

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 16, 2018
FORT LEE SCHOOL NO. 1 LIBRARY
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. Morell.

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 April 6, 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, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mrs. Lauran Tuck, Mrs. Candace Romba

Absent: Mrs. Holly Morell

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. Han Silver, at 6:32 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:33 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Rota reported that there were three (3) HIB investigations; all three (3) were founded.

Mr. Rota reported on March 2018 Fire & Security Drills.

Mr. Rota reported that we have restarted the Strategic Planning process. Building leadership teams will be going through their respective trainings as the next step in the process.

Mr. Rota shared numbers [costs] for proposed capital projects discussed at several previous board meetings. Mr. Rota shared that source of the costs are the original ROD (Regular Operating District) grant applications submitted in December 2013. Mr. Rota reiterated that the scope of work needed is relatively the same [as was needed in 2013]. Based on advice of district construction professionals, costs from the original ROD grant applications have been elevated to include inflation. The estimated costs for the HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) replacement at School No. 1 would be \$3.2MM. The costs for the HVAC replacement at School No. 3 would be \$3.9MM. Mr. Rota highlighted the one major change to the High School needs based on the December 2013 ROD grant application being that the boiler has been replaced - but no other HVAC work has been completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications – Lauran Tuck shared that the Communications Committee hosted its first C&C (Coffee & Conversation) earlier this month which was successful. In addition to the four (4) Board Members and Administrative team, there were about 26 participants from public. Mrs. Tuck shared that the Committee looks forward to the next C&C in early May. Details are forthcoming.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION – None.

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. Tuck, seconded by Mr. Rubino, at 7:44 p.m., to open the floor to the public.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Mr. Michael Ehrlich, School No. 2 parent, expressed displeasure with the handling of bullying incident with his daughter, happiness of pending new leadership at School 2, and discontent with School No. 2 PTA president not being represented on the Principal Search Committee.

Corina Yildiz, School No. 2 parent, expressed displeasure with School No. 2 PTA president not being represented on the Principal Search Committee.

Julene Stassou, School No. 2 parent, expressed discontent with the disrespect shown for parents, PTA president, and the PTA of School No. 2 by the lack of PTA representation on the School No. 2 Principal Search Committee, expressed discontent with non-responsiveness, and expressed discontent with less than stellar security in the school.

Sarah Kriksciun, School No. 3 parent, thanked the Board and underscored issues at School No. 3 including overcrowding and heating and cooling which is adversely affecting a few of the schools

including School No. 3. Ms. Kriksium offered the School No. 3 Parent Advocacy group to work in partnership with the Board to find the capital and resources to make the changes that are fundamental to learning.

Amy Ko-Tang, School No. 3 parent, shared past incidents with part-time school security officer and questioned the security officer's moral compass and temperament, asked if revenues are keeping pace with enrollment, and asked if we are breaking even with revenues versus health care and special education costs.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, at 8:11 p.m. to close the floor to the public.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

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

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes	April 2, 2018
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	April 2, 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 Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Ms. Cho, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approve items #1B and #2B.

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

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

1B&G **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education authorizes an extension of the **Construction Management Services Contract with Turner Construction Company relating to Phase II for the addition at Lewis F. Cole Middle School** for a period of four months from April 1, 2018 through July 31, 2018 at a cost not to exceed \$96,000.

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1B&G.

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

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 8](#)

2CUR **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Amendment of courses to the Program of Studies for the 2018-2019 school year**. [See Link: Program of Studies 2018-2019](#)

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

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

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 February 2018** 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. [See Appendix Page TBD](#)

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 February 2018**. 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. [See Appendix Page TBD](#)

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 \$4,978,817.22 for April 2018 checks**. [See Appendix Page 11](#)

4F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the execution of the contract for the **Jewish Family and Children's Services of North Jersey, Inc. (JFCS) Extended School Day Program** for the 2018-2019 school year.

- 5F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **payment of \$350 for each Performer for services rendered by the following adult musicians for the High School Spring Musical:**

Kenneth Cubillas - Percussion
Alexandra Dadon - Violin & Viola

MOTION by Mr. DiMeglio, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approve items #1F through #5F.

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

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. *See Appendix Page 9*
- 2P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **accepts, with regret, the retirement of Rose Cuccaro, School Nurse at School No. 1**, after dedicating 26 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 Aides** for the 2017-2018 school year, as follows:

Appointment of Additional Aides for the 2017-2018 School Year (All Salaries are Prorated)								
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Step	Class	Annual Salary	Effective Date	Reason
Fatemah	Nabiyouni	PT 1:1 Aide (.83) Preschool Special Education	S2	1	Degreed	\$21,019	Amended Start Date 4/2/18	IEP Need
Kaitlyn	Cooper	PT Aide (.83) Resource Grade 5	S1	1	Degreed	\$21,019	4/18/18	IEP Need

- 4P 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
Anthony	Galatioto	Technology Teacher	HS	Medical	Amended	1/16/18-4/13/18	N/A	N/A	4/16/18
Maureen	Tropea	Para	S1	Medical	New	4/2/18-4/13/18	N/A	N/A	4/16/18
Christina	Zalokostas	Grade 1 Teacher	S1	Medical	Amended	3/12/18-4/17/18	N/A	N/A	4/18/18
Henry	Farrell	PT School Security Officer	CO	Personal	New	N/A	N/A	4/16/18-6/30/18	TBD

- 5P **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
Cara	Becher	Special Education 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: 4/23/18 to 6/30/18	Maternity Leave for Jaritza Rojas
Kathrine	Driscoll	Grade 7-8 LLD	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	Work days: 4/11/18 - 6/15/18	Maternity Leave for Michele Sabella
Elyssa	Greene	Guidance	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	Work days: 4/30/18 - 6/30/18	Maternity Leave for Andrea Fusco

- 6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the **2018 Summer Math Advancement Program Staff**, pending adequate/appropriate enrollment, to be held from July 5, 2018 to August 10, 2018, as indicated below:

Name	Assignment	Hourly Rate	# of Hours Per Day	# of hours not to exceed	Total not to exceed
Angela Johnson	Algebra I Honors Teacher	\$48.43	6	168	\$8,136.24
Brad Deitsch	Pre-Algebra Honors Teacher	\$48.43	6	168	\$8,136.24
Total					\$16,272.48

- 7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following testing assignments for implementation of the 2018 Summer PARCC as outlined below:

Name	Assignment	Rate/Hours	Total Not to Exceed
James Puliatte	Testing Coordinator for 2018 Summer PARCC	Not to exceed 5 days at \$371.65 per diem rate for 2017-2018	\$1,858.25
Christopher Della Fave David Cuozzo Brienne Baker	Testing Examiners for 2018 Summer PARCC	Maximum of 12 hours per person @ \$45.00 per hour for a total not to exceed \$540.00 per person.	\$540.00 per person x 3 = \$1,620.00

- 8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **the appointment of Christine Romano as a Certificated Speech Therapist for Home Instruction** for the 2017-2018 school year, at the hourly rate of \$81.53 per hour based on her 2017-2018 salary.

- 9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **certificated staff member to provide Title I tutoring** during the 2017-2018 school year at the rate of \$45 per hour.

Name	Subject Area(s)	Location
Julia Anderson	General Ed K-6	High School

- 10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **amended list of certificated staff members as ESL Tutors**, during the 2017-2018 school year to be paid a stipend of \$45.00 per hour, to be funded by the Title III grant, Account #20-241-200-100-00-000 as outlined below:

Location	Name	Title III Funding Not to Exceed
School No. 1	Miyoung Brogan	\$15,000
School No. 2	Christine Teitelbaum Joanne Hong	
School No. 3	Mollie Merryman Elizabeth Inomata	
School No. 4	Mai Koyo	
Middle School	Myung Chung Encarnacion Vallejos	

- 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 2017-2018 school year:

Robert Hardigan - Substitute Bus Aide Liselle Robley - Substitute Bus Aide Claribel Kwon - Substitute Bus Aide Sonia Figueroa - Substitute Bus Aide Katherine Driscoll Lyudmyla Antkevych Mamta Bhushan Vjollca Braha Ahmeti Erika Bright	Donna Centrella Iris Diaz de Orellana Omolola Famuyiwa Awa Fofana Menen Mathias-Fredericks Johanna San Antonio Lisbeth Sugar Farah Lak
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- 12P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby approves the **2016-2017 Horizontal Movement**, based on graduate level studies that have been completed by faculty personnel, as per the FLEA agreement, as indicated on the attached list. [See Appendix Page 10](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approve items #1P through #12P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, for items #1P and #3P through 12P.
MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-1, for item #2P. Mr. Sarnoff abstained.

Mr. Sarnoff stated that Ms. Cuccaro has been an incredibly valuable asset to School No. 1 displayed incredible compassion, friendly and nurturing to the students, who volunteered her time for early morning aerobics. She will be sorely missed.

- 13P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **termination of employment for Henry Farrell, Part-Time School Security Officer**, effective June 14, 2018 in accordance with the terms of Mr. Farrell's employment contract. Mr. Farrell will remain on leave until June 14, 2018.

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #13P.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Rota will send to board members via email revised potential Board Retreat dates.

Ms. Colbath shared that her understanding of our corporate sponsorship policy was a less formal process than advertising and bidding.

Mr. Rota shared that the process is much more involved than he had originally thought but that we would revise the policy to reflect the statutory requirements.

Ms. Taylor shared that corporate sponsorship/advertising on school property is governed by 18a:18a-4.1 [concessions]. Ms. Taylor further reiterated that the board goal [obtain revenues through local advertising] is attainable but a solicitation process is required.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Tuck shared that thanks to Mr. Rota and Dr. Amato's assistance, the district will move forward with a complimentary demo of mindfulness training [strategies that help combat stress and develop social, emotional, and academic learning competencies] called Pure Edge which will hopefully benefit students and staff.

Mr. Sarnoff commended High School and the Athletic Department for the dedication service before the opening baseball game where former student Miles Reme's jersey number [on a windscreen in right field] was dedicated.

Ms. Cho thanked Ms. Taylor for advertising the need for lunch aides on the district's website. Mrs. Cho asked Mr. Rota if a School No. 2 PTA representative could be involved on the Principal Search Committee.

Mrs. Romba shared that she went to the School No. 3 "Bye Bye Birdie" production. She commented that it was very well done and very entertaining. Mrs. Romba further shared that the High School Clima-Con event [promoting global warming and climate change awareness] was well attended. Finally, Mrs. Romba shared that this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoon, the High School's production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" is being performed. Mrs. Romba remarked that there are some fun things going on in the district.

Mrs. Han Silver shared, for the record, that in addition to the capital projects that were specifically discussed, there are other HVAC capital project needs including Middle and High School.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to adjourn, 8:23 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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

HQT/haa
04-19-2018