

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

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2018  
FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
6:45 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mrs. Romba.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Sarnoff.

**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 January 10, 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 (7:07 p.m.), Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mrs. Lauran Tuck (6:52 p.m.), Mrs. Candace Romba

**Absent:** Mr. Ralph DiMeglio

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff seconded by Mr. Rubino, at 6:47 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Rota reported that there were no HIB investigations.

Mr. Rota shared that Fire & Security Drills were conducted and submitted to the Board for July and August 2018.

Mr. Rota reported a successful school opening. Mr. Rota further reported a few bussing issues at School No. 2. Ms. Taylor and Ms. Alfaro [transportation coordinator] are working diligently to resolve the problems with the South Bergen Jointure Commission and the problem bus routes.

Mr. Rota reported that Enrollment is at 4,052 with several elementary grade classrooms at capacity. Mr. Rota shared that majority of incoming students are coming in from neighboring towns; 26 students are from foreign countries and as of today there are only 4 no shows (not returning).

Mr. Rota stated that the PARCC scores are in and will be mailed to parents. Students fared very well.

Mr. Rota shared that he spoke with Matt Lee about conducting a session about goal setting with the earliest available date for Matt being in November.

Mr. Rota introduced the new Supervisor, Mr. Steve Neff. Mr. Neff shared his excitement to be joining the Fort Lee team.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Colbath shared that the Board Committee Policy will be on the next board meeting agenda.

Mr. Rubino shared on behalf of the School Safety Committee that the recruiting of Class III's [School Law Enforcement Officers] is ongoing.

### **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. Han Silver, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to open the floor to the public, 7:39 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Mrs. Amy Ko-Tang, School #3 parent, inquired about Strategic Planning. Mr. Rota shared that meetings have been scheduled now that the teachers contract has been settled and teacher participation will recommence.

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to close the floor to the public, 7:42 p.m.

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  
Private Executive Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2018  
August 27, 2018

- 2B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the attendance of Board Members at the Bergen County School Boards Association Meeting as follows:

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>AMOUNT PER PERSON</u>
BCSBA School Safety & Security	Thursday, 10/04/2018	Elisa Cho Paula Colbath Esther Han Silver Holly Morell Candace Romba David Sarnoff Lauran Tuck	Maggiano's Hackensack 70 Riverside Square Hackensack, NJ 07601	-0-

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B and #2B.

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, with exception Ms. Cho and Mrs. Romba abstained on their name.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

- 1B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent approves the **Integrated Pest Management Plan** for each school building for the 2018-2019 school year. *(Attachment available at Central Office)*

- 2B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the submission of the **Lead Testing Program Statement of Assurance** for the School Year **2017-2018** and **School District Lead Sampling Exemption Checklist** to the Bergen County Department of Education.

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1B&G and #2B&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 the attached **District Mentoring Handbook for 2018-2019**. *See Appendix Page 11*

- 2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Agreement between Meaningful Directions Therapeutic Services, LLC and the Fort Lee Board of Education** to provide a yoga and mindfulness program to high school seniors during the 2018-2019 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$6,300, to be paid with Title IV-A grant funds. [See Appendix Page 74](#) MOTION by Mrs. Cho, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #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, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of the claims on the current bills list in the amount of **\$1,773,385.89 for September 2018 checks**.  
[See Appendix Page 82](#)

- 2F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **non-public funding for the 2018-2019 school year** as follows:

Non-Public Funding 2018-2019	
Nursing	\$20,467
Technology	\$7,596
Textbook	\$11,267
Security	\$15,825

- 3F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts **non-public school transportation funding for the 2017-2018 school year** as follows:

Non-Public Funding 2017-2018	
Transportation	\$56,183

- 4F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **disposal/recycling of equipment**:

Quantity	Description	Location	FLBOE ID#s	Reason
1	Enamel Kiln	HS	00466	Obsolete
2	Audiometers	S#2	Blue Maico unit with ID tag #'s 01549 and 11572 and a Beige Maico unit with the ID tag #'s 12528 and 20293	Obsolete

- 5F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the admission of **Non-Resident Student ID#19100006**, a non-resident student in the Senior Year at Fort Lee High School, to attend Fort Lee Public Schools for the 2018-2019 school year. District will not be responsible for transportation services.

- 6F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following **donation**:

Item	Amount/ Estimated Value	Donor	On Behalf Of
Luncheon	\$722.54	Anthony Papavasiliou It's Greek to Me Restaurant 1611 Palisade Avenue Fort Lee, NJ 07024	District New Teacher Orientation

MOTION by Mrs. Han Silver, seconded by Mr. Sarnoff, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #6F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, for items #1F through #5F.

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 6-0-2, for item #6F. Mrs. Colbath and Mr. Sarnoff 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 98](#)
- 2P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **accepts, with regret, the retirement of Marc Bissonnette, as a Special Education Teacher at School No. 2**, after dedicating 25 years of service to the district, effective July 1, 2019.
- 3P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **accepts the following resignations**:

<b><u>Resignations</u></b>			
Employee	Position	Location	Effective Date
Arlene Artinian	Part Time LLD Grade 1	02	8-31-18
Quiara Polanco	Part Time Music Teacher	LFCMS	9-21-18
Amanda Apice	MLR Preschool Spec Ed Teacher	02	8-27-18
Maureen Finizio	Full Time Paraprofessional	04	8-30-18
Destinee Fornes	Part Time Paraprofessional	01	9-3-18
Sheiba Koshy	Teacher Spec Ed	LFCMS	Amended 9-17-18

- 4P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **appointments for the 2018-2019 school year**, pending verification of employment:

<u><b>Appointments</b></u>						
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Position Control #</b>	<b>Annual Salary Prorated</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Brianne	Mattesich	Part Time PE Paraprofessional	02	02-9100-34	Step 1/Degreed \$12,662	Amended Start Date to 9-17-18
Laura	Gemignani	Special Education MD	MS	05-2401-08	Step 1/MA \$59,530	9-17-18
Yuri	Resetovs	Part Time Music Teacher (2/5ths)	MS	05-2100-12	Step 1/BA \$20,375	9-17-18
Jennifer	Cella	Part Time Aide Resource	02	02-9101-38	Step 1/Degreed \$21,019	9-17-18
Chelsea	McFarland	Music Teacher	Elem	01-2100-02	Step 3/BA \$56,930	Amended Start Date 9-17-18
Steven	Neff	Supervisor Curriculum & Instruction Math and Science)	CO	00-0300-03	\$95,000	11-13-18 or sooner
Luise	Iglesias	Part Time Paraprofessional	01	New	Step 1/Degreed \$21,019	9-17-18
Jessica	Molinaro	Part Time Paraprofessional	01	01-9101-07	Step 1/Degreed \$21,019	9-17-18
Hannah	Choi	Part Time Paraprofessional	02	02-9100-10	Step 1/Degreed \$21,019	9-17-18
Susan	Chambers	Part Time Paraprofessional	02	02-9100-15	Step 1/Degreed \$21,019	9-17-18
Tiffany	Phinazee	Part Time Paraprofessional	02	02-9101-20	Step 1/Degreed \$21,019	9-17-18
Daniela	Molinaro	Part Time Paraprofessional	04	04-9151-04	Step 1/Degreed \$21,019	9-17-18

- 5P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby approves the following **leaves**:

Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amended	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Simone Ballance	Grade 1 Teacher	03	Family	New	n/a	n/a	11-1-18 to 6-30-19	9-1-19
Arlene Nunez	Grade 2 Teacher	03	Maternity	New	10-4-18 to 1-11-19	1-12-19 to 6-30-19	n/a	9-1-19
Anastasia Findanis	Teacher Grade K	01	Medical/ Maternity	Amended	9-1-18 to 9-14-18	9-16-18 to 2-1-19	n/a	2-2-19
Suzette Rivera	School Secretary	MS	Medical	New	10-19-18 to 11-1-18	11-2-18 to 11-30-18	n/a	12-3-18

- 6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **leave replacements** during the 2018-2019 school year, as outlined below:

<b>LEAVE REPLACEMENTS</b>					
Name	Grade/ Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Maria Faia	Guidance Counselor	04	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: 9-1-18 to 1-24-19	Andria Fusco Maternity Leave
Alyson Levine	Teacher Grade 1	03	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: 9-27-18 to 6-30-19	Arlene Nunez Maternity Leave

- 7P **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 2018-2019 school year:

<b>Substitutes</b>	
Maria Faia	Shahnaz Saadatkhah
Arlene Artinian	Gehan Tawadrous
Lisa Amarini	Ilana Kantey
Denise Mahanian	Lydia Cohran
Falemeh Hafizi	Omololoa Famuyiwa
Yang Xiao	Briana Shuki

- 8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Co-Curricular Advisors** for the 2018-2019 school year. All appointments are subject to completion of all personnel documentation and fingerprinting process, prior to starting of said activities.

2018-2019 Applicant	Co-Curricular Activity	Class	18-19 Stipend	Agenda Date
Kara Rubino*	Band Wind Instructor-HS	A	\$2,126.00	9/12/2018
Bo Park*	Brass Instructor	A	\$2,126.00	9/12/2018
Kate Davisson*	Drill Technician	A	\$2,126.00	9/12/2018
Alex Weite*	Marching Band Drill Instructor - HS	A	\$2,126.00	9/12/2018
Jonathan Feis*	Percussion Instructor	A	\$2,126.00	9/12/2018
Joseph Picone	Assistant Band Director-HS	C	\$6,327.00	9/12/2018
Caitlin Feis*	Color Guard/Winter Guard	C	\$6,327.00	9/12/2018
Harry Welte	Marching Band Coordinator	Hourly	\$68.82/hr. not to exceed \$5,787 (approx 84 hrs.)	9/12/2018

\* Out-of-District

- 9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of additional Faculty Coordinators** for the 2018-2019 school year:

**Faculty Coordinators**

Name	Department	Stipend
Calogero Pagano	Math	\$5,000
Adrian Rodriguez	Social Studies	\$5,000
Marielle Bakian	ESL/Bilingual	\$5,000

- 10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a **pensionable stipend, for each teaching staff member assigned to teach a sixth period** at Fort Lee High School for the 2018-2019 school year as outlined below:

<b>Fort Lee High School</b>		
Teacher	Content	Stipend
Diego Lombardo	Physical Education/Health	\$6,500
William Straub	Physical Education/Health	\$6,500

- 11P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following **Detention Monitors for students** for the 2018-2019 school year to be paid at the rate of \$50 per hour:

<u>Middle School</u>	<u>High School</u>	
Joseph Berlingo	Carol Martinez	William Straub
Stephen Klapach	Allison Evangelista	Rocio Torres
Brian Larcheveque	Klarissa Bruno Martin	Kelly McMenamin
Debbie Brigida	Peter Kraljic	Rachel Healy



- 12P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **additional hours for the following paraprofessionals to work with students on a 1:1 as needed basis for extra-curricular activities** for the 2018-2019 school year at \$30.00 per hour:

Sangeeta Jain  
Manuel Rivera

- 13P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **the appointment of Certificated Home Instructors for the 2018-2019 school year**, at the hourly rate of \$45.00 per hour for teaching staff and \$30.00 per hour for certified paraprofessionals.

*See Appendix Page 100*

- 14P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following Certificated **Home Speech Therapist** for the 2018-2019 school year at the hourly rate based on salary:

Christine Romano

- 15P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **payment to 2 additional Teacher Mentors** for Mentor Training on 8/30/18 and New Teacher Orientation on 8/31/18, for a maximum of 4 hours each at \$45.00 per hour, not to exceed \$180.00 per mentor for a total cost not to exceed \$360.00, to be charged to Account #11-000-223-110-00-000.

Marisa Buonomo  
Michelle Schramm

- 16P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following appointments of additional **Athletic Game Workers for the 2018-2019 school year**, to be paid at the rate of \$40.00 per game. These people may work in the following capacities and will be reimbursed \$40.00 per event:

<b>Game Workers (Gate personnel, Crowd Control, Clock Operator, Site Manager, Announcer) 2018-2019 School Year</b>
Philip Zappel Nilsa Benitez Kellie Lane Adam Shrager Nicole Piccinich Angela Johnson Maria Giannattasio James Puliatte

- 17P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of an additional Building Technology Assistants** at a non-pensionable stipend of \$2,000 for the 2018-2019 school year:

Name	Location
Jacqueline Tozzi	School No. 4 (prorated 10/31/18 to 3/31/19)
Sophia Karabatsos	Fort Lee High School

- 18P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **job description for Accounting Coordinator** as per the attached. [See Appendix Page 101](#)
- 19P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the tuition **rate** for credits earned by teachers at **\$718.00** per credit for the 2018-2019 school year.
- 20P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **placement of the following Student Teachers or Practicum Candidates** during the Fall 2018 semesters:

Referring University	Student Name	Type of Placement	Subject Area	Duration	Months From-To	School Placed	Cooperating Teachers
New Jersey City University	Jungim Ha	Clinical Practice II	Music	14 Wks.	Sept – Dec 2018	S#1	Lisandra Hernandez
Caldwell University	Kaitlyn Clausman	Practicum	School Counseling	300 Hrs.	Sept – Dec 2018	High School	Lauren Carrubba

- 21P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, authorizes the execution of the **Standard Residency Agreement**, based upon the terms and conditions provided herein, between the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO) and Fort Lee Public Schools to provide a program of training and supervision as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:9-12.7 for the mentoring of Peter Crawley as Assistant Business Administrator, [See Appendix Page 103](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #21P.

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

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Rota shared that Fort Lee's annual Paws in the Park will be held on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mr. Rota shared that if board members are interested in participating this year, he will fill out the application.

Mr. Rota shared that there will be a site walk-through of the Lewis F. Cole Middle School Addition construction site on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Rota shared that he and Ms. Taylor will be meeting with SSP at 10:00 a.m. in the Board office Friday morning. Mr. Rota welcomed Board member attendance at this meeting.

Mr. Sarnoff wishes Mr. Rota, Dr. Sharon Amato and Ms. Taylor a good school year and congratulated the administration on Fort Lee Public Schools ascension in the New Jersey ranking from 97 and to 75.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, to adjourn, 8:00 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Haquisha Q. Taylor*

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

HQT/mo  
Attachments  
09-14-2018