

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

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 19, 2018  
FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
6:50 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Mrs. Han Silver.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Ms. Colbath.

**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, Ms. Paula K. Colbath, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell (7:15 p.m.), Mr. Michael Rubino, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mrs. Lauran Tuck, Mrs. Candace Romba (7:00 p.m.)

**Also Present:** Mr. Kenneth Rota, Dr. Sharon Amato, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Mrs. Jaime Murphy, Ms. Nestor, Attorney

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Ms. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Rubino, at 6:50 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-2.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:38 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Rota reported that there were eight (8) investigations. Five (5) were founded.

Mr. Rota shared that the Fire and Security Drills have been posted for the Board's review.

Mrs. Romba congratulated Ms. Sarah Tsugranis for being selected as Junior Commissioner by the Bergen County Commission on the Status of Women (COSW).

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Tuck reported that the Communications Committee has rescheduled their Coffee and Conversations for Thursday, November 29 at 9:00 a.m. at the Fort Lee High School.

As the liaison to Fort Lee senior citizens, Ms. Colbath shared that Mr. Rota may be receiving transportation requests from senior citizens that would like to attend Fort Lee High School's Play.

Ms. Colbath, who attended the Delegate Assembly meeting on Saturday, November 17, stated that there may be a white paper published on legalizing marijuana regionalization.

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Mrs. Tuck is incredibly proud of Fort Lee students for their performance on the PARCC but will symbolically abstain as she works with Dr. Amato to fully understand and analyze District Testing Results.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN**

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Ms. Colbath, to open the floor to the public, 7:45 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Alex Floratos read aloud a letter thanking Mr. David Sarnoff for his service to the Fort Lee Board of Education from the United Homeowners of Fort Lee.

Mr. Sarnoff shared that he is humbled and honored by the Homeowners' words. Mr. Sarnoff further thanked the Homeowner's Association for the crucial role it played in helping to pass the two referendums.

Tyrene Gibson, parent of a former FLHS student, expressed her disappointment with the FLBOE attempting to have her court case dismissed and with the FLBOE failing to address issues with her attorney.

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Ms. Colbath, to close the floor to the public, 7:50 p.m.

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**:

Public Business Meeting Minutes	November 5, 2018
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	November 5, 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 Mrs. Han Silver, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B and #2B.

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

### **CURRICULUM**

- 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 7*

- 2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **District Testing Results** for the 2017-2018 school year, as presented at the Public Board Meeting of October 8, 2018.

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

MOTION carried upon roll call vote 8-1, for item #2CUR. Mrs. Tuck, abstained.

**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 September 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 September 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 \$3,152,901.56 for November 2018 checks**. *See Appendix Page 8*
- 4F **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 \$229,809.19 for November 2018 checks**. *See Appendix Page 39*
- 5F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Prom Date for Fort Lee High School to be held on Friday, June 14, 2019 at the Rockleigh Country Club**.

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

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

**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 37*
- 2P **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>Appointments</u>						
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Position Control #	Annual Salary Prorated	Effective Date
Gabriella	Durso	PT Paraprofessional Grade K 1:1	02	02-9101-105	Step 1/Degreed \$21,019	Amended Start Date 11/19/18

- 3P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **transfers for the 2018-2019 school year**:

<u>Transfers</u>						
Name	From Location	From Position	To Location	To Position	Salary Change	Effective Date
Shahnaz Saadatkah	04	PT Paraprofessional Grade 2 Resource	02	PT Paraprofessional 1:1	N/A	11/12/18
Niyousha Zafari	02	PT Paraprofessional 1:1	04	PT Paraprofessional Grade 2 Resource	N/A	11/12/18

- 4P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the following **leaves**:

Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amended	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Helene Azizo	Paraprofessional	MS	Medical	Amended	10/5/18 to 11/25/18	N/A	11/26/18 to 1/1/19	1/2/19
Andria Fusco	Guidance Counselor	S4	Maternity	Amended	4/23/18 to 6/30/18	N/A	9/1/18 to 6/30/19	9/1/19

- 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 2018-2019 school year, as outlined below:

<u>LEAVE REPLACEMENTS</u>					
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	Amended Work days: 9-1-18 to 6-30-19	Andria Fusco Maternity Leave

- 6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of additional 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
Jonathan Feis*	Percussion Instructor (Winter)	A	\$2,126.00	11/19/2018

- 7P **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:

**Julia Anderson**

- 8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Volunteer Athletic Coaches** for the 2018-2019 Winter Season, with no compensation, as follows:

Winter Season 2018-2019	
Sport	Volunteer
Girls' Basketball	Allison Evangelista Joshuwa Ford
Winter Track	Nicole Piccinich Nicole Pacciani
Bowling	Jessica Tomarchio Crystal Vargas
Boys' Basketball	Myong Marty Choi*

\*Non-Staff Member (Pending criminal history clearance)

- 9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Volunteer Athletic Coaches** for the 2018-2019 Interscholastic Basketball Program at Lewis F. Cole Middle School, with no compensation, as follows:

Interscholastic Basketball Program - MS	
Sport	Volunteer
Girls' Basketball	Renee Mattesich Zachary Schlemm
Boys' Basketball	Donald Picinich

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

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

**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: [Click here for 2018-11-19 #1POL Backup](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P & R 5530	SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Rota shared that there is a Zoning board hearing on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rota reminded the Board that there will be a Special Board Meeting in December to approve the NJQSAC (New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum) District Performance Review (DPR). Mr. Rota shared that NJQSAC is the State's monitoring tool for schools focusing on five (5) areas: Instruction & Program, Fiscal, Governance, Operations, and Personnel. Mr. Rota further shared the DPR submission deadline of December 15<sup>th</sup> [prior to our one scheduled December board meeting].

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Haquisha Q. Taylor*

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

HQT/mo  
Attachments  
11-20-2018