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

#### **MINUTES**

PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
January 16, 2024
Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School Cafetorium
and Zoom (virtual) Meeting

#### CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Board President, Mrs. Richter.

#### **FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Rubino.

#### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Public Announcement was read by Board President, Mrs. Richter.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mrs. Tanya Byers-Kang, Ms. Paula Colbath, Mrs. Kim Curry, Mr. Kacy

Knight, Mrs. Amy Ko-Tang, Mr. Douglas Lopez, Ms. Holly Morell, Mr. Michael

Rubino, Mrs. Kristen Richter

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

Lindita Agastra, Mr. Lester E. Taylor III, Board Attorney

Absent: None

#### **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, 9-0.

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

MOTION by Mrs. Byers-Kang seconded by Ms. Morell at 7:36

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:36 p.m.

#### REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Kravitz thanked the all of the custodial staff for their hard work to make sure the paths were clear for all of our staff and students this morning.

Dr. Kravitz shared that there are many events taking place in our schools and encouraged parents and guardians to read the announcements on our websites and calendars to be a part of their child's school. This is also School #2's no name calling week. Please read the eagles newsletter to learn more about it.

Dr. Kravitz reminded everyone that if there are any questions regarding their children to always start with the classroom teacher, then the school administrator and then through the chain of command to the Superintendent's office.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

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

Ms. Colbath inquired as to when the District's audit would be presented to the Board. Mrs. Messery responded that the auditors will be presenting the audit at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ms. Colbath inquired as to the balance left in the District's ARP ESSER funds and how they will be utilized. Mrs. Collazo-Baker responded the bulk of the funds are being used for the tutoring program that is currently in progress as well as instructional resources for Tier II and Tier III interventions.

Ms. Colbath inquired as to how are migrant parents identified for the Immigrant grant. Mrs. Collazo-Baker responded the parents fill out a form approved by the Department of Education. The District complies a report based on the forms submitted and remits it to the state. The DOE then decides to see if the district qualifies for funding.

Mr. Rubino inquired if the audit was through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Messery responded the district's fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> and the audit report is through June 30, 2023.

Mrs. Ko-Tang inquired if the ESEA funds were for the entire year. Mrs. Collazo-Baker responded this is for the 23-24 school year allocation plus carryover funds from last school year.

Mrs. Ko-Tang asked for clarification for the difference between instruction and support. Mrs. Collazo-Baker responded that instruction is relating to the instruction of the students that the students use. Support is anything that assists the academic ability and instruction of the student.

Mrs. Byers-Kang congratulated all of the teachers that are retiring.

#### **RESOLUTIONS – WALK INS**

Mrs. Richter read the two walk-in resolutions items #8B and #8B pertaining to residency ineligibility.

### 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. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Rubino to open the floor to the public, 7:49 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Public questions and comments included expressing concerns regarding responsiveness for documentation requests; acknowledgement on the district website regarding the holidays of different faiths; asked the Board to follow the code of conduct regarding offensive comments; teacher shortages and what the district is doing to address this problem; commended the theater department and inquired if there would be greater offerings in the performing arts across all grade levels; procedure for school vouchers; stressed the importance of inclusion and diversity and that all are welcome in this community; the process for opting out of the health curriculum and what is it replaced with; focus on academics; who makes the decision for a delayed opening; bus situations and can parents be notified in real time to let them know of delays; the board's position on allowing members of the public to speak more than once.

Dr. Kravitz and Mrs. Richter addressed all questions and concerns.

A member of the public came to the meeting in person to address why she wasn't allowed to speak again virtually.

Mr. Taylor addressed the citizen stating the she had not been addressed by the board to speak. Pursuant to board policy, every member of the public is given one opportunity to speak.

MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Curry to close the floor to the public, 8:37 p.m.

Mrs. Curry, Mrs. Ko-Tang, Ms. Morell, and Mrs. Richter voted yes. Mrs. Byers-Kang, Ms. Colbath, Mr. Knight, Mr. Lopez, Mr. Rubino all abstained.

Mr. Taylor explained that according to Robert's Rule of Order, an "abstention" cannot affect the outcome of a vote. A vote of 4 yesses and 5 abstentions means the motion passes. If a member wishes to change his vote to No, you may request to do so. Mrs. Byers-Kang, Ms. Colbath, Mr. Knight, Mr. Lopez, Mr. Rubino then requested to change their vote to No.

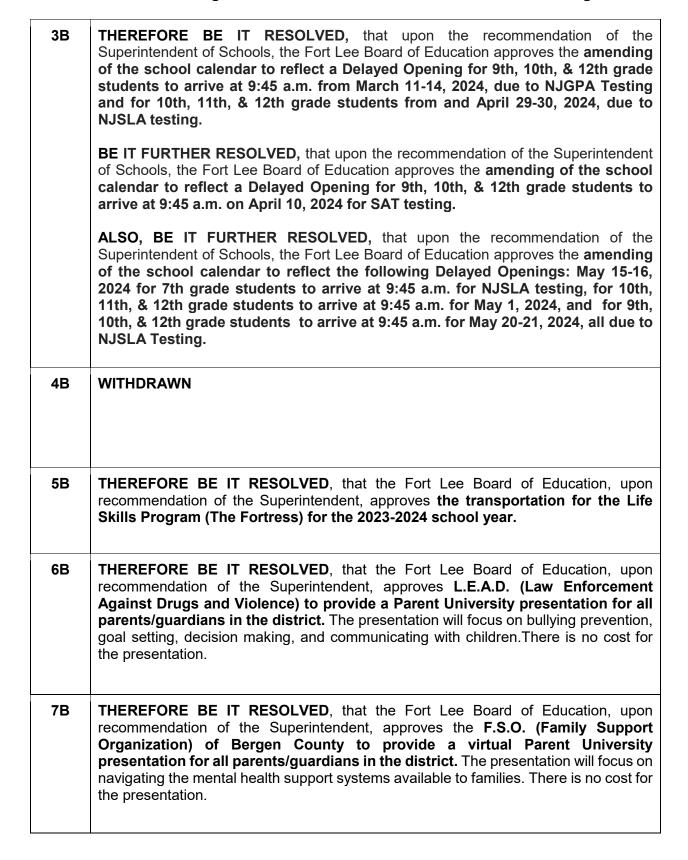
Mr. Taylor explained that pursuant to the general principles of orderly conduct at board meetings, it is up to the board to decide if you want to let a member of the public speak more than once.

Mrs. Richter stated that all participants must be respectful and not call any member of the public out by name. Any issues are to be addressed with the Board only. She stated that she has no problem letting a member of the public speak a second time as long as it is civilized. The Board is under no obligation to respond. No one Board member can speak on behalf of others. We will take what is stated under advisement and if a response is warranted, we will get back to you.

MOTION by Ms. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Rubino to close the floor to the public, 8:46 p.m.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

BOARE	<u>BOARD</u>									
1B	<b>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> , that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the following <b>minutes</b> :									
	Private Meeting Minutes  Public Meeting Minutes  Reorganization Meeting Minutes  December 18, 2023  December 18, 2023  December 18, 2023  January 3, 2024									
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									
	<b>WHEREAS</b> , the Board has had the opportunity to review the Superintendent's recommendations with respect to the incident(s) of HIB.									
	<b>NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> , 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:									
	<ol> <li>The nature of the investigation;</li> <li>Whether the District found evidence of HIB;</li> <li>Whether discipline was imposed;</li> <li>Whether services were provided to address the incident of HIB.</li> </ol>									



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby:						
<ul> <li>disenrolls the following non-resident student from the Fort Lee Public Schools.</li> </ul>						
STUDENT ID #						
#5653929842 (FLHS)						
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby:						
<ul> <li>disenrolls the following non-resident student from the Fort Lee Public Schools.</li> </ul>						
STUDENT ID #						
# 5056715445 (FLHS)						
MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Ms. Colbath, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #3B, #5B through #9B.						
MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0.						
<u>CULUM</u>						
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: 2024-01-16 CLASS TRIPS						

#### 2CUR

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **out-of-district placements** for the 2023-2024 school year:

	OUT-OF- DISTRICT PLACEMENTS								
Student	Placement	Dates	Tuition/Costs						
#9596955289	David Gregory School Paramus, NJ	1/2/2024 - 6/30/2024	Annual tuition cost of \$63,090.30, prorated to \$33,648.18 (112 days @ \$300.43 per diem). Transportation cost prorated to \$8,382.08 (112 days @ \$74.84 per diem).						
#1958016402	YCS George Washington School Hackensack, NJ	1/2/2024 - 6/30/2024	Annual tuition cost of \$80,820.00, prorated to \$49,839.00 (111 days @ \$449.00 per diem). Transportation cost prorated to \$31,968.00 (111 days @ \$288.00 per diem).						

MOTION by Ms. Colbath, seconded by Ms. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR through #2CUR.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0.

#### **FINANCE**

- 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 December 2024 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 DECEMBER 2023; TREASURER REPORT DECEMBER 2023
- 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 December 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 TRANSFERS DECEMBER 2023

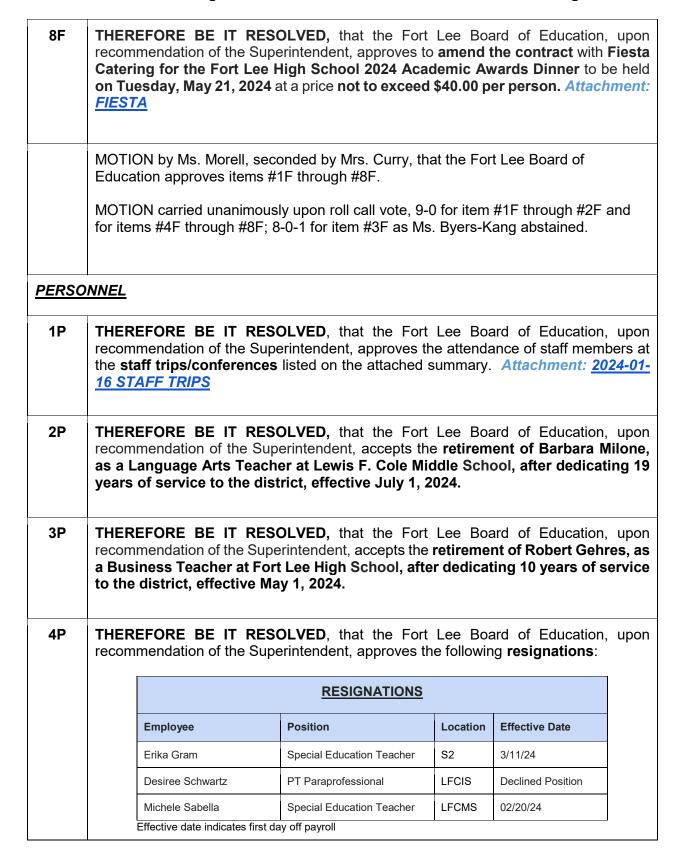
3F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of the claims on the current bills list in the amount of \$7,076,878.62 for January 2024 checks. Attachment: 2024-01-16 BILLS LIST
4F	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort 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 \$172,578.74 for January 2024 checks.  Attachment: 2024-01-16 CAFETERIA BILLS LIST
5F	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 Athletic bills list in the amount of \$8,366.00 for January 2024 checks.  Attachment: 2024-01-16 ATHLETIC BILLS LIST

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves to accept and submit ESEA Public and Non-Public carryover application and transfers within Amendment 1 for the 2023-2024 grant fiscal year as per the following: (carryover of ESEA funds)

Function / Object	Title I-A	Title II-A	Title III	Title III Immigrant	Title IV Part A
Account #	20-231	20-270	20-241	20-243	20-280
100	Instruction				
100-100	\$399,931		\$10,000		
100-300	\$64,835		\$9,500		\$26,195
100-600	\$75,792		\$91,147	\$6,120	\$4,863
100-800	\$1,530				\$142
200	Support Ser	vices			
200-100	\$49,013		\$2,929	\$18,579	\$13,856
200-200	\$175,401		\$989	\$1,421	\$1,060
200-300	\$13,570	\$138,767	\$23,500	\$1,500	\$300
200-500	\$770	\$6,855			\$1,530
200-600	\$6,194	\$270	\$500	\$8,500	\$3,040
PGM ADM	Program Ad				
PGM ADM	\$6,000				
Total Budgeted/ Available	\$793,036	\$145,892	\$138,565	\$36,120	\$50,986

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Miriam Skydell and Associates 2024 Services Contract for the 2023-2024 school year. Attachment: SKYDELL CONTRACT 2024

7F



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following teachers for After School ESL Tutoring, at a rate of \$55.00 an hour, to be charged to Title III, account 20-241-100-101-00-000.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	Location	Extra Compensation
Mindy Choi	Choi After-School Tutoring Program		\$55.00 per hour
Denise Morales	After-School Tutoring Program	HS	\$55.00 per hour
Justin Williams	After-School Tutoring Program	HS	\$55.00 per hour

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Title I Math tutoring at a rate of \$55.00 an hour and not to exceed \$8,000.00, for Middle School,** account 20-231-100-101-06-000 and High School, account 20-231-100-101-07-000.

Christina Murphy Stefanie Katic Steven Choi Soo Mee Yoo

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Bridgeman Believe Mentor Program, at an hourly rate of \$55.00, to be charged to account #20-280-200-100-00-000, for the 2023-2024 school year.

Gabrielle Brown April Coniglio Diana Ladd William Straub

**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	From Location	From Position	To Location	To Position	Salary Change	Effective Date					
1.Cynthia Conto	a S3 PT Paraprofessional (.83)		<b>S</b> 3	PT Paraprofessional (.50)	\$13,070.00	1/16/24					
2. Laura Cooper	S1	S1 FT Paraprofessional S2		FT Paraprofessional	N/A	1/2/24					
3. Kathleen Pastena	S1	FT Paraprofessional	S3	FT Paraprofessional	N/A	2/1/24					

9P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the salaries of the following staff members to be charged to ESEA/Title I, accounts 20-231-100-101-06-000 and 20-231-100-101-07-000.

Name	Location	Amount	
Gabrielle Anconetani	LFCIS	\$21,946.00 (21% of salary)	
Queen Beaute'	FLHS	\$12,844.00 (33% of salary)	
Andrea Sarney-Erde	FLHS	\$14,819.00 (33% of salary)	

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the amendment of Marching Band Season for the 2023-2024 school year.

Marching Band Assistants (paid at \$25/hr. with a "not to exceed" or max number of hours):

Name:	Job Title:	Rate:	Max Hours:	Max Salary:
Eldric Etra	Marching Band Assistant	\$25/hr.	180	\$4,500.00

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following Faculty Coordinators for the 2023-2024 school year.

2023-2024 Faculty Coordinator								
Name Department Class Date Stipend								
Gene Fusco	Special Education	N/A	1/17/2024	Prorated \$5,000.00				

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of an additional staff member to the MTSS Champions and to be paid \$55.00 per hour to attend MTSS Champions meeting, taking place outside the scope of the work day, to be paid out of account 20-488-200-100-00-000.

Aimee DeSheplo

13P 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		
Mishell Chung	Grade 3 Teacher	S3	Maternity	Amend	1/18/23 - 2/2/24	2/5/24 - 5/31/24	N/A	6/3/24		
Laura Cooper	Paraprofessional	S2	Medical	New	12/13/23- 1/2/24	1/3/24 - 4/5/24	N/A	4/8/24		
Susan Grgas	Paraprofessional	MS	Medical	New	N/A	2/7/24 - 3/8/24	N/A	3/11/24		
Sarah Katz	LDT-C	S4	Maternity	Amend	10/18/23 - 11/10/23	N/A	11/13/23- 2/29/24	3/1/24		
Brittany Lodato	Math Teacher	HS	Maternity	Amend	11/21/23 - 1/22/24	1/23/24 - 6/30/24	N/A	9/1/24		
Jane Mun	Grade 4 Teacher	S2	Maternity	Amend	3/11/24 - 5/7/24	5/8/24 - 6/30/24	N/A	9/1/24		
Marjorie Price	PT Paraprofessional	S2	Medical	New	1/2/24 - 1/16/24	N/A	1/17/24 - 3/1/24	3/4/24		

14P 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									
Grade/ Name Subject Loc			Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening				
Natalie Khatchadorian	Social Worker	S4	\$63,275.00 prorated Long Term Leave Replacement for Ed Services	10/18/23 - 3/4/24	Sarah Katz				
Sara Rho	Grade 2	S2	\$59,875.00 prorated	2/7/24 - 6/30/24	Clara Walden				
Joon Shin	Grade 3	S3	\$59,875.00 prorated	1/18/24 - 6/5/24	Mishell Chung				

15P 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**

James Butler - Substitute Teacher
Shanta DiBlasio - Substitute Teacher
Aiah Hadabeh -Substitute Teacher
Peter Haverick - Substitute Teacher
Daniel Melamud - Substitute Teacher
Rebecca Miranda - Substitute Teacher
Samantha Paredes - Substitute Teacher
Joon Shin - Substitute Teacher

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the temporary stipends of \$6,500, for teaching staff members assigned to **teach a sixth period** at Fort Lee High School for the 2023-2024 school year:

6th Period Stipends									
Fort Lee High School									
First Name	Last Name	Department	Dates						
Queen	Beaute'	Mathematics	Prorated from 12/11/2023 to TBD						
Thomas	Atkinson	Science	Prorated from 11/21/2023 to TBD						

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the temporary stipends of \$6,500, for teaching staff members assigned to **teach a sixth period** at **Lewis F. Cole Middle School** for the 2023-2024 school year:

6th Period Stipends									
Lewis F. Cole Middle School									
First Name Last Name		Department	Dates						
Marjorie	O'Connell	ICS ELA 8	Prorated from 1/17/2024 to 3/31/2024						
Gene	Fusco	Reading 8/Study Skills	Prorated from 1/17/2024 to 3/31/2024						
Ellen	Murphy	World History 8 ICS	Prorated from 1/17/2024 to 3/31/2024						
Rachael	Harris	Pre-Algebra 8 ICS	Prorated from 1/17/2024 to 3/31/2024						
Jillian	Reicherz	Study Skills	Prorated from 1/17/2024 to 3/31/2024						
Katherine	Busch-McArdle	ELA 8 LLD	Prorated from 1/17/2024 to 3/31/2024						

17P	re	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the sick day payout for Joanne Hong. Attachment: SICK DAY PAYOUT										
18P	re	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following new job description:  Attachment: ADULT ESL INSTRUCTOR										
19P	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the placement of the following Internship, Student Teacher or Practicum Candidate during the 2023-2024 school year:  INTERNSHIPS/STUDENT TEACHERS/PRACTICUM CANDIDATES											
		Referring University	Student Name	Type of Placement	Subject Area	Duration	Months From- To	School Placed	Cooperating Staff Member			
		Columbia University	Tingyao Lyu	Student Teacher II	Mathematics	150 Hrs.	1/22/2024 – 5/10/2024	Middle School	Sumedha Kumar			
20P	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Lisa Borzotta as an athletic official for the 2023-2024 school year.											
	MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Curry, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #20P.											
	MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0 for item #1P through #7P and for items #9P through #20P; For item #8P, Mrs. Curry, Mrs. Ko-Tang, Mr. Lopez, Ms. Morell, Mr. Rubino, Mrs. Richter voted yes; Mrs. Byers-Kang, Ms. Colbath, Mr Knight voted yes to #8P number 1, voted no to #8P number 2 and number 3.											

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Colbath stated that the BC SBA is offering a virtual meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> "How to Build Relationships in a Hostile Environment." She feels it would be beneficial for all Board members to participate. She also inquired as to the update regarding Veoila Water and if an alternate program has been found. Dr. Kravitz stated no alternative programs have been found as of yet.

# Fort Lee Board of Education Public Business Meeting

January 16, 2024 Page 16 of 16

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Ms. Colbath, to adjourn, 8:51 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Dina Messery

Dina Messery
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

DM/is Attachments 01-16-2024