

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

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
MAY 7, 2018  
FORT LEE SCHOOL NO. 2 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. 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, Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mrs. Lauran Tuck, Mrs. Candace Romba

**Absent:** Mr. Ralph DiMeglio

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #1**

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, at 6:34 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:31 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Rota reports that there were 37 HIB investigations; 16 were founded.

Mr. Rota gave Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Report for Period 1.

Mr. Ruggiero reports on advertising on the District website.

Mr. Rota gave the Public Budget Hearing for the 2018-2019 school year.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Colbath states that the Policy Committee met on May 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss various policies for possible updates.

Mr. Sarnoff states that the B&G Committee met with members of School No. 3 Advocacy Group to discuss overcrowding and HVAC needs.

Mr. Sarnoff states that he attended the Legislative Committee Meeting this past Saturday and that proposed legislation 1B referendum in NJ, 36 to 1, in Senate allocating \$500M County/Vo-tech and \$500M to regular school district security. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Governor Murphy signed into law:

“Child Protect Measure Act” which requires a 20-year lookback of disclosures of prior employees for all potential teaching staff members.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Dr. Amato explained that the resolution approves a consultant that will encompass all scheduling/curriculum for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students efficiently at our new LFCMS building.

Mrs. Colbath asks if we can add more student interns from AOF in the Central Office this summer particularly in B&G and/or construction. Mr. Rota shares that he will look into it by following up with the various department heads to identify if it is possible.

**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, 8-0.

Ms. Andrea Benary expresses discontent with elimination of half-day preschool program. She pleaded with the Board to reconsider its decision.

Ms. Tyrene Gibson, FLHS parent, expresses discontent with how FLHS staff managed the various incidents that occurred with her daughter.

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, 8-0.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**BOARD**

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes	April 16, 2018
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	April 16, 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.

- 3B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the **attendance for following board members to attend the BCSBA Spring Meeting**

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
BCSBA Spring Meeting	05-31-2018	Elisa Cho Paula Colbath Esther Han Silver Candace Romba David Sarnoff Holly Morell	Holiday Inn Hasbrouck Heights-Meadowlands 283 NJ 17 South Hasbrouck Heights, NJ

MOTION by Mrs. Han Silver, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approve items #1B through #3B.

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-1, for item #1B. Mrs. Morell abstained.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, for items #2B and #3B with exception. Ms. Cho, Mrs. Han Silver, Mrs. Morell and Mr. Sarnoff abstained on their own name.

**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 9](#)

**2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following NJDOE accredited **public school academic program providers that offers courses for advancement and credit recovery, to be delivered in either traditional or online format, for the 2018 Summer Session and the 2018-2019 school year at no cost to the district.** Advancement and credit recovery will be granted only with written consent from the Guidance Department. Students are responsible for all fees associated with these programs.

Bergen Community College - High School Program  
Bergenfield High School  
Bogota High School  
Dwight Englewood High School  
Educere Online  
Fair Lawn High School  
PAMOJA Online  
Paramus Catholic High School  
Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOECS)/NJ Virtual School  
The Virtual High School  
Ridgewood High School

**3CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Memorandum of Agreement between Fort Lee Public Schools and Elliot Y. Merenbloom, Educational Consultant**, in support of district leadership for implementing the transition of middle school grades 5-8 that will creatively address the unique learning and social/emotional needs of a diverse student population. The cost for services will not exceed \$4,100 and will be funded by the Title I grant. [See Appendix Page 11](#)

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approve items #1CUR through #3CUR.

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

**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 \$8,044,427.38 for May 2018 checks.** [See Appendix Page 12](#)

**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 \$136,866.32 for May 2018 checks.** [See Appendix Page 42](#)

- 3F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following **donations**:

Item	Amount/ Estimated Value	Donor	On Behalf Of
20 Samsung Chromebooks	\$4,919.80	S#3 PTA	S#3 Library for research projects
3 Epson Interactive Projectors with wall mounts & installation	\$8,784.00	S#3 PTA	S#3 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms
Letter Manipulatives	\$450.00	Donors Choose	S#2 – Letter Manipulatives for centers and fine motor games for students
Check	\$25.00	Box Tops for Education	S#4 School supplies and/or resources
Check	\$12,373.00	Onnuri Community Church	MS – Sound system+
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$26,551.80</b>		

- 4F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education **approves** the **use of the Enrollment Adjustment in the amount of \$565,820** and the **use of the Increase in Health Care Costs Adjustment in the amount of \$1,016,435** pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-38.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education **approves** the **inclusion in the Final 2018-2019 School District Budget of:**

1. **a withdrawal from Capital Reserves** in the amount of \$200,000 for Elevator Replacements;
2. **an increase to Capital Reserves** in the amount of \$112,000; and
3. **a withdrawal from Emergency Reserves** in the amount of \$200,000 for Security Vestibule Installations.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fort Lee Board of Education **approves** the **Final 2018-2019 School District Budget** as follows:

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Local Tax Levy</b>
General Fund	\$67,747,835	\$63,212,253
Special Revenue Fund	1,241,954	-0-
Debt Service Fund	4,274,389	3,716,281
<b>Total Base Budget</b>	<b>\$73,264,178</b>	<b>\$66,928,534</b>

- 5F **WHEREAS**, the Fort Lee Board of Education (“Board”) has established a Capital Reserve Account pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-31 in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, which is subject to an annual audit.

**WHEREAS**, the Board may use the capital reserve account to implement a capital project in the District’s Long-Range Facility Plan (hereinafter referred to as “LRFP”) as required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-4(a) and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1, the Board may, by resolution, transfer funds from the capital reserve account to the line items in the capital outlay fund to fund the total costs, less any excess costs, of another capital project, which would otherwise be eligible for State support, as determined in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3; and

**WHEREAS**, the School No. 1 Hoym Building hot water tank is leaking beyond repair and needs to be replaced; and

**WHEREAS**, the tank and connecting pipes are insulated with asbestos; and

**WHEREAS**, the **School No. 1 Hoym Building Hot Water Heater Abatement and Replacement Project** is a capital project within the scope of the District’s LRFP, which would otherwise be eligible for State support.

**WHEREAS**, the Board intends to **transfer up to \$60,000 from its capital reserve to fund the total cost of the School No. 1 Hoym Building Hot Water Heater Abatement and Replacement Project.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that:

1. The Board of Education hereby authorizes the use of capital reserve to fund the School No. 1 Hoym Building Hot Water Heater Abatement and Replacement Project.
2. The Board hereby approves the total transfer not to exceed \$60,000 for the School No. 1 Hoym Building Hot Water Heater Abatement and Replacement Project from the capital reserve account to the capital outlay fund to fund the total costs, less any excess costs.
3. The Board hereby authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to generate account transfers to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

**6F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon  
Walk-in recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the **participation in a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance** for the purchase of goods and services with Boards of Educations to utilize administrative purchasing services and facilities of **U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance** and the Cooperative Pricing Agreement to effect substantial economies in the purchase of work, materials and supplies.

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approve items #1F through #6F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, for items #1F through #3F, #5F and #6F with exception. Mrs. Colbath abstained on #3F Donors Choose donation. (For full disclosure, Mrs. Colbath shares donor donation.) Mr. Sarnoff thanked donors including Mrs. Colbath. MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-1, for items #4F. Mrs. Tuck 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 44](#)
- 2P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **disability retirement of Alla Brutter, Speech Specialist at School No. 1**, after dedicating 15 years of service to the district, effective May 1, 2018.
- 3P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **accepts, with regret, the retirement of Wendy Gumberg, Biology Teacher at Fort Lee High School**, after dedicating 18 years of service to the district, effective July 1, 2018.
- 4P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of George Wagner as an Aide at Fort Lee High School**, effective May 12, 2018.
- 5P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of Marilyn Saavedra as an Elementary Teacher at School No. 3**, effective May 21, 2018.
- 6P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of Olivia Lee as an Aide at School No. 2**, effective July 1, 2018.
- 7P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of Lydia Sanchez as an Elementary Teacher at School No. 3**, effective July 1, 2018.
- 8P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **amended 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 2, Class BA, on the 2017-2018 Teachers' Guide, at an annual salary of \$56,530 prorated, effective May 30, 2018. This resolution supersedes Resolution No. 28963 dated April 2, 2018.

**9P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Zachary Schlemm as a Physical Education and Health Teacher at Lewis F. Cole Middle 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.

**10P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby 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
Klarissa	Bruno	English Teacher	HS	Maternity	Amended	5/21/18-6/18/18	6/19/18-10/17/18	N/A	10/18/18
Stacey	Dee	Elem Teacher	S3	Maternity	Extend	N/A	N/A	9/1/18-6/30/19	9/1/19
Andria	Fusco	Guidance Counselor	S4	Maternity	Amended	4/23/18-6/30/18	N/A	9/1/18-1/17/19	1/18/19
Reina	Proto	School Psychologist	HS	Maternity	New	6/26/18-6/30/18	9/1/18-12/14/18	N/A	12/17/18
Ashley	Rice	Teacher Grade 6	S2	Maternity	Amended	4/25/18 - 5/29/18	5/30/18 - 09/30/18	N/A	10/1/18
Jaritzta	Rojas	Spec Ed Teacher	S2	Maternity	Amended	4/26/18-5/16/18	5/18/18-6/30/18	N/A	9/1/18

**11P 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 and 2018-2019 school years, as outlined below:

LEAVE REPLACEMENTS						
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	GRADE/ SUBJECT	SCHOOL	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Lauren	Kim	Kindergarten Teacher	S1	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: 5/30/18 to 2/4/19	Maternity Leave for Anastasia Findanis

**12P 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:

**Claribel Kwon - Substitute Aide**  
**Elizabeth Okwechime – Substitute Teacher**  
**Camilo Rodriguez – Substitute Custodian**



- 13P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of staff members under the Fort Lee Education Association (FLEA) Collective Bargaining Agreements for the 2018-2019 school year**, in the following categories as per the attached list. *See Appendix Page TBD*

- **Teaching Staff Members**
- **Custodial and Maintenance Staff Members**
- **Secretarial/Clerical Staff Members**

- 14P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **2017-2018 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 45*

- 15P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **job description for Payroll Coordinator** as per the attached. *See Appendix Page 46*

- 16P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following high school students as **Academy of Finance (AOF) Summer Interns** for a 200-hour Summer Internship for the Board Office at the rate of \$10.00 per hour, effective July 5, 2018 through August 31, 2018.

**Bernadette Basca**  
**Juan Jimenez**

- 17P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **salary adjustment for Pablo Rancier, a Custodian at School No. 2, to include the \$350.00 Black Seal stipend**, to be prorated as of April 3, 2018.

MOTION by Mrs. Han Silver, seconded by Mr. Rubino, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approve items #1P through #17P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, for items #1P through #15P and #17P.  
MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-1, for item #16P. Mrs. Morell voted no.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION #2**

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Sarnoff, at 8:15 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Sarnoff confirms the May 20<sup>th</sup> Board Retreat date.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Colbath asks about Chillers Restaurant notice where BOE will be receiving 15% of May Chillers revenues for meals purchased showing promotional flyer. Mrs. Colbath asked where the profits will go. Mr. Rota states that funds will go to the general fund account.

Mr. Rota reminds the Board of his offer to do building tours and to share dates that would work.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Ms. Cho, to adjourn, 9:04 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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

HQT/haa  
05-09-2018