FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES

PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA Monday, November 20, 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. Curry.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Elisa Cho (virtual, 6:35 pm arrival), Mrs. Kim Curry, Mr. Kacy Knight, Ms. Holly Morell,

Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mr. Michael Rubino, Ms. Julene Stassou, Ms. Paula K. Colbath

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

III, Board Attorney

Absent: Dr. Catherine Golfinopoulos

Ms. Colbath shared that there will be two residency appeals and two HIB hearings during Executive Session and the Session may extend beyond 7:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Richter seconded by Mr. Rubino at 6:34 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

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

MOTION by Ms. Stassou seconded by Ms. Morell at 8:40 p.m.

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

WALK-IN RESOLUTIONS:

Ms. Colbath read Walk-in Resolutions items #4B and #5B relating to HIB Investigations and item #6B relating to residency ineligibility.

Ms. Colbath shared before the Board votes on the resolutions she will make a motion to change our reorganization meeting, which is currently scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2024 to Wednesday, January 3, 2024 because our municipality reorganization meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2024.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Kravitz shared that there were nine (9) HIB investigations. Three (3) were founded.

Dr. Kravitz shared that in the most recent US News and World Report rankings, Fort Lee schools have ranked well in comparison with the total number of schools.

School #4 #179/ 1332 School #3 133/1332 School #2 180/ 1332 School #1 51/1332 LFCMS 74/695

This is great news however, we always strive to be better and better. Dr. Kravitz thanked all of our teachers, administrators and staff for making this happen. "The best is yet to come".

Dr. Kravitz further shared that we still do not have the approval to open the Tom Hunter Road building. Dr. Kravitz reported that we do have a Spanish teacher who is coming but I encourage everyone to be patient as we have a Physics and Chemistry teacher as a leave replacement.

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

Dr. Kravitz reminded everyone as we move into the Thanksgiving holiday break the importance to take the time and reflect on all that we are thankful for. He wished all to have a safe and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday break.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

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

Ms. Stassou commended all the student recipients that received an athletic award. Ms. Stassou suggested that a list of the honor roll student names should also be publicized to recognize the students' academic achievements.

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, 8:58 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Public comments and questions included when will the Physics/Chemistry teacher start employment, will the students that missed instructional time for this subject receive credit, and lack of communication from the school regarding how this situation is being handled; when will the results of the Board of Education election be released, the number of teachers that currently sit on the Board and the historic number of teachers that sat on the Board; thankful for the Fort Lee School District, and concerns regarding the district's travel policy.

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

MOTION by Ms. Stassou seconded by Mr. Rubino to close the floor to the public, 9:05 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Ms. Colbath made a motion to change the District's Reorganization Meeting from its current scheduled date of Thursday, January 4, 2024 to Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

MOTION by Ms. Stassou, seconded by Mr. Rubino to change the date of the District's Reorganization Meeting.

MOTION carried upon voice vote, 7-0-1, with exception, as Ms. Cho abstained.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD								
1B	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED , that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the following minutes :							
	Public Business Meeting Minutes November 6, 2023 Private Executive Meeting Minutes November 6, 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:							
	 The nature of the investigation; Whether the District found evidence of HIB; Whether discipline was imposed; Whether services were provided to address the incident of HIB. 							
3В	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the submission of the updated Safe Return Plan as per the American Rescue Plan Act to the New Jersey Department of Education. <i>Attachment:</i> <u>SAFE RETURN PLAN (UPDATED 11-20-23)</u>							
4B	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, hereby:							
Walk- in	 <u>reverses</u> the findings of HIB Investigation #252998_LFC_10162023 (Custom ID #IS-5) for the following student(s). 							
	OTUDENT ID #							
	STUDENT ID #							
	# <u>30060593</u>							

5B	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, hereby:								
Walk- in	• <u>reverses</u> the findings of HIB Investigation #253524_LFC_10202023 (Custom ID #IS-5) for the following student(s).								
	STUDENT ID #								
	# <u>30090403</u>								
6B <mark>Walk-</mark>	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby:								
in	 disenrolls the following non-resident student(s) from the Fort Lee Public Schools. 								
	STUDENT ID #								
	3794632658 (FLHS, Gr10)								
	MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Curry, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #6B.								
	MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 8-0 for items #1B through #3B and #6B; and 7-0-1 for items #4B and #5B, as Ms. Stassou abstained.								
SECURI	<u>TY</u>								
18	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the submission of the School Safety and Security Plan Annual Review Statement of Assurance (SOA) to the New Jersey Department of Education for the 2023-2024 school year. Attachment: 23-24 SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN (SOA)								
	MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1S.								
	MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.								
CURRIC	L CULUM								
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: 2023-11-20 CLASS TRIPS								

	OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS									
	Student Placement Dates Tuition/Costs									
	#8198486938	Chapel Hill Academy 31 Chapel Hill Rd. Lincoln Park, NJ 07035	10/26/2023- 6/30/2023	Annual tuition cost of \$74,160.00, prorated to \$59,740.00 (145 days @ \$412.00 per diem). Transportation cost prorated to \$11,378.15 (145 days @ \$78.47per diem).						
	#28090079	Bergen County Special Services: Brownstone School 492 Saddle River Rd. Saddle Brook, NJ 07663	10/26/2023- 6/30/2023	Annual tuition cost of \$64,800.00, prorated to \$50,400.00 (140 days @ \$360.00 per diem). Transportation cost prorated to \$8,878.80 (140 days @ \$63.42 per diem).						
3CUR	THEREFO	RE BE IT RESOLVE	-D that the	Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation o						
JJJI										
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4CUR	the Superir 4 days (Ja Attachmer THEREFO the Superir water scie Journey, T discussion	ntendent, approves I nuary 16-19, and 2 nt: CENTER FOR A RE BE IT RESOLVE ntendent, approves ance outreach program and interactive water of clean drinking water and service of clean drinking water and service of clean drinking water and service of the service of clean drinking water and service of clean drinking wat	ED, that the Veolia ins grams to s d Thunders er science	for Applied Linguistics (CAL) to provide training over paid through Account #20-270-200-300-000						
	the Superir 4 days (Ja Attachmer THEREFOI the Superir water scie Journey, T discussion importance PROGRAM MOTION by	ntendent, approves a nuary 16-19, and 2 nt: CENTER FOR A RE BE IT RESOLVE ntendent, approves nce outreach program and interactive water of clean drinking was not seen to the number of clean drinking w	The Center (4). To be PPLIED LINE (4). To be PPLIED LINE (4). The Veolia insertions of Thunders (4) at er and w	Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of tructors to provide the following free educations econd grade students in School #4:The Incredible storms and Hail. These enrichment programs provide activities for grades K-12 along with education on the						
	the Superir 4 days (Ja Attachmer THEREFORE the Superir water sciet Journey, Todiscussion importance PROGRAM MOTION by items #1CU	ntendent, approves a nuary 16-19, and 2 nt: CENTER FOR A REBEIT RESOLVE ntendent, approves the Blue Planet, and and interactive water of clean drinking was a property of the second trinking t	The Center (4). To be PPLIED LINE (4). To be PPLIED LINE (4). To be PPLIED LINE (4). The Veolia insertance of the Veolia	Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation structors to provide the following free education storms and Hail. These enrichment programs provide activities for grades K-12 along with education on the rater conservation. Attachment: VEOLIA OUTREACT.						

2F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Superintendent, approves the paramount of \$132,531.27 for November BILLS LIST	ayment of the clair	ms on the current	Cafeteria bills list in the					
3F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Superintendent, approves the paramount of \$1,085.00 for November BILLS LIST	ayment of the clai	ms on the current	Athletic bills list in the					
4F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Superintendent, accepts the following		f Education, upon	recommendation of the					
		DONATION	<u>S</u>						
	Item	Amount/ Estimated Value	Donor	On Behalf Of					
	Upgrade Playground Equipment & Replace Monkey Bars	\$25,000.00	School #1 PTA	School #1 Playground					
	Wheelchair	\$500.00	Marisa Buonomo	School #1					
	The Radiant Rainbow Cap (1 copy) Will Allie B. Able to Make New Friends? (1 copy) Seriously Silly! (2 copies)	\$40.00	Bonnie Lieberman, Author	One copy for each Elementary School					
5F	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 an Addendum to the Non-Resident Special Education Tuition Agreement between the Fort Lee Board of Education and the Palisades Park Board of Education for SID#8392321417 for a 1:1 nurse on trips for the 2023-2024 school year.								
	MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by items #1F through #5F.	oy Mrs. Curry, that	t the Fort Lee Boa	rd of Education approves					
	MOTION carried unanimously upon r	roll call vote, 8-0.							

PERSO	<u>PERSONNEL</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: 2023-11-20 STAFF TRIPS									
2P	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					
		Cynthia Luciano	Teacher - Special Education LLD	LFCMS	1/16/2024					
		Lacme Lusein	Teacher - Spec Ed PK	S2	11/14/2023 Offer Rescind					
		Yolanda Morel	PT Paraprofessional	S2	10/12/2023					
		Christina Ranaudo	Learning Disability Teacher Consultant	LFCMS	1/12/2024					
	Effective of	date indicates the 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 Name	Last Name	Position	Position Loc Position #		Annual Salary Prorated	Effective Date					
Brian	Cinque	Custodian	S3	03-9400-05	\$50,133.00 6/Custodian prorated	12/4/23					
John	Drejaj	Custodian	S2	02-9400-03	\$50,133.00 6/Custodian prorated	12/4/23					
Thomas	lannaccone	PT Paraprofessional (.83)	LFCMS	06-9101-01	\$25,079.00 1/Deg prorated	12/5/23					
Seul Woo	Lee	PT Paraprofessional (.83) Music	S1	01-9101-73	\$25,079.00 1/Deg prorated	TBD Amended start date					
Marjorie	Price	PT Paraprofessional (.83)	S2	02-9101-45	\$25,079.00 prorated	9/20/23 Amended start date					
Saad	Quraishi	PT Paraprofessional (.83)	FLHS	07-9101-125	\$25,079.00 1/Deg prorated	11/21/23					
Desiree	Schwartz	PT Paraprofessional (.83)	LFCIS	05-9101-48	\$21,783.00 1/ND prorated	12/4/23					
Ji	Yi-Choi	Teacher - Art	S3	03-1200-02	\$69,275.00 7/MA prorated	12/4/23					

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves payment for Yordanis Morales, as a Substitute Bus Driver for 10/6/2023 - 10/13/2023 (8 hrs.) at a rate of \$41.82 per hour.

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.

<u>TRANSFERS</u>								
Name	Name From Location From Position To Location To Position Salary Change Effective Date							
Joel Francisco	FLHS	PT Paraprofessional (.83)	LFCIS	PT Paraprofessional (.83)	N/A	11/21/23		

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following leaves:

	LEAVES OF ABSENCES										
Name	New or Unpaid Leave Unpaid Leave No Return Name Position Loc Type Amend Paid Leave with benefits Benefits Date										
Kristin Cassavell	Grade 5 Math/Science Teacher	IS	FMLA	New	11/13/23 - 1/1/24	1/2/24 - 2/2/24	N/A	2/5/24			
Jacqueline McCabe	Grade 4 Teacher	S4	Maternity	New	3/4/24 - 4/19/24	4/22/24 - 6/30/24	N/A	9/1/24			
Ashley Rice	Gr 9-12 ELA Strategies	HS	Maternity	Amend	11/27/23 - 1/4/24	N/A	1/5/24 - 6/30/24	9/1/24			

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/								
Andrea Erde	BSI	HS	\$59,875.00 prorated	11/21/23 - 6/3/24 Amended	Ashley Rice				

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.

CO-CURRICULAR 2023-2024									
Name	Co-Curricular Activity		s	23-24 Stipend					
Kevin Burton (Amended)	Color Guard/Winter Guard	HS	D	\$6,327.00					

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:

SUBSTITUTES

Rosanna Santos - Substitute Custodian Yordanis Morales - Substitute Bus Driver Aiah Hadabeh - Substitute Teacher

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves to amend the following Position Control number for the 2023 calendar year as outlined below:

	POSITION CONTROL									
From Position Number	From Position Name	From Location	From FTE	To Position Number	To Position Name	To Location	To FTE	Effective Dates		
05-3105-07	Teacher STEAM	LFCIS	100%	05-3105-07	Teacher - STEAM/ Physics	LFCIS & FLHS	LFCIS - 83% FLHS - 17%	11/27/23 to 6/20/24		
05-1550-04	Teacher - Spanish	LFCIS	100%	05-1550-04	Teacher - Spanish	LFCIS & FLHS	LFCIS - 80% FLHS - 20%	11/27/23 to 12/21/23		

11P	the Superintendent, approve year, as follows. All a	es the <mark>appointmen</mark> appointments are printing process, _l	t of Winter Coaches subject to comp	on, upon recommendation of s for the 2023-2024 school pletion of all personnel aid activities. <i>Attachment:</i>						
12P	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following staff members to be paid at \$55/hr, not to exceed 15 hours, to attend an MTSS Champions meeting taking place outside the scope of the work day and to be paid out of 20-488-200-100-00-000.									
		<u>Emp</u>	loyees							
		Nicole Pacciani	Marisa Buonomo							
		Debbie Brigida	Kate Drumgoole							
		Annamarie Pillari	Rachel Standish							
		Stefanie Pinajian	Stephanie Borgono							
		Megan Cooper- Etra	Annmarie Kropiewnicki							
		Dana DeLucca	Angela Waack							
		Krista Rambala	Sarah Katz							
		Elizabeth Lembo	Kaitlyn Clausman							
		Salma Major	Mai Koyo							
		Andria Fusco	Crystal Tuozzolo							

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following District translators for 2023-2024 school year, at the rate of \$30.00 per hour for oral translation and \$45.00 per hour for written translation, on an as needed basis:

DISTRICT TRANSLATORS 2023-2024				
Name	Position	Location	Language	
Khadija Bahosse	Paraprofessional	MS	Arabic and French	
Suzanne Elkhechen	Teacher	HS	Spanish, Arabic	
Kristie Han	Teacher	S2	Korean	
Sangeeta Jain	Paraprofessional	FLHS	Hindi, Bengali, Urdu, Punjabi	
Ayako Katayama	Paraprofessional	S3	Japanese	
Anissa McNulty	Teacher	MS	Russian	
Jane Mun	Teacher	S2	Korean	
Ghassan Nazi	Teacher	FLHS	Arabic	
Sollanly Ortega	Teacher	MS	Spanish	
Doris Pak	Teacher	IS	Korean	
Jaritza Rojas	Teacher	S2	Spanish	
Yiting Zhou	Teacher	HS	Chinese Mandarin	

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following additional appointment of an Athletic Game Worker for the 2023-2024 school year, to be paid at the rate of \$55.00 per game.

Game Workers 2023/2024
(Gate Personnel, Crowd Control, Clock Operator,Site Manager, Announcer)

Victoria Corso

MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Richter, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #14P.

MOTION carried unanimously 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: 2023-11-20 SECOND READING

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P 9130	Public Complaints and Grievances (Revised)

Fort Lee Board of Education Public Business Meeting

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MOTION by Mrs. Richter, seconded by Ms. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1POL.
MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Cho inquired if a link to the agenda be included in the Board meeting website announcement.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Cho asked that the Summer Math Program fees be addressed at the next Board meeting..

Mr. Knight shared that the Fort Lee Youth Council held a Fun Day for special needs children that are in our schools and congratulated them for planning and organizing an amazing event. Mr. Knight also gave kudos to the children who did a fabulous job organizing the Hispanic Heritage event.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Ms. Stassou, to adjourn, 9:12 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

<u>Dina Messery</u>
Dina Messery
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

DM/toc / 11-22-23