

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
Monday, August 21, 2023
Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium
and Zoom (virtual) Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Board President, Ms. Colbath

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Curry.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Elisa Cho, Mrs. Kim Curry, Ms. Paula K. Colbath, Dr. Catherine Golfinopoulos (*arrival 6:36 p.m. – departed 9:16 p.m.*) Mr. Kacy Knight, Ms. Holly Morell (*departed 9:08 p.m.*), Mr. Michael Rubino, Ms. Julene Stassou,

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

Absent: Mrs. Kristen Richter

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

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

MOTION by Mr. Rubino seconded by Ms. Stassou at 9:08 p.m.

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

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Kravitz shared that we are preparing for the opening of our Fort Lee Public Schools for Thursday, September 7th. Administration started today with some training. Next week is our New Teacher Orientation and the following week, we welcome our teachers. Rooms are being cleaned, orders of resources are arriving, and any last minute adjustments are being addressed. There have been some questions regarding the air conditioning, and I have asked Ms. Messery to provide an update.

Ms. Messery, Business Administrator, shared the following update on the air conditioning in the buildings.

- High School: We are planning the startup Wednesday, August 23rd in the west wing classrooms, offices, nurses' offices, 1st and 2nd floors in the front of the building; four rooms on the 1st floor facing the courtyard (rooms 162-164). Both gyms and locker rooms are expected to be up and running Friday, September 1st. The classrooms that are getting new windows will be getting new window units, and the dance room will be getting a new window unit.
- Lewis F. Cole Middle School -The gym air conditioning will be functional by the end of next week.
- Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School and all the Elementary Schools the air conditioning is functioning fine at this point in time.

Ms. Collazo-Baker, Assistant Superintendent, gave a presentation on our Spring New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessments (NJGPA) scores for Grade 11, and shared that our students continue to perform above the State average. All the NJGPA results are posted on the District website.

Dr. Kravitz shared the District NJ QSAC scores, and as per State regulations, we need a QSAC score of 80 in each category to pass all categories, which we successfully achieved.

WALK-IN RESOLUTIONS:

Ms. Colbath read Walk-in Resolution item #3B, and item #4B, relating to a HIB investigation, and residency ineligibility, respectively.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

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

Ms. Stassou and Ms. Colbath shared that Joanne Hong, a Teacher at School #2, is an amazing instructor and individual. They thanked her for her endless dedication and contributions, and wished her much happiness and enjoyment on her retirement.

Ms. Cho shared that she was unable to open the Policy attachments. Ms. Cho inquired about Eastwick Education Shared Time program. Ms. Cho then inquired if it would be best to focus our funds on additional Supervisors as opposed to allocating them to the Renaissance Program? Ms. Cho shared that the Right at School resolution previously approved only had the Price list attached not the actual contract, and inquired if it will be placed on the next agenda? Dr. Kravitz addressed Ms. Cho's questions.

Ms. Colbath thanked all our donors for their generous contributions.

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. Stassou, seconded by Mr. Rubino to open the floor to the public, 9:34 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

Public comments included questions on the Corporal Punishment Policy #3217; how the Tom Hunter facility will operate; explanation of the Intent to Collaborate with the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth program; thanked the Board for approving the Shared Time Agreement with Eastwick Education vocational program; concerns that some of the curriculum textbooks are outdated; inquired about the attendance recognition program; thanked the Board for their service and hard work; recommendation to improve our curriculum subjects by introducing specialty subjects; thanked the Board

for changing the sick leave policy to extend the use of sick days to care for sick family members; concerned with the content that appears on the Advocates for Youth's website; and, if the Board has had any discussions regarding the potential development of a 172 unit-residential apartment building by School 1 because of the overcrowding.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino seconded by Mrs. Curry to close the floor to the public, 9:56 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes August 7, 2023
Private Executive Meeting Minutes August 7, 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, hereby:

**Walk-
in**

- **reverses** the findings of HIB Investigation #246675_LFC_04102023 (Custom ID #MS-26) for student SID#9877102393.

- 4B** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, hereby:
- Walk-in**
- permits the following non-resident student to continue enrollment at the Fort Lee Public Schools until September 30, 2023 pending guardianship appointment and waives the tuition costs for the period until September 30, 2023.

STUDENT ID #
SID#9534094458 (HS, Gr. 11)

MOTION by Mrs. Curry, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #4B.

MOTION carried upon roll call, 5-1-0 for items #1B, #2B and #4B; and 4-1-1 for item #3B as Mrs. Curry dissented and Ms. Cho abstained.

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 amended out-of-district placements for the 2024 Extended School Year (ESY) Program and the 2023-2024 school year as outlined on the attached list**. *Attachment: [OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS](#)*
- 3CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves the Agreement for Strauss Esmay Associates to provide a 3-hour professional development on-site in-service presentation to administration and HIB specialists in the district on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) and the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act at a cost of \$2,500, to be funded by the Accelerated Educator grant fund Account #11-000-218-320-00-000**. *Attachment: [STRAUSS ESMAY HIB PD AGREEMENT](#)*
- 4CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves the annual adoption of the evaluation rubrics for all certified instructional, educational services staff and certified administrators for the 2023-2024 school year**.

5CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves the District Curriculum, Textbook List and Curriculum Cycle for the 2023-2024 school year.**

District Curriculum: [District Curriculum](#)

Textbook List: [Textbook List](#)

Curriculum Cycle: [Curriculum Cycle](#)

6CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves the Fort Lee Summer 2023 - for MTSS Leadership Coaching for Summer 2023, to be paid through Account #20-270-200-300-00-000.**
Attachment: [MTSS PRINCIPAL COACHING-SUMMER](#)

7CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves the Fort Lee Customized Professional Development for MTSS Leadership Coaching, for School Year 2023-2024, to be paid through Account #20-270-200-300-00-000.** *Attachment:* [INTEGRATED MTSS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2023-2024](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Curry, seconded by Ms. Stassou, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR through #7CUR.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 6-0.

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 June 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:* [2023-08-21 SECRETARY REPORT, 2023-08-21 TREASURER REPORT](#)

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 June 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:* [2023-08-21 TRANSFER REPORT](#)

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 \$1,678,917.51 for July/August 2023 checks.** *Attachment:* [2023-08-21 BILLS LIST](#)

4F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following **donations**:

<u>DONATIONS</u>			
Item	Amount/ Estimated Value	Donor	On Behalf Of
8/22/23 Lunch	\$350	Renaissance	Administrative Council Retreat Provided by Bartolomeo's Italian Deli
8/29/23 Lunch	\$1,000	Anthony Papavasiliou, It's Greek to Me Restaurant 1611 Palisade Avenue Fort Lee	New Teacher Orientation
8/29/23 Breakfast	\$400	Equitable Advisors	New Teacher Orientation
8/30/23 Breakfast	\$400	Fort Lee Education Association	New Teacher Orientation
8/31/23 Breakfast	\$300	Teacher's Pension	New Teacher Orientation
9/5/23 Lunch	\$10,000	Renaissance	Convocation Provided by Cafasso's Fairway Market
9/5/23 Breakfast	\$3500	Pomptonian	Convocation
9/6/23 Lunch	\$7500	Pomptonian	Orientation

- 5F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby **authorizes the Shared Time Agreement with Eastwick Education to provide educational services to FLHS for 2023-2025 school years in accordance with the applicable New Jersey Statutes and the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education.** Classes shall be held between 8:30 A.M and 2:00 P.M daily. The programs to be provided are Electronics and Building Maintenance. All programs are contingent on student enrollment. The Board shall pay Eastwick tuition in the amount of \$38.00 for each day that any one student attends the Share Time classes taught by Eastwick. If more than 37 students are enrolled during the calendar school year, the price for daily attendance per student drops to \$35.00 per day. Any given scheduled class will be billed at a minimum of ten students with the maximum attendance in any class of twelve students. *Attachment:* [SHARED TIME PROGRAM AGREEMENT](#)
- 6F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby **approves the Renaissance Implementation Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.** *Attachments:* [IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND CONTRACT](#)
- 7F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves a Parent Transportation Agreement for Student ID #99000054, whose name is on file in Central Office, in the amount of \$500.00, contingent upon required paperwork, for the 2023-2024 (ESY) school year.**
- 8F** **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 Leonia Public Schools Board of Education for out-of-district transportation of students at a cost not to exceed \$19,950.00 for the 2023-2024 (ESY) school year.** *Attachment:* [LEONIA JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT 2023-2024 \(ESY\)](#)
- 9F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **approves the Intent to Collaborate with the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth program for the 2023-2024 school year.**

MOTION by Mrs. Curry, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #9F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 6-0.

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
Samantha Gerson	Guidance Counselor - Leave Replacement	LFCIS	8/7/23
Louis Napolitano	Special Education Teacher	IS	8/7/23(Declined position)
Maria Sardi	Part Time Paraprofessional	S3	8/9/23

3P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Joanne Hong, as a Teacher at School #2, after dedicating 18 years of service to the district, effective September 1, 2023.**

4P 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
Veronica	Aceveda	Paraprofessional (PT)	S2	02-9101-55	\$25,079.00	Resignation	9/1/23
Ueda	Brasha	Paraprofessional (PT)	S4	04-9101-20	\$21,783.00	Resignation	9/1/23
Leo	Conwell	Teacher - Special Education - ERI	LFCIS	05-2414-03	\$109,209.00 Step 17/MA	Resignation	9/1/23 + 3 Days NTO
Kaitlyn	Morgan	Paraprofessional (PT)	S2	02-9101-121	\$21,783.00	Resignation	9/1/23
Disha	Patel	Supervisor	CO	00-0300-01	\$90,000.00	Promotion	10/23/23 or sooner
Kristina	Sommerhalter	Teacher - Art	LFCMS	06-1962-01	\$88,529.00 Step 14/BA10	Retirement	9/1/23 + 3 Days NTO
Amnah	Taha	Teacher - Study Skills	LFCMS	06-2400-06	\$61,075.00 Step 2/MA	Resignation	9/1/23 + 3 Days NTO
Mukades	Tahiraj	Paraprofessional (PT)	LFCMS	06-9101-22	\$25,079.00	Resignation	9/1/23
Joseph	Viola	Security Guard	CO	00-9404-03	\$32.16 per hr	Resignation	9/1/23

5P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following additional **staff transfers** during the 2023-2024 school year.

TRANSFERS						
Name	From Location	From Position	To Location	To Position	Salary Change	Effective Date
Carrie Freuler	S4	Teacher - Special Education LLD - 3-4	S4	Teacher - Special Education LLD - K-2	N/A	9/1/23
Lisa Papavasiou	Annex	Teacher - Pre K	S2	Teacher - Elementary	N/A	9/1/23
Alyson Sanchez	S3	Teacher	S1	Teacher	N/A	9/1/23

6P 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
Lesley Giordano	PK Special Education	S2	Maternity	New	11/13-23 - 12/12/23	12/13/23 - 6/30/24	N/A	9/1/24
Brittany Lodato	9-12 Math	HS	Maternity	New	11/27/23 - 1/15/24	1/16/24 - 6/30/24	N/A	9/1/24

7P 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
Suzy Oh	Grade 1	S1	\$59,875.00 prorated (Leave Replacement Rate)	9/1/23 - 1/3/24	Jessica Karoutsos
Mark Bailey	Graphic Design	HS	\$59,875.00 prorated	9/1/23-6/30/24 plus 3 days NTO	Melanie Catalano

- 8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **Angela Waack**, Guidance Counselor, as a provider of individual and group counseling services, outside of the normal work day, **from August 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023, at a rate of \$45.00 per hour with a maximum of 20 hours, to be charged to Account #20-483-200-100-00-000.**

- 9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **Andria Fusco**, Guidance Counselor, as a provider of individual and group counseling services, outside of the normal work day, **from August 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023, at a rate of \$45.00 per hour with a maximum of 3 hours, to be charged to Account #20-483-200-100-00-000.**

- 10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **Stacy Wall, Social Worker**, as a provider of case management services, from August 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023, **at a rate of \$45.00 per hour with an amended maximum not to exceed 54 hours and \$2,430.00, to be charged to Account #20-483-200-100-00-000.**

- 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>
Heidi Cruz - Teacher Natalie Khatchadourian - Teacher Eileen Ruzal - Teacher Jesus Garcia Pena - Custodian

12P 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
Columbia University	Eun Soo Koh	Student Teacher II	Mathematics	150 Hrs.	9/7/2023 – 12/20/2023	Middle School	Julianna Bottiglieri
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Adibeh Awad	Student Teacher I	Elementary Education	10 Wks.	9/7/2023 – 12/22/2023	School No. 2	Dina Fiorita

13P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **amended summer hours for the 2023 Summer Counselor listed below, Account #11-422-100-101-00-000.**

Name	Hourly Rate	Hours Not To Exceed	Total Not to Exceed
Debbie Brigida	\$84.96	52 Hours	\$4,417.92

14P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **the staff members listed below to distribute Chromebooks on 8/21/23, 8/22/23, and 8/28/23.**

Name	Hourly Rate	Hours Not To Exceed	Total Not to Exceed
Angela Moose	\$45.00	18 hours	\$810.00
Genevieve Callahan	\$45.00	18 hours	\$810.00

15P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **Nateka Brewton as the Nurse Faculty Coordinator for the 23-24 school year, Account #11-401-100-00-000.**

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 6-0.

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: 2023-08-21 POLICY AND REGULATIONS**

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P 0144	Board Member Orientation and Training (Revised)
P&R 1642.01	Sick Leave (New)
P 2419	School Threat Assessment Teams (M) (New)
P 3217	Use of Corporal Punishment (Revised)
P 4217	Use of Corporal Punishment (New)
P&R 5200	Attendance (M) (Revised)
P 5305	Health Services Personnel (M) (Revised)
P&R 5308	Student Health Records (M) (Revised)
P&R 5310	Health Services (M) (Revised)
P 5512	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (M) (Revised)
P 6112	Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures (M) (Revised)
R 6115.01	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls-Allowability of Costs (M) (New)
P 6115.04	Federal Funds-Duplication of Benefits (M) (New)
P 6311	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants (M) (Revised)
P 7440	School District Security (M) (Revised)
P&R 7510	Use of School Facilities (M) (Revised)
P 9100	Public Relations (Abolished)
R 9140	Citizens Advisory Committee (M) (Abolished)

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

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 5-0-1, with the exception Ms. Cho abstained.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Stassou, seconded by Mrs. Curry, to adjourn, 9:59 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Dina Messery

**Dina Messery
Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

DM/toc / 8-29-23