

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

MINUTES

PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING

March 18, 2019

LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL – CAFETERIA

6:49 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:49 p.m. by Mrs. Han Silver.

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 January 16, 2019 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 and the 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: Ms. Elisa Cho, Ms. Paula K. Colbath (7:01 p.m.), Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mrs. Luran Tuck, Mrs. Esther Han Silver

Also Present: Mr. Kenneth Rota, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Mr. Dennis McKeever, Attorney

Absent: Dr. Sharon Amato

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, at 6:50 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

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

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Rota requested a moment of silence for the victims of New Zealand and for the passing of Dr. Alan W. Sugarman, former Superintendent of Fort Lee Public Schools.

Mr. Rota reported that there were six (6) HIB investigations. Three (3) were founded.

Mr. Rota shared that the Fire and Security Drills for February 2019 have been posted for the Board's review.

Mr. Rota shared that there was a visitor from Trenton (Governor Phil Murphy), holding a Press Conference at the Fort Lee High School to discuss funding.

Mr. Rota had the pleasure of introducing Dr. Daniello.

Dr. Daniello shared that the Lewis F. Cole Middle School completed the revisions to its Unified Arts curriculum by building a music technology lab. This is a shift from the traditional approach of music appreciation. Students now get the opportunity to work with technology in a project-based setting. They are learning the basics of Pro Tools software by creating and arranging music in a digital format. Three grade 8 students, along with music teachers Mr. Gioia and Mr. Resetovs, presented their digital music projects to the board of education and Fort Lee community. The students had the opportunity to speak about the process of creating digital music and then play the audio recording.

Mr. Rota recognized the Winter Coaches and Student Athletes.

Mrs. Han Silver congratulated Coach John Ziemba, Head Coach, for his Induction into the New Jersey State Coaches Association (NJSCA) Hall of Fame for Boys' Basketball and Girls' Volleyball.

Mrs. Han Silver congratulated the Boys' Winter Track Team for their advancement and participation in the 2018-2019 Big North Conference, American Division Championship. Each coach and player were recognized.

Mrs. Han Silver congratulated the Boys' Bowling Team for their advancement and participation in the 2018-2019 North 1 B, State Sectional Championship. Each coach and team player were recognized.

Mrs. Han Silver congratulated the coaches of the Wrestling Team for the 2018-219 Season.

Mrs. Han Silver and Mr. Rota recognized the following athlete for his accomplishments as 1st Team All-League; 3rd Team All-County; District 6 Champion; Region II Champion; and 7th in the NJSIAA New Jersey State High School Wrestling Championship:

Alex Almeyda, Jr.

Mrs. Han Silver and Mr. Rota recognized and awards were presented to the 2018-2019 Governor's Educator of the Year (GEOY) Nominees.

- Ms. Jill Purritano, Teacher Nominee, 4th Grade – School No. 1
- Ms. Mary Vincenti, Educational Services Nominee, Paraprofessional – School No. 1
- Ms. Jessica Tomarchio, Teacher Nominee, Kindergarten – School No. 2
- Ms. Tara Deady, Educational Services Nominee, Smart Readers/Teacher, Grades 1 and 2 – School No. 2
- Ms. Dana DeLucca, Teacher Nominee, Resource Room Reading and Language Arts Teacher, Grades 1-5 – School No. 3
- Ms. Dawn Ohrnberger, Educational Services Nominee, Paraprofessional – School No. 3
- Ms. Mary Rizzo, Teacher Nominee, 3rd Grade – School No. 4
- Ms. Genia Alabugina, Educational Services Nominees, Paraprofessional – School No. 4
- Ms. Priscilla Yoon, Teacher Nominee, Language Arts Teacher, 7th Grade – Lewis F. Cole Middle School
- Ms. Holly Alasio, Educational Services Nominee, School Nurse – Lewis F. Cole Middle School
- Mr. Diego Lombardo, Teacher Nominee, Physical Education Teacher – Fort Lee High School
- Ms. Tara Lawlor, Educational Services Nominee, Guidance Counselor – Fort Lee High School

Mr. Rota presented the 2019-2020 Fort Lee Board of Education Budget.

Mr. Rota congratulated Ms. Colbath for receiving her Certificated Board Member award and Mr. DiMeglio for receiving his New Board Member award from New Jersey School Boards Association.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Tuck shared that the Strategic Planning Committee met on March 13th. Business discussed was the phase one of the strategic planning is complete, buildings completed their work and have district goals. Next phase involves stakeholders (from the community, district, etc.). Also discussed, was the need for a new demographic study even though the term is not up.

Ms. Colbath shared that the Policy Committee met on March 11th. First read on policies were done for policies listed on the agenda for the night.

Ms. Cho shared that the Finance Committee met on March 12th. Items discussed were the Central Office Lease and the FY 20 Preliminary Budget.

Mr. DiMeglio shared that the Negotiations Committee met prior to the Board meeting with the committee and Adrian and his staff members for a meet and greet.

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 Ms. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to open the floor to the public, 8:27 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Katerina Kaganovich, student, expressed discontent with the bus being consistently late. Mr. Rota shared that he will follow up.

Sarah Kriksciun, School No. 3 parent, applauded the Board for their increased communication with the parents especially to Ms. Colbath who is the Liaison for School No. 3 and shows her support by attending all of the events.

Amy Ko-Tang, School No. 3 parent, applauded the Board for increased communication with the parents.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Colbath, to close the floor to the public, 8:33 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	March 7, 2019
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	March 7, 2019

- 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. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #2B.

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

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 amending of the school calendar to reflect a **Delayed Opening for 12th grade students only to arrive at 9:45 a.m. from April 8-12, 2019**, due to NJSLA Testing.

3CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **Related Services Provider for the period from March 18, 2019 through October 31, 2019, as a leave replacement for a Speech Language Specialist**. [See Appendix Page 11](#)

Miriam Skydell and Associates 16-00 Route 208 South Fair Lawn, NJ 07410	Speech Therapy - \$100.00 per hour Evaluation - \$350.00 per evaluation
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4CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves an agreement with **Viva Your Voice to provide translation services as a Related Services Provider** for the 2018-2019 school year. [See Appendix Page 13](#)

5CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves an agreement with **Behavior Analysis and Support Services (BASS) as a Related Services Provider** for the 2018-2019 school year. [See Appendix Page 18](#)

6CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **additional out-of-district placements for the 2018-2019 school year**:

Student	Placement	Dates	Tuition/Costs
#99000298	The Phoenix Center 16 Monsignor Owens Place Nutley, NJ 07110	2/11/2019 to 6/2019	Annual tuition cost of \$65,646.00, prorated to \$29,540.70 (81 days @ \$364.70 per diem). 1:1 Aide to be provided by The Phoenix Center at a cost of \$13,689.00 (81 days @ \$169.00 per diem). Transportation cost of \$20,088.00 (81 days @ \$248.00 per diem).
#19050082	Paradigm Therapeutic Day School 323 Prospect Street Midland Park, NJ 07432	2/11/2019 to 6/2019	Annual tuition cost of \$68,400.00, prorated to \$30,400.00 (80 days @ \$380.00 per diem). Transportation cost of \$14,000.00 (80 days @ \$175.00 per diem).
#34000118	BCSS HIP Program: Godwin School 41 East Center Street Midland Park, NJ 07432	4/1/19 to 6/2019	Annual tuition cost of \$63,540.00, prorated to \$20,121.00 (57 days @ \$353.00 per diem), includes Speech and Language Therapy 4x per week/30 minutes each session. Transportation cost of \$2,850.00 (57 days @ \$50.00 per diem).
#22070107	Windsor Prep High School 60 West Midland Avenue Paramus, NJ 07652	3/1/2019 to 6/2019	Annual tuition cost of \$62,817.96, prorated to \$21,529.16 (73 days @ \$294.92 per diem). 1:1 Nurse at a cost of \$19,710.00 (73 days @ \$270.00 per diem). Transportation cost of \$12,775.00 (73 days @ \$175.00 per diem).

MOTION by Mrs. Richter, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR through #6CUR, with exception. Ms. Cho abstained on #5CUR.

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

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 January 2019** 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 January 2019**. 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 \$1,252,060.47 for March 2019 checks. *See Appendix Page 27*
- 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 bills list in the amount of \$87,574.91for March 2019 checks. *See Appendix Page 51*
- 5F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Board Secretary to **advertise the General Education Preschool Lottery Program** in all designated newspapers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the **tuition rates for the General Education Preschool Program for the 2019-2020 school year** as follows:

\$900.00 per month per student for full-day program

- 6F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, hat the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **use of the Enrollment Adjustment in the amount of \$1,577,680** pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-38 in the **Preliminary 2019-2020 School District Budget**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the **inclusion in the Preliminary 2019-2020 School District Budget of a withdrawal from Capital Reserves in the amount of \$1,205,000** as follows:

Capital Reserve Projects	
School 1 Compressor Installations (AC)	\$250,000
School 3 Compressor Installations (AC)	\$170,000
School 2 Roof Replacement	\$645,000
School 2 Window Replacements	\$55,000
School 3 Window Replacements	\$45,000
School 2 Elevator Piston Replacement	\$40,000
Total Capital Reserve Projects	\$1,205,000

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the **Preliminary 2019-2020 School District Budget** as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$72,011,942	\$66,085,732
Special Revenue Fund	1,365,070	-0-
Debt Service Fund	4,255,113	3,697,351
Total Base Budget	\$77,632,125	\$69,783,083

- 7F **WHEREAS**, Policy No. 6471 "School District Travel" and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 provide that the Fort Lee Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for travel and expense reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Lee Board of Education appropriated \$100,000 for travel during the 2018-2019 school year and has spent \$44,930.61 as of March 12, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2019-2020 school year at \$100,000.

- 8F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby accepts the **Audit Report for the year ending June 30, 2018** as prepared by PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP, Certified Public Accountants. [See Appendix Page 52](#)
- 9F **WHEREAS**, the Audit Report for the year ending June 30, 2018 as prepared by PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, was accepted by this Board on March 18, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Audit contains recommendations which were read and discussed at the public meeting as indicated on the Corrective Action Plan attached to this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of this Board is hereby directed to proceed as indicated in said Corrective Action Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution, together with a copy of the synopsis of the **Audit Report and the Corrective Action Plan**, will be filed with the County Superintendent of Schools. [See Appendix Page 57](#)

10F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves to extend the appointment of the law firm of **Sciarrillo, Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC as Board Attorneys** through April 30, 2019.

11F THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the extension of the **online transcript subscription service agreement between Fort Lee High School and Parchment Inc.** for the period from April 17, 2019 through June 30, 2019.

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #11F.

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 58](#)

2P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **accepts the following resignation:**

<u>RESIGNATIONS</u>			
Employee	Position	Location	Effective Date
Courtney Baiardi	Teacher Special Education	S2	6/1/19

3P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **termination of Employee #6687**, effective April 9, 2019.

- 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>APPOINTMENTS</u>						
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Position Control #	Annual Salary Prorated	Effective Date
Dana	Ripoli	Paraprofessional 1:1 (.83)	S1	01-9101-04	Amended Step 3/ Degreed \$25,365.00	03-11-19

- 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**:

<u>LEAVES</u>								
Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amended	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Mary Antunez	Paraprofessional	S2	Federal Family Leave	Amended	2/25/19 to 3/6/19	N/A	3/7/19 to 3/31/19	4/1/2019
Employee #6687			Administrative Leave	New	1/14/19 to 4/8/19	N/A	N/A	Term 4/9/19
Helene Azizo	Paraprofessional	MS	Medical	Amended	10/5/18 to 11/25/18	N/A	11/26/18 to 6/30/19	9/1/19
Margaret Ng	PT Clerical	S2	Medical	Amended	12/20/18 to 3/5/19	N/A	3/6/19 to 3/17/19	3/18/19
Amanda Schroeder	Speech Language Specialist	S2	Maternity	Amended	3/13/19 to 5/5/19	5/6/19 to 10/14/19	N/A	10/15/19

- 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:

LEAVE REPLACEMENTS					
Name	Grade/ Subject	Loc	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Kathleen Miller	Teacher Spec Ed Resource	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 (Continuation)	Amended Work Days: 04/8/19 to 06/30/19	Maternity Leave Michele. Avella
Kathleen Miller	PK Spec Ed Teacher	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: 10/22/2018 to 4/5/19	Maternity Leave Theresa Bustamante
Paola Ramirez	PT School Psychologist	CST S1/S2	Daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	Work Days: 11/7/18 to 6/30/2019 (Amended from 4 days to 5 days per week as of 3/18/19)	Maternity Leave Samantha D'Auria

- 7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following additional **Detention Monitors for students** for the 2018-2019 school year to be paid at the rate of \$50 per hour:

High School
Harry Welte Heather Maye Kristie Han

- 8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **placement of the following Internships, Student Teachers or Practicum Candidates** during the 2018-2019 school year:

Internships/Student Teachers/Practicum Candidates							
Referring University	Student Name	Type of Placement	Subject Area	# Hours	Months From-To	School Placed	Cooperating Staff Member
American College of Education	John Giordano	Masters Educational Leadership Program	Educational Leadership	300	3/19/2019 - 6/30/2020	S1	Rosemary Giacomelli, Mentor

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #8P.

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 first reading of the following policy/regulation updates listed below: [Click here for 2019-03-18 #1POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P&R 1581.1	Domestic Violence (M) - (New)
P 2422	Health and Physical Education (M) (Revised)
P 2431.3	Practice and Pre-Season Heat-Acclimation for School-Sponsored Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities (Revised)
P 2610	Educational Program Evaluation (M) (Revised)
P 4219	Commercial Driver's License Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use Testing (M) (Revised)
P&R 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)
P 5330.04	Administering an Opioid Antidote (M) (Revised)
R 5330.04	Administering an Opioid Antidote (M) (New)
P 5337	Service Animals (Revised)
P 5756	Transgender Students (M) (Revised)
P&R 7440	School District Security (M) (Revised)
P 8612	Day Care Transportation (New)
P 8561	Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs (M) (Revised)
P 8860	Memorials (Revised)
P 2415.06	Unsafe School Choice Option (M) (Revised)
R 2460.8	Special Education – Free and Appropriate Public Education (M) (Revised)
P&R 5611	Removal of Students for Firearms Offenses (M) (Revised)
P&R 5612	Assaults on District Board of Education Members or Employees (M) (Revised)
P&R 5613	Removal of Students for Assaults with Weapons Offenses (M) (Revised)
P&R 8461	Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, Alcohol, and Other Drug Offenses (M) (Revised)

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Romba shared that the board is still working on getting a date for the Coffee and Conversation.

Mrs. Han Silver mentioned that the Girls' Basketball League closing ceremonies would be on Saturday, March 23 between 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. The Board and the public were invited for the closing/trophy ceremony and last 3 games.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to adjourn, 8:36 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor

HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/mo
03-22-19