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

#### **MINUTES**

PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA Monday, October 16, 2023 Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium and Zoom (virtual) Meeting

#### CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board President, Ms. Colbath

#### **FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Ms. Stassou.

#### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Ms. Elisa Cho, Mrs. Kim Curry, Dr. Catherine Golfinopoulos, Mr. Kacy Knight, Ms. Holly

Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mr. Michael Rubino, Ms. Julene Stassou (departed 7:47

p.m.), Ms. Paula K. Colbath

Also Present: Dr. Robert L. Kravitz, Mrs. Dina Messery, Mrs. Diane Collazo-Baker, Mr. Lester E. Taylor

III, Board Attorney

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Ms. Morell seconded by Ms. Stassou at 6:32 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

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

MOTION by Ms. Morell seconded by Mr. Rubino at 7:16 p.m.

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

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

Ms. Colbath read Walk-in Resolution item #5B relating to residency ineligibility.

#### REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Kravitz was happy to announce that the Fort Lee High School has been named to the 2023 AP School Honor Roll.

Additionally, there have been some conversations regarding our Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG). This group is required by law to educate parents of special needs students on the various resources, which includes programs for our families. This program is administered by a group of parents and is assisted by the District. This program in some ways can be seen as a support group for special education families. We have our first meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on November 1, 2023, virtually. Our intent is that all families will be contacted by case managers, via letter and School Messenger. Attending this meeting will give you the opportunity to help craft the agenda for this organization.

Dr. Kravitz reminded everyone how important attendance is in our classrooms. The most effective education is daily instruction within the classroom. We offer instruction 180 days a year. If a student is absent or arrives late to school has an impact on education, and we all want ALL of our children to succeed.

As an update to Tom Hunter Road, the building is set up and all we are waiting for is the final Department of Education's approval. All other inspections are complete.

As a final update for the open teaching positions; at our last meeting we have hired a Spanish teacher. We are waiting for a start date since this individual is currently under contract with another district. We also have a candidate for the physics and chemistry position which we hope to interview this week, and if all goes well, we would be able to fill this position at our next scheduled Board meeting.

Dr. Kravitz shared that the Self-Assessment Codes Preliminary Determination appears on tonight's agenda, and item #8F on tonight's agenda was pulled.

Dr. Kravitz introduced the two High School Student Representatives, Abigail Fearon and Tessa Lee, to share their respective updates of the activities at Fort Lee High School.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

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

Ms. Cho shared concerns of B&G communication issues, and if we are actively monitoring the maintenance of the buildings.

Ms. Stassou thanked Dr. Kravitz for communicating and providing correspondence to the Board members that are pertinent to upcoming agenda items.

Ms. Colbath recognized the two people retiring Marcia Santos, a Paraprofessional at School 3, and Christine Accetta, an Elementary Teacher at School 1, and thanked them for their many dedicated years of service. Ms. Colbath then thanked the VFW of Fort Lee for the American Flag donation.

Mr. Knight congratulated the Fort Lee Marching Band for their extraordinary performance at MetLife Stadium.

Dr. Kravitz addressed all concerns and questions.

## 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. Curry, seconded by Mrs. Richter to open the floor to the public, 7:46 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Public comments and questions included if School 4 will provide a specialist/tutor for students with an IEP that requires extra help for reading; congratulated the Fort Lee Marching Band for an outstanding performance at MetLife Stadium; thankful a Spanish teacher was hired but concerned that the Spanish 4 honor students may not receive full credits for the class and that the students will be expected to expedite learning the curriculum since the Spanish teacher does not start until December 1, 2023; inquiry if the Board's voting results on Policies is reflected in the minutes; and, that the transgender Policy 5756 has been in effect for nine years with minimal policy discussion up until approximately six months ago.

Dr. Kravitz and Ms. Colbath addressed all questions and concerns.

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

<u>BOARD</u>	
1B	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the following minutes:  Public Business Meeting Minutes October 2, 2023 Private Executive Meeting Minutes October 2, 2023

**4B** 

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:

#### The nature of the investigation;

- 1. Whether the District found evidence of HIB;
- 2. Whether discipline was imposed;
- 3. 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
Delegate Assembly-Voting Delegate Meeting	Holly Morell Kim Curry	12/2/2023	Conference Center at Mercer County College 1200 Old Trenton Road Princeton Junction, NJ	-0-
Delegate Assembly-Non- Delegate Meeting	Paula Colbath Kristen Richter Julene Stassou Michael Rubino	12/2/2023	Conference Center at Mercer County College 1200 Old Trenton Road Princeton Junction, NJ or Virtual	-0-

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the submission of the Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and Preliminary Determination Reports for the Fort Lee School District for 2022-2023 to be sent to the New Jersey Department of Education, as per the attached summary. Attachment: ABR SELF-ASSESSMENT AND PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION REPORT 2022-2023

## 5B <mark>Walk-in</mark>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby:

 permits the following non-resident student(s) to continue enrollment at the Fort Lee Public Schools until November 6, 2023 and waives tuition costs for that time period.

#### STUDENT ID#

9534094458 (HS, Gr11)

MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #5B.

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-1, with exception, Ms. Morell, Mrs. Richter, and Ms. Colbath abstained on own name on item #3B and Dr. Golfinopoulos originally voted yes but has to abstain on item #1B only since she was not in attendance at the October 2, 2023.

#### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

#### 1B&G

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting "required" maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of Fort Lee School District are consistent with these requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee School District hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for Fort Lee School District for the 2023-2024 school year in compliance with Department of Education requirements. Attachment: COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN; M-1 2023-2024

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Ms. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1B&G.

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

CURRICUL	. <u>UM</u>			
1CUR		n of the Supe	erintenden	hat the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon t, approves class trips listed on the attached LASS TRIPS
2CUR		n of the S	Superinten	hat the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon dent, approves the following <b>out-of-district</b> ear:
		<u>C</u>	OUT-OF-DIS	STRICT PLACEMENTS
	Student Place	cement	Dates	Tuition/Costs
	Child	Bergen Center For d Development, orth, NJ	9/19/2023 - 6/30/2023	Annual tuition cost of \$71,355.90 prorated to \$59,123.46 (174 days @ \$339.79 per diem). Transportation cost prorated to \$25,449.24 (174 days @ \$146.26 per diem). Extraordinary Services: 1:1 Aide. Annual prorated \$41,760.00, per diem \$240.00 @ 174 days.
2011	THEREFORE			hat the Fort Los Doord of Education was
3CUR	recommendation evidence-based PreVenture Pro	n of the Su d mental hea gram aims to m navigate th	uperintend alth progr equip stu e numerou	hat the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon ent, approves the PreVenture Program, an am for youth, for students in grades 9-12. The idents with self-efficacy and cognitive behavioral is developmental challenges faced in adolescents.
4CUR	recommendation Services Pla	n of the Su <b>an for</b>	perintende	hat the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon ent, approves the <b>amended District Nursing</b> 23-2024 school year, as per the RSING SERVICES PLAN 2023-2024
5CUR	recommendation Alliance Orthor to the Fort Lee workshops at a	n of the Super pedics d/b/a se School Distances a cost not to	rintendent All Be Hea trict Phys exceed \$2	hat the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon, approves the attached proposal submitted by althy LLC, to provide professional development Ed - Developing Youth Athleticism for onsite ,250.00, to be charged to Account #11-000-221-ORTHOPEDICS AGREEMENT
6CUR	recommendation  Dylan's Wings  continue the po	n of the Sup of Change eer mentorsh	erintender as the p nip progra	hat the Fort Lee Board of Education, under it, approves the proposal from Wingman for rovider of training for students and staff to m in the Intermediate and Middle Schools, at a harged to Account #20-487-200-300-00-000 and

	#20-487-100-300- CHANGE TRAINI		nment: <u>WINC</u>	GMAN FO	R DYLAN'	S WINGS	OF			
	MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR through #6CUR.  MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.									
FINANCE										
	<u></u>									
1F	THEREFORE BE recommendation of bills list in the am 10-16 BILLS LIST	of the Superintend nount of \$7,341,	dent, approves	the payment	t of the claim	s on the <b>cur</b>	rent			
2F	THEREFORE BE recommendation of Cafeteria bills checks. Attachn	of the Superinten list in the	dent, approves <b>amount o</b> f	the paymen f \$66.007	t of the clain .12 for	ns on the cur	•			
3F	THEREFORE BE recommendation of Athletic bills checks. Attachn	of the Superintend list in the	dent, approves to amount or	the payment f <b>\$4,172.</b> 0	t of the claim	s on the <b>cur</b>				
4F	THEREFORE BE the Superintender				n, upon rec	ommendatio	on of			
			DONATION	<u>S</u>						
	Item	Amount/ Est	imated Value	Donor	On B	ehalf Of				
	American Flags	for desks \$25	5.00 VFW o	f Fort Lee- Tony L	ione Fort Lee S	chool District				

6F 7F 8F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Suspension Alternative Program (SAP) Memorandum of Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year. Attachment: SUSPENSION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (SAP) MOA  THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following Anti-Bullying Assemblies from Young Audiences New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania, for each Elementary School, using account #20-280-100-300-00-000. Attachment: ASSEMBLIES SCHOOLS 1-4  THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon
Postponed	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
	AGREEMENT RENEWALS FOR 2023-2024
	BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT - Hospital Instruction
	GENESIS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
	INTRADO d/b/a SchoolMessenger
9F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Board President and School Business Administrator to execute a Non-Resident Tuition Agreement for SID# 6592684522 (Grade 8) to attend the Fort Lee School District for the 2023-2024 school year. Tuition rates to be determined by the Business Office and according to Board policy.
10F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Nonpublic Project Completion Reports, including a refund to the State of New Jersey totaling \$29,710.00 for the 2022-2023 school year.
	MOTION by Mrs. Curry, seconded by Ms. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #7F, #9F and #10F.
	MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, with exception of postponing item #8F.
PERSONN	<u>EL</u>
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: 2023-10-16  STAFF TRIPS

2P	recommendation of the	Superinten essional at	dent, acce <b>School 3,</b> a	pts, with	n regret, the	d of Education, upon e retirement of Marcia years of service to the		
3P	recommendation of the	Superintend	dent, accep <b>er at Sch</b> o	ots, with	regret, the i	d of Education, upon retirement of Christine ng 28 years of service		
4P	THEREFORE BE IT recommendation of the		•			d of Education, upon signations:		
	<u>RESIGNATIONS</u>							
		Employee	Position	Location	Effective Date			
		Jennifer Leyton	Teacher - Art	S3	10/15/23			

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	Name Position		Last Name Position Loc Position C		Position Control #	Annual Salary Prorated	Effective Date	
Damaris	Baquerizo	Teacher - Spanish	FLHS	07-1550-05	\$60,075.00 Step 2/BA	12/11/23 Amended			
Tracey	Curbelo	Paraprofessional (.83)	S2	02-9101-23	\$21,783.00 Step 1/ND	10/10/23 Amended			
Gyeong Eun	Lee	Paraprofessional (.83)	S2	02-9101-50	\$25,079.00 Step 1/Deg	11/1/23			
Caren	Taylor	Teacher - Special Education	LFCMS	06-2400-13	\$107,379.00 Step 17/BA+20	12/18/23			
Viclissa	Trinidad	Paraprofessional (.83)	S2	02-9101-65	\$21,783.00 Step 1/ND	11/1/23			
Diane	Tucci- Mollica	Paraprofessional (.83)	S2	02-9101-35	\$25,079.00 Step 1/Deg	11/1/23			
Stephanie	Williams	Speech Language Specialist	S3	03-3120-07	\$111,919.00 Step 16a/MA+50	11/13/23			

7P

**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	Туре	New or Amend	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date			
Ueda Brasha	PT Paraprofessional	S4	Personal	New	N/A	N/A	10/30/23 - 11/19/23	11/20/23			
Mishell Chung	Grade 3 Teacher	S3	Maternity	New	1/22/24 - 2/14/24	2/15/24 - 6/2/24	N/A	6/3/24			
Lesley Giordano	PK Special Ed Teacher	S2	Maternity	Amend	11/6/23 - 12/1/23	12/2/23 - 6/3/24	N/A	9/1/24			
Lizandra Hernandez	Music Teacher	S1	Medical	New	9/21/23 - 11/5/23	N/A	N/A	11/6/23			
Stephanie Holman	Grade 2 Teacher	S1	Maternity	Amend	1/13/22 - 6/12/22	6/13/22 - 2/28/23	3/1/23 - 3/24/24	03/25/24			
Katherine McArdle	LAL 7-8 Teacher	MS	Maternity	Amend	9/18/23 - 10/9/23	10/10/23	N/A	10/11/23			
ID# 6953	N/A	N/A	Admin Leave	New	10/16/23	N/A	N/A	TBD			

**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			
Natalie Khatchadourian	Social Worker	S4	\$63,275.00 prorated Long Term Leave Replacement for Ed Services	10/18/23 - 2/2/24	Sarah Katz			

8P	<b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> , that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following <b>Substitutes</b> for the 2023-2024 school year:						
			SUBSTITU	<u>TES</u>			
			Antonia I Gail Rotk Lourdes So	el			
9P		f the Superinter	ndent, approve			of Education, upon f a <b>Home Instructor</b>	
		Но	ome Instructor	2023-2024			
		Name	Certification A	rea(s)	Rate		
		Holly Cuff Spec	ial Education - All S	Subjects P-12	\$45.00/hour		
10P	THEREFORE BE recommendation of the 2023-2024 scl	of the Superinte				on, upon harged to Title I for	
		Name	Location	F	Rate		
		Brittany Lodato	FLHS	\$29,878.00 (amended)	(34% of salary	)	
		Ummesalma Murtuz	za- S3	\$37,925.00	(100% of salar	у)	
		Ashley Rice	FLHS	\$25,254.00	(34% of salary	)	
		Stefanie Pinajian	MS	\$70,591.00	(60% of salary	)	
		Christina Murphy	MS	\$89,350.00	(80% of salary	)	
		Chloe Shannon	FLHS	\$13,307.00	(17% of salary	)	
11P	recommendation of individual and gr	of the Supering oup counseling until Decembe	tendent, appr ng services, r 31, 2023, at	oves And outside o a rate of \$	ria Fusco f the norr	of Education, upon as a provider of mal work day, from nour with a maximum	

12P	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the amended Resolution to appointment District Compliance Officers for the remainder of the 2023 Calendar Year:							
	Comp	liance Posit	<u>ion</u>	<u>Employee</u>		<u>Title</u>		
	504 Co	mmittee Coordin	ator	Kathryn Drumgoole	Director of S	chool Counse	eling Services	
	District Liaison to S	State's Child Wel	fare Authorities	Celeste Williams	Director	r of Human Ro	esources	
13P		nendation o	of the Supe	, that the Formitendent, apposed the contract of the contract	roves the	appoin	of Education, <b>tment of the</b>	
		T.	2023-202	4 Faculty Coordin	nator			
		Name	D	epartment	Class	Stipend		
		David Cuozzo	Student Comm	nunity Service Coordina	ator N/A	\$7,140.00		
		Cean Spahn		K-8 Testing	N/A	\$5,000.00		
14P	recommendation	on of the Sup I <b>t Fort Lee</b>	perintendent <b>High Schoo</b>	that the Fort c, approves the sabl, to include the c3.	alary adju	stment fo	r Jose Yanes,	
	MOTION by M approves items	•	•	Mrs. Richter, tha	t the Fort	Lee Boar	d of Education	
	MOTION carrie	ed unanimous	sly upon roll	call vote, 8-0.				
POLICY								
1POL	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: 2023-10-16 SECOND READING							
			Policy/Reg No 6620	Petty Cash (M) (Re	,			
	MOTION by M approves item	•	econded by	Mrs. Curry, that	the Fort	Lee Boar	d of Education	
	MOTION carrie	d unanimous	sly upon roll	call vote, 8-0.				

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Ms. Morell, to adjourn, 8:02 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

<u>Dina Messery</u>

Business Administrator/Board Secretary

DM/toc / 10-20-23