

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

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
AUGUST 7, 2017  
FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
6:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Mr. Sarnoff.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Papavasiliou.

**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 June 9, 2017 and posted in the entrance hall of the Board Office, 2175 Lemoine Avenue; published in the Board's designated online media outlet/newspapers: The Record, The Star Ledger, Gold Coast Life; 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:** Mrs. Paula Colbath (*arrived at 6:38 p.m.*), Mrs. Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. Anthony Papavasiliou, Mr. Michael Rubino (*left at 8:00 p.m.*), Mr. Joseph Surace (*arrived at 6:35 p.m.*), Mr. David Sarnoff

**Absent:** Mr. Michael Osso, Mrs. Candace Romba

**Also Present:** Mr. Kenneth Rota, Ms. Haquisha Taylor, Dr. Sharon Amato, Nicholas Savio, Esq., Kathleen Nestor, Esq.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #1**

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 5-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:32 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Rota expressed the Board's deepest condolences to The Osso Family whose nephew was tragically killed over the weekend.

Mr. Rota introduced Mr. Raftery to present ideas to reintroduce the Athletic Hall of Fame, which was stopped in 2006.

Two pilot dinners were held at a beefsteak with about 80 in attendance at each. There seems to be an interest.

Nominations were received last year for 2017/18 Athletic Hall of Fame potential inductees.

Mr. Surace is willing to participate on an Athletic Hall of Fame Committee.

Mr. Sarnoff fully supports the idea.

Mr. Rota introduced Matt Lee, NJSBA Field Service Representative, to work through Board goals for the 2017/2018 school year. The objective of the goal setting workshop is to discuss the district's vision, student achievement data and stakeholder input to apply a systemic and data informed model to the development of district and Board annual goals.

Board members discussed possible 2017/2018 district goals beginning with a review of any 2016/2017 goals that should continue as a district goals in 2017/2018.

Board Goals should be related to processes and procedures that the Board can control.

Mr. Lee can assist in Board retreat planning. He recommends picking a date in the spring that allows everyone to plan accordingly.

Mr. Sarnoff thanked Mr. Lee for his assistance.

Mr. Rota reported that Rockaway Township is in the newspaper about HIB incident wherein a student was bullied and subsequently committed suicide. Mr. Surace inquired about the Boards' exposure.

Mr. Rota shared that we follow strict protocol and act in good faith following procedures set out by the Board of Education.

Dave Cuozzo, our Anti-Bullying Coordinator, is primarily responsible for ensuring compliance.

Mr. Rota added that he and Ms. Murphy will be training lunch aides and paraprofessionals on HIB awareness, reporting and regulations.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – 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. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, at 8:26 p.m., to open the floor to the public.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

None.

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, at 8:27 p.m., to close the floor to the public.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**BOARD**

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes	July 17, 2017
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	July 17, 2017

- 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 and travel expenditures for the following Board Members to attend the NJSBA workshop:

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>AMOUNT PER PERSON</u>	<u>GSA RATE MILEAGE AND TOLLS MAX \$20</u>
Board President and Vice Presidents Regional Training Conference	Wednesday, August 16, 2017	David Sarnoff Candace Romba	Montville Twp. High School 100 Horseneck Rd. Montville, NJ	\$50	\$17.00

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 6-0, with exception on item #3B. Mr. Sarnoff abstained on his name.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

- 1B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following change order:

<b>CHANGE ORDER SUMMARY SHEET</b>	<b>OWNER</b>	Fort Lee Board of Education
<b>PROJECT NO. 14-8232</b>	<b>ARCHITECT</b>	SSP Architectural Group
	<b>CONTRACTOR</b>	Two Brothers Contracting, Inc.
	<b>FIELD</b>	Turner Construction Co.

**PROJECT:** Fort Lee Board of Education      Date: August 2, 2017  
Additions and Alterations at ES #2

<b>CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>C.O. NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>AMT APPLIED TO ALLOWANCE</b>
Two Brothers	CO-20	Contractor shall furnish all labor, material and equipment for removal of modular classrooms.	\$ 50,000.00	\$0.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>	

MOTION by Mr. Surace, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Board of Education approves item #1B&G.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 6-0.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

- 1CW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the **submission of the Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act** for the Fort Lee School District for 2016-2017 to be sent to the New Jersey Department of Education, as per the attached summary. [See Appendix Page 9](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Board of Education approves item #1CW.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 6-0.

**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 10](#)

- 2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached proposal for **Patricia Vitale-Reilly Consulting to provide 32 days of professional development training for administrators and teachers of grades 3 and 4 in support of the implementation of Balanced Literacy**, at a cost not to exceed \$51,200 during the 2017-2018 school year. [See Appendix Page 11](#)

- 3CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached proposal for **Patricia Vitale-Reilly Consulting to provide 2 days of professional development training to the Elementary ELA Curriculum Team in support of an English Language Arts (ELA) Pilot**, at a cost not to exceed \$3,200 during 2017-2018. [See Appendix Page 14](#)

- 4CUR WHEREAS**, the IDEA Federal Grant provides funds for services to non-public school students for 2017-2018, and

**WHEREAS**, the Bergen County Special Services School District offers these services to be delivered to non-public students at the non-public school, and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that a contract be **authorized to provide Supplemental Instruction, Speech and Occupational Therapy Services to non-public school students at the rates identified in Schedule A** attached to the proposed contract at a total cost not to exceed the IDEA Grant award. [See Appendix Page 15](#)

- 5CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **out-of-district placements for the 2017-2018 school year** as outlined on the attached list. [See Appendix Page 17](#)

- 6CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, authorizes the Board President to execute the **Settlement Agreement for the educational placement of Student ID #10513** in settlement of the mediation filed with the Office of Administrative Law (Agency Ref. No. 2017-26300) for the terms and conditions specified.
- 7CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, authorizes the Board President to execute the **Settlement Agreement for the educational placement of Student ID #10514** in settlement of the mediation filed with the Office of Administrative Law (Agency Ref. No. 2017-26301) for the terms and conditions specified.
- 8CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the execution of the **Bergen County Special Services (BCSS) Home/Hospital Program Service Agreement** for the 2017-2018 school year as per the attached. [See Appendix Page 19](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Board of Education approve items #1CUR through #8CUR.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 6-0.

#### **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 **\$4,758,054.60** for June 2017 checks. [See Appendix Page 20](#)
- 2F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to enter into a contract to utilize transportation services **with Barnstable Academy in the amount of \$9,950** for the 2017-2018 school year for Student ID #21060128.
- 3F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Bergen County Directors of Athletics Association Officials' Fees for the 2017-2018 school year only**, as per the attached schedule. [See Appendix Page 28](#)
- 4F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **rate for official fees for carded clock operators at \$50 per game**.
- 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 a **Non-Resident Tuition Student Agreement for ES** to attend Fort Lee Public Schools for the 2017-2018 school year.
- 6F** **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 **Non-Resident Student Agreements for AL and EL**, non-resident students whose parents anticipate school district residency, to attend Fort Lee Public Schools for the 2017-2018 school year.

MOTION by Mr. Surace, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Board of Education approve items #1F through #6F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 6-0.

**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 30](#)
- 2P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of Stephen Myers as a Part-Time Two-Fifths Music Teacher at Lewis F. Cole Middle School**, effective August 7, 2017.
- 3P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of Nicole Sheridan as an Elementary Teacher at School No. 2**, effective August 7, 2017.
- 4P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of Veronica DiStasi as an Aide at School No. 2**, effective August 7, 2017.
- 5P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of additional Aides** for the 2017-2018 school year, as follows:

Appointment of Additional Aides for the 2017-2018 School Year (All Salaries are Prorated and Pending Negotiations)								
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Step	Class	Annual Salary	Effective Date	Reason
Christina	Foti	PT Classroom Aide (.83)	S1	1	Non-Degreed	\$17,752	9/1/17	IEP Need
Stefanie	Ciavarella	PT 1:1 Aide (.83)	S2	1	Degreed	\$21,019	9/1/17	IEP Need
Veronica	Marin-Fuentes	PT 1:1 Aide (.83)	S2	1	Degreed	\$21,019	9/1/17	IEP Need

- 6P **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**, effective September 1, 2017, as outlined below:

Assignment Change for the 2017-2018 School Year				
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc Change	Reason
Eva	Ballero-Ramos	PT 1:1 Aide (.83)	S2 to LFCMS	IEP Need
Silvania	Fardos	PT Classroom Aide (.83)	FLHS to LFCMS	IEP Need
Jonathan	Hroncic	PT 1:1 Aide (.83) to PT Classroom Aide (.83)	FLHS No Change	IEP Need
Sangeeta	Jain	PT 1:1 Aide (.83) to PT Classroom Aide (.83)	FLHS No Change	IEP Need
Kim	Kellas	FT 1:1 Aide	S3 to S2	IEP Need
Maria	Kolic	FT 1:1 Aide	FLHS to LFCMS	IEP Need
Sheiba	Koshy	Teacher Special Education ASD to Teacher Special Education MD	LFCMS No Change	Program Change
Michael	Levy	FT 1:1 Aide	LFCMS to S2	IEP Need
Ellen	Levy	FT 1:1 Aide	S2 to S1	IEP Need
Kathleen	Pastena	FT 1:1 Aide	LFCMS to S1	IEP Need
Marilyn	Saavedra	PT 1:1 Aide (.83)	HS to S2	IEP Need

- 7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **leave**:

First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amended	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Stacey	Dee	Grade 3	S3	Maternity	New	11-20-17 to 1-10-18	1-11-18 to 4-30-18	5-1-18 to 6-30-18	9/1/18

- 8P **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
Christopher	Crowley	English	HS	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: 9/1/17 – 6/30/18	Personal Leave for Brandon Barron
Samantha	Tibbetts	Special Ed	HS	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: 9/1/17 – 4/3/18	Maternity Leave for Kristen Baldofsky



9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **sick day payouts for 2016-2017 retirees**, as per the attached. [See Appendix Page 31](#)

10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **payment to 24 Trained Teacher Mentors** for New Teacher Orientation on 8-31-17, for a maximum of 2 hours each at \$45.00 per hour, not to exceed \$90.00 per mentor for a total cost not to exceed \$2,160.00, to be charged to Account #11-000-223-110-00-000. [See Appendix Page 32](#)

11P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **placement of a School Counseling Intern** during the 2017-2018 school year, as outlined below:

Referring University	Name	Type of Placement	Subject Area	# Hours	Months From-To	School Placed	Cooperating Teacher
Caldwell University	Kaitlyn Clausman	Internship	School Counseling	100 Hrs.	8/28 - 12/2017	School No. 3	Meghan Lynch

12P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **additional staffing for the 2017 Summer Employment for the Child Study Team**, as outlined below:

Summer 2017 CST Case Management Staffing				
Name	Position	Maximum # of Hours	Hourly Rate of Pay	Total Not to Exceed
Gabrielle Anconetani	Teacher	10 Additional Hours	\$45.00	\$450.00
Ellen Levy	Aide	Up to 10.5 Additional Hours	\$17.75	\$186.38

13P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Coaches** for the 2017-2018 school year, as follows. All appointments are subject to completion of all personnel documentation and fingerprinting process, prior to starting of said activities.

Coach	Sport	Position	Season	Class	Step	Stipend Pending Negotiations
William Straub	Softball	Head Coach	Spring	II	1	\$7,829
Michael Micek	Boys Soccer	Assistant Coach	Fall	II	1	\$5,955

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Volunteer Athletic Coaches** for the 2017-2018 Fall Season, with no compensation, as follows:

Brianna Mattessich – Football  
Jorge DiCostanzo – Boys Soccer  
Daniel LaFalce – Boys Soccer

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Board of Education approve items #1P through #4P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 6-0.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Board of Education approve items #5P (as amended) through #13P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 6-0, with exception. Mr. Surace abstained on one name in #9P.

### **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 and attached hereto. [See Appendix Page 33](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P & R 1240	Evaluation of Superintendent (M) (Revised)

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Board of Education approves item #1POL.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 6-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Morell asked where we are with Delegate Assembly resolution. Mr. Rota shared that a draft will be ready by next Board meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Fort Lee is one of the few schools in Bergen County that has a female on the football coaching staff. Congratulations to Fort Lee for paving the way.

Mrs. Nancy Stern is resigning from AOF Board due to personal reasons. Mr. Rota and Mr. Sarnoff thanked Mrs. Stern for her dedication and work.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION #2**

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Colbath, at 8:35 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 8:50 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Papavasiliou, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to adjourn, 8:50 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Haquisha Q. Taylor*

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**HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR**  
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/haa  
08-17-2017