

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 2, 2018
FORT LEE SCHOOL NO. 3 ALL PURPOSE ROOM
6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mrs. Romba.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Tuck.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Fort Lee Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published on March 26, 2018 and posted in the entrance hall of the Board Office, 2175 Lemoine Avenue; published in the Board's designated online media outlet/newspaper: The Record; filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Fort Lee; and mailed to all persons, if any, who have requested said notice. Please be advised that this meeting is being taped and will be broadcasted on local TV and the district's website at a future date.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Elisa Cho, Mrs. Paula Colbath, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell (7:25 p.m.), Mr. Michael Rubino, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mrs. Lauran Tuck, Mrs. Candace Romba

Also Present: Mr. Kenneth Rota, Dr. Sharon Amato, Ms. Haquisha Taylor, Dennis McKeever, Esq., Ms. Julia Huang, Student Representative

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mrs. Colbath, at 6:31 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Rota reported that there were four (4) HIB investigations; one (1) was founded.

Mrs. Romba congratulated the four finalists and two runners-up in the New Jersey State Bar Association's Minorities in the Profession Division 2018 Black History Month Essay Contest. Mr. Rota awarded achievement certificates to:

Vivian Lee	Finalist
Jason Chowdhury	Finalist
June Won Jang	Finalist
Kayla Whiting	Finalist
Alexandra Kupriyanova	1 st Place Runner-up
Sebin "Joseph" Kang	3 rd Place Runner-up

Mr. Rota shared that the next three BOE meetings will be held at different schools in town and asked the Board if there were preferences for which schools for each of the next three BOE meetings. The board consensus for the locations of the next three BOE meetings is Schools 1, 2 and 4, respectively.

Mr. Rota shared that the Corporate Sponsorships Board policy allows for advertising on school property and asked if Board members supported the idea.

Mrs. Morell stated that she is in agreement.

Mr. Sarnoff supports the concept of school property advertising and recommends identifying criteria including where the advertisements could be placed.

Mrs. Han Silver supports the idea of school property advertising and shared a concern of the perception of the Board's endorsement of a sponsor and/or product or service.

Mrs. Tuck stated that ensuring no exclusivity of sponsors could mitigate Mrs. Han Silver's concern. Mrs. Tuck further recommended drilling down on the corporate sponsorship policy to be more specific.

Mrs. Colbath stated that the current Board Policy No. 6162, includes mechanisms for some of the issues being raised by Board members. Mrs. Colbath shared that she is in favor of pursuing corporate sponsorship.

Mr. DiMeglio stated that there needs to be guidelines but is in support of pursuing corporate sponsorship.

Mrs. Romba supports corporate sponsorship as long as there are clear criteria.

Mr. Rubino supports corporate sponsorship as well.

Mr. Rota shared he will do more research and move the idea along.

Mr. Rota broached the topic of Board Retreat dates being on a Monday evening(s) or on a weekend day(s).

Board members shared their respective preferences for day(s) and time(s) for a Board Retreat. Mr. Rota will email possible dates and times to board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Julia Huang, student representative, shared that the high school staff and students wore blue today to support World Autism Awareness Day; the Debate Team had a competition last Thursday and the JV debaters did very well; the Musical will be taking place April 19-21 and rehearsals are going smoothly; AP Students are preparing for their exams in early May; Teen PEP started its application process and are holding their interviews for applicants this week; Band Day will be taking place this Friday at the Middle school; the Junior Class will be selling cookies tomorrow, after school; and sophomores in Honors Science Research are beginning to get acceptances for their research internships.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Board members discussed the agenda item to renew our Food Management Service Company and the associated lunch price increases. Board members shared questions and concerns about lunch price increases and monitoring the quality of food. Ms. Taylor asked that Board members share specific complaints about food quality with her to address with the vendor. Ms. Taylor further shared that increased pricing support added labor, food service equipment repairs and upgrades, as well as signage and décor enhancements.

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. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Morell, at 7:56 p.m., to open the floor to the public.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

School No. 3 parent recommended the breakfast program commence earlier, inquired how cafeteria profits are prioritized for school cafeteria upgrades, and shared that parents can no longer view the itemized list of menu items online.

School No. 3 parent recommended the breakfast program open earlier to accommodate working parents.

School No. 2 Pre-K parent shared concerns about the stark Pre-K tuition increase, recommended the breakfast program open earlier, and inquired about the supervision of students when the breakfast program ends and students are released.

School No. 3 parent (Amy Ko-Tang), thanked the Board for coming to School No. 3 for tonight's meeting, thanked the Board for the School Messenger call to the community at large about tonight's Board meeting, inquired about the date of the budget presentation to School No. 3, inquired which Board members serve on the various committees, and asked for a status update on the Lewis F. Cole Middle building project.

School No. 3 parent (Sara Krikscivn), shared that a group of School No. 3 parents have created a School 3 Advocacy group who met with the Mayor and Council and presented charts to illustrate overcrowding and the need for school capital improvements. Ms. Krikscivn briefed the Board with those charts to show 1) the drastic school board increase in enrollment, 2) high temperatures in the schools over three days in May, June, and September – all higher than the recommended temperature for optimal learning, and 3) the number of school days above 85° over the last three decades - in the 70's an average of 12 days, in the 80's an average of 16 days, and currently an average of 25 school days.

School No. 3 parent recommended that other schools offer the BOKS physical activity morning program that School No. 1 offers.

Mr. Rota and Ms. Taylor responded to community member questions sharing they will follow up with certain items as needed and responding directly to questions they could answer at the time.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Morell, at 8:21 p.m. to close the floor to the public.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

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

Pulled

Public Business Meeting Minutes	March 19, 2018
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	March 19, 2018

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 Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #2B. Item #1B was **pulled**.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0, for item #2B.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

1B&G **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the renewal of a **one-year lease agreement for Central Office space at 2175 Lemoine Avenue, Fort Lee, New Jersey**, for the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 at the monthly rental rate of \$13,487, for a total not to exceed \$161,844, plus electric energy charges, and authorizes the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the agreement.

2B&G **WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education requested proposals for On-Site Construction Management Services for projects approved by the referendum in the amount of \$49,840,000, including the addition at Lewis F. Cole Middle School; and
Pulled

WHEREAS, Turner Construction Company was awarded a Construction Management Services Contract on March 23, 2015 as follows: Pre-Construction fee of \$79,124 Post-Construction Fee of \$18,744 and a monthly fee for all projects of \$24,698 with an estimated total cost of \$814,110; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Lee Board of Education anticipates the need for continued Construction Management Services for the completion of the addition at Lewis F. Cole Middle School.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education authorizes an extension of the contract with Turner Construction Company for the period April 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019 at a cost not to exceed \$430,610.

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1B&G. Item #2B&G was **pulled**.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0, for item #1B&G.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

1CUR **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **class trips** listed in the attached summary.
[See Appendix Page](#)

2CUR **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the execution of the **Agreement between Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) and Fort Lee High School for the Dual Enrollment Program, otherwise known as the Middle College Program, for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.** [See Appendix Page](#)

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR and #2CUR.

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

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 \$678,244.43 for April 2018 checks.** [See Appendix Page](#)

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 list in the amount of \$148,429.03 for April 2018 checks.** [See Appendix Page](#)

3F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the fourth renewal of the food service contract with The Pomptonian (FSMC), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FSMC shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, an administrative/management fee of \$.1838 per reimbursable meal and meal equivalent to compensate the FSMC for administrative and management costs. This fee shall

be billed monthly as a cost of operation. The SFA [School Food Authority] guarantees the payment of such costs and fee to the FSMC.

Total meals are calculated by adding reimbursable meal pattern meals served and meal equivalents. The number of reimbursable meals served to the children shall be determined by actual count. Cash receipts, other than from sales of reimbursable program meals served to the children, shall be divided by \$1.00 to arrive at an equivalent meal count.

The per meal administrative/management fee of \$.1838 will be multiplied by total meals.

The FSMC guarantees the SFA a minimum profit of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) for school year 2018-2019.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the following **breakfast and lunch prices for the 2018-2019 school year**.

Elementary Breakfast Paid	\$1.75	Elementary Breakfast Reduced	.30
Elementary Lunch Paid	\$2.95	Elementary Lunch Reduced	.40
Middle School Breakfast Paid	\$1.75	Middle School Breakfast Reduced	.30
Middle School Lunch Paid	\$2.95	Middle School Lunch Reduced	.40
High School Breakfast Paid	\$1.80	High School Breakfast Reduced	.30
High School Lunch Paid	\$2.95	High School Lunch Reduced	.40
Faculty Lunch	\$3.85		

MOTION by Mr. DiMeglio, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #3F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0, for items #1F and #2F. MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 8-0-1, for item #3F; Ms. Cho abstained.

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. [See Appendix Page](#)
- 2P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **accepts, with regret, the retirement of Maureen Tropea, Aide at School No. 1**, after dedicating 13 ½ years of service to the district, effective July 1, 2018.
- 3P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Cinzia Bernardo as a World Language Teacher at Fort Lee High School** for the 2017-2018 school year, to be placed at Step 1, Class BA, on the 2017-2018 Teachers' Guide, at an annual salary of \$56,030 prorated, effective May 3, 2018 or sooner.
- 4P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Melanie Cohen as a**

Graphic Design Teacher at Fort Lee High School for the 2018-2019 school year, to be placed at Step 1, Class BA, on the 2018-2019 Teachers' Guide, at an annual salary of \$56,030, effective September 1, 2018.

- 5P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **transfer of Staff Members for the 2017-2018 school year**, as outlined below:

Assignment Changes for the 2017-2018 School Year							
	Transfer From		To				
Name	From Location	From Position	To Location	To Position	Salary Change Prorated	Effective Date	Reason
Dana Amato	S1	Spec Ed Inst. Aide (.83)	S1	Phys Ed Aide (.7)	17,727.00	4-3-18	Staff Replacement

- 6P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **leaves**:

First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amended	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with Benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Courtney	Baiardi	K-Spec Ed	S2	Maternity	Amended	9/6/16-10/5/16	10/6/2016 - 4/30/17	05/01/17-6/30/19	9/1/19
Kristen	Brown	BSI	S4	Maternity	Amended	1/29/18-4/24/18	4/25/18-5/24/18	N/A	5/25/18
Katherine	Busch-McArdle	Lang Arts Teacher	MS	Maternity	Amended	4/2/18-4/30/18	5/1/18-6/30/18	N/A	9/1/18
Michele	Sabella	Lang Arts Teacher	MS	Maternity	Amended	3/12/18 - 4/3/18	4/4/18 - 5/28/18	N/A	5/29/18
Christina	Zalokostas	Grade 1 Teacher	S1	Medical	Amended	3/12/18-4/6/18	N/A	N/A	4/9/18

- 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 2017-2018 school year, as outlined below:

LEAVE REPLACEMENTS						
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	GRADE/SUBJECT	SCHOOL	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Caryn	Gilbert	Language Arts Grades 7-8	MS	Sub pay for the first 10 days \$100 per day, day 11-60 \$110 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	Amended Work days: 4/2/18 to 6/30/18	Maternity Leave for Katherine Busch-McArdle
Amanda	Apice	Grade 2-4 ASD	S2	Sub pay for the first 10 days \$100 per day, day 11-60 \$110 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	Amended Work days: 4/4/18 to 6/30/18	Maternity Leave for Stefanie Ciavarella
Kelly	Lee	BSI	S4	Sub pay for the first 10 days \$100 per day, day 11-60 \$110 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	Amended Work days: 1/25/18 to 5/29/18	Maternity Leave for Kristen Brown

- 8P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a **pensionable stipend, for the following teaching staff member assigned to teach a sixth period** for the 2017-2018 school year as outlined below:

<i>Fort Lee High School</i>		
Teacher	Content	Stipend
Joseph Picone	Music	\$6,500
Harry Welte	Music	\$6,500

- 9P** **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 2017-2018 school year:

Nihma Awadeh
Joanne Tarabocchia (Substitute Nurse)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #9P.

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

OLD BUSINESS – none.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rota shared that he received consensus from the Board to move forward with the updated agreement language to “live stream” FLBOE events.

Mr. Rota shared that the Athletic Hall of Fame’s Induction Ceremony dinner is scheduled for May 12th.

Mr. Rota reminded the Board of Fort Lee National Little League’s request for permission to rename the field after long time coach Morris Ginsberg. After Board discussion, consensus to allow permission to rename the field was reached.

Ms. Cho asks if the Board has a policy on sharing HIB results to parties involved. Mr. Rota shared that parents are only informed of the HIB results for their own child(ren).

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to adjourn, 8:29 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor
HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY