90 Hours	9/11/23- 12/21/23	School #1	Arianna Elgoff
Monmouth University	Benjamin Persky	Practicum	School Counseling	100 Hours	9/7/2023 – 12/19/2023	School No. 3	Aimee DeSheplo

14P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **the Salaries Charged to Grants for the 2023-2024 school year as follows**.

<u>SALARIES CHARGED TO GRANTS</u>					
EMPLOYEE	POSITION CONTROL #	GRANT	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT #	% OF TOTAL SALARY
Tara Deady	02-1411-02	IDEA	\$96,065.45	20-250-100-101-00-100	88.11%

MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter to approve items #1P through #14P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call, 7-0. Item #7P was administratively changed and updated

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Ms. Morell, to adjourn, 7:39 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Dina Messery

**Dina Messery
Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

DM/toc / 8-15-23