

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2017
FORT LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 2 ALL PURPOSE ROOM
6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Mr. Sarnoff.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Paula 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 August 18, 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, Mrs. Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. Michael Osso, Mr. Anthony Papavasiliou, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mr. Joseph Surace, Mr. David Sarnoff

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Colbath, at 6:58 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

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

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Rota reported that there were four (4) unfounded HIB incidents.

Mr. Rota recognized Mrs. Nancy Stern who has given to the Fort Lee School Community first as a Board Member, and then as the Advisory Chairperson of Academy of Finance (AOF).

Board Members commented on Mrs. Stern's commitment to education in Fort Lee. Due to Mrs. Stern's efforts, AOF was recognized statewide.

Mrs. Romba thanked Mrs. Stern and appreciated all her time and effort.

Mrs. Morell thanked Mrs. Stern as a friend and mentor. Mrs. Morell presented Mrs. Stern with a bouquet of roses.

Mrs. Colbath thanked Mrs. Stern for her contributions and stated that the AOF was the greatest "star" at our high school. Mrs. Colbath also noted that the district was proud and thankful of all of Mrs. Stern's efforts.

Mr. Surace thanked Mrs. Stern for her support.

The Members of the Fort Lee Board of Education, Administration, Staff, Community Members and Students celebrated the opening of School No. 2 Addition with a ceremonial ribbon cutting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Han Silver stated that the Negotiations Committee is waiting for Fact-Finders Report. Delays from Fact-Finders but will expect it mid-October.

New Student Representative, Amr Ahmed, gave his report. Student Council has had first meeting. Elections for President, Vice President, Treasurer for each grade. Pep Rally was a huge success. FLHS working on Student Spirit Week and Homecoming in October.

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 Mr. Papavasiliou, at 7:51 p.m., to open the floor to the public.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Mrs. Ada Garcia stated that Mrs. Stern was an inspiring leader.

Mr. Peter Mertens stated that Mrs. Stern was the heart and soul of the AOF. He also stated that she was a pleasure to work with and set high standards for the high school.

Mrs. Evelyn Tsugranis, School No. 2 PTA President, thanked the Board for the efforts with the addition to School 2 and for removing the trailers.

Ms. Sheba Hashmi, parent of 4th grade student at School No. 4, concerned with large class sizes in 3-4th grade classes (30, 30, 32 in each class). It seems like there are too many students. What is the current solution?

Ms. Yali Zhang, parent of School No. 1 student, stated that last week at back-to-school night, rooms were very hot. She asked about installing air conditioning in School No. 1 for hot conditions. Mr. Rota stated that, financially, we cannot currently address this issue. Mr. Rota and Mr. Sarnoff suggested that we provide two moving fans.

Ms. Erin McCoy, parent of Middle School student, are we on track with plan as proposed by end of August 2018?

Ms. Fay Wen, parent of School No. 1 student, is the website completely functional. Mr. Rota stated that it was not and that the profiles of teachers was not online.

Ms. Lariee Trenkelbach, parent of School No. 3 student, no air-conditioning; no heat in the winter.

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Morell, at 8:06 p.m., to close the floor to the public.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Mr. Osso would like to pull Dobco's bill from bills list. Announcement to add to #3F bills list additional payment of \$450 to GM Pest Control.

Resolution #15P for Co-Curricular amended as discussed.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes	September 5, 2017
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	September 5, 2017

- 2B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the **attendance and travel expenditures for the Board Member Delegate to attend the New Jersey School Boards Association Semi-annual Delegate Assembly**, payment for incidental expenses including mileage and tolls for reimbursement per the GSA rate for round trip mileage and tolls with a maximum of \$60 for the following attendees:

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>GSA RATE MILEAGE AND TOLLS</u>
NJSBA Semi-annual Delegate Assembly	11/18/2017	Holly Morell David Sarnoff	The Conference Center at Mercer 1200 Old Trenton Road West Windsor, NJ	Not to exceed \$65 per person

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the attendance for the following Board Members to attend the BCSBA workshop:

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
BCSBA Fall Meeting	Wednesday, 10/04/2017	David Sarnoff Candace Romba Paula Colbath Esther Han Silver Holly Morell Michael Osso Anthony Papavasiliou Michael Rubino	Maggiano's Little Italy 70 Riverside Square Hackensack, NJ

- 3B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, **rescinds the employment contract for Mr. Kenneth Rota** previously approved on Resolution No. 28696 dated March 23, 2015 for the 2015-2020 school years, effective June 30, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the employment contract for Mr. Kenneth Rota as Superintendent of Schools retroactive to July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022, for the terms and conditions specified. [See Appendix Page 9](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Board of Education approves items #1B through #3B.

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 9-0, with exception for item #2B. Each Board member abstained on his/her name for the BCSBA Workshop. Mrs. Morell and Mr. Sarnoff abstained on their names for NJSBA Semi Annual Delegate Assembly and BCSBA Workshop.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- 1B&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 **2016-2017** and **School District Lead Sampling Exemption Checklist** to the Bergen County Department of Education.

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

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 23](#)

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

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 July 2017** 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 24](#)
- 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 July 2017**. 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 60](#)
- 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 ~~\$1,562,344.88~~ **\$747,065.13** (minus \$815,729.75 + \$450) for September 2017 checks. [See Appendix Page 62 \[As Amended\]](#)
- 4F **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
Check	\$400.00	Fort Lee High School Class of 1974	Fort Lee High School Senior Class of 2018
TOTAL VALUE	\$400.00		

- 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#1809007**, a non-resident student in the Senior Year at Fort Lee High School, to attend Fort Lee Public Schools for the 2017-2018 school year. District will not be responsible for transportation services.
- 6F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the admission of **Non-Resident Student ID#22100137**, a student displaced due to Hurricane Harvey, to attend Fort Lee Public Schools for the 2017-2018 school year.

- 7F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Amended Salaries Charged to Grants** for the 2017-2018 school year for the following staff member:

EMPLOYEE	GRANT	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT	%
Kevin Ware	Title I	\$56,030.00	20-231-100-101-00-007	99%

- 8F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the **Board of Education** authorizes the School Business Administrator to establish and monitor the **petty cash funds** in the care of the following person and in the following amount for the 2017-2018 school year.

Custodian	Amount
Director of Special Services	\$300

MOTION by Mr. Surace, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Board of Education approve items #1F through #8F.

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 83](#)
- 2P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the resignation of **Gregory Tavoularis as a Physical Education Teacher at School No. 1**, effective November 4, 2017 or sooner.
- 3P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of Marilyn Saavedra as a Part-Time Aide at School No. 2**, effective October 6, 2017 or sooner.
- 4P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of Bernice Rosa as a Part-Time Aide at School No. 1**, effective October 2, 2017.
- 5P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of Sun Kim as an ESL/Bilingual Teacher at Fort Lee High School**, after dedicating 29 years of service to the district, effective January 1, 2018.
- 6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts, with regret, the **retirement of John Gouvouniotis as a Custodian at Fort Lee High School**, after dedicating 26 ½ years of service to the district, effective January 1, 2018.

- 7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **salary correction for the following Aides** for the 2017-2018 school year:

Salary Correction for 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
Renee	Mattesich	PT PE Aide (.5)	S4	1	Degreed	Amended from \$12,622 to \$12,662	9/1/17	Resignation of Brandon Eldridge
Anthony	Tozzi	PT PE Aide (.5)	S2	1	Degreed	Amended from \$12,622 to \$12,662	9/1/17	Resignation of Michael Micek

- 8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, 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
Alla	Brutter	Speech Specialist	S1	Medical	New	10/2/17-11/14/17	11/15/17 – 1/1/18	N/A	1/2/18
Maureen	Tropea	Aide	S1	Medical	Amended	9/5/17-9/29/17	N/A	N/A	10/1/17
Cynthia	Luciano	Teacher	MS	Medical	New	N/A	9/25/17–10/06/17	N/A	10/9/17

- 9P **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 REPLACEMENT						
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	GRADE/ SUBJECT	SCHOOL	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Julie	Kim	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: 9/19/17 – 12/5/17	Maternity Leave for Brianne Baker

- 10P 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 2017-2018 school year to be paid at the rate of \$50 per hour:

<u>Middle School</u>	<u>High School</u>
Joseph Berlingo Stephen Klapach Genevieve Callahan Brian Larcheveque Steven Choi Katherine McArdle Debbie Brigida Carmela Kern (Aide with Teacher Certification)	Chris Della Fave Stephen Dominguez Carol Martinez Maria Giannattasio Matt Pokoj William Straub Peter Kraljic Kelly McMenamin George Wagner Rocio Torres James Puliatte Rachel Healy

- 11P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Fort Lee Board of Education hereby approves the following **certificated staff members as after-school and/or Saturday tutors**, during the 2017-2018 school year to be paid a stipend of \$45.00 per hour, to be funded by the Title I grant, as outlined below:

Location	Name	Title I Funding Not to Exceed
School No. 2	Doraine Francisco (Aide) Michael Mottershead Kristine Rodriguez Rachel DiBartolo Clara Min Arielle Mangiaracina	\$10,000
School No. 3	Ana Radice Gabrielle Anconetani	\$ 5,500
Lewis F. Cole Middle School	Alexandra Scheiman Genevieve Callahan Elisa Cabrera Steven Choi Gene Fusco Michele Sabella Katherine McArdle Shannon Cevasco	\$15,000
Fort Lee High School	Klarissa Bruno Carlie VanPatten Stephen Dominguez Sophia Karabatsos Chloe Bass Kevin Ware Matthew Cohn Angela Johnson Carol Martinez Gabriella Bernardo George Wagner (Aide)	\$20,000

- 12P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a **pensionable stipend, for the following teaching staff members assigned to teach a sixth period** at Lewis F. Cole Middle School for the 2017-2018 school year as outlined below:

<i>Lewis F. Cole Middle School</i>		
Teacher	Content	Stipend
Howard Sidorsky	Special Education	\$6,500
Majorie O'Connell	Special Education	\$6,500

- 13P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following additional appointments of **Athletic Game Workers for the 2017-2018 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:

Game Workers (Gate personnel, Crowd Control, Clock Operator, Site Manager, Announcer) 2017-2018 School Year
Angela Johnson
Doug Walden
Nicole Pacciani
Michael Raccioppi
Kevin Ware
Christopher Della Fave
Allison Evangelista

- 14P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **the appointment of additional Certificated Home Instructors for the 2017-2018 school year**, at the hourly rate of \$45.00 per hour:

Name	Subject Area(s)
Aphrodite Microutsicos	Special Education K- 12
Alexandra Motola	English K-12 or K-6 General
Stephen Klapach	K-8 General
Klarissa Bruno	English K-12 General or Special Ed
Arielle Mangiaracina	K-6 General Ed
Janine Grosso	K-6 General Ed and Special Ed
Amarillys Schwed	Biology K-12
Encarnacion Vallejos	ESL
Marjorie O'Connell	K-6 General and Special Ed and 5-8 LAL

- 15P **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 2017-2018 school year. All appointments are subject to completion of all personnel documentation and fingerprinting process, prior to starting of said activities. [See Appendix Page 84](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Board of Education approve items #1P through #15P.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0, for items #1P through #14P with exception. Mr. Osso abstained on one name (Gabriella Bernado) for item #11P. MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 8-0-1, for item #15P as amended. Mrs. Morell abstained.

Mr. Sarnoff acknowledged resignation of Mr. Tavoularis (Physical Education Teacher), who is moving on with his career closer to home. He was a dedicated member of School No. 1. He was innovative and introduced the BOKS Program wherein students readily attended class at 6:30 a.m.

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 updates** listed below and attached hereto: [See Appendix Page 86](#)

Policy No.	Topic
P6620	Petty Cash

2POL 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 and attached hereto: [Click here for 2017-09-18 #2POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P 2700	Services to Nonpublic School Students (M) (Revised)
P & R 7100	Long-Range Facilities Planning (M) (Revised)
P & R 7101	Educational Adequacy of Capital Projects (Revised)
P 7102	Site Selection and Acquisition (Revised)
R 7102	Site Selection and Acquisition (New)
P 7130	School Closing (Revised)
P 7300	Disposition of Property (Revised)
R 7300.1	Disposition of Instructional Property (Abolished)
R 7300.2	Disposition of Land (Revised)
R 7300.3	Disposition of Personal Property (Revised)
R 7300.4	Disposition of Federal Property (Revised)

MOTION by Mrs. Han Silver, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Board of Education approve items #1POL and #2POL.

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

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rota stated that actions speak louder than words. He thanked the Board for renewing his contract for five years and he is looking forward to the next five years.

Mr. Sarnoff stated that Mr. Rota possesses extensive experience as an educator and has met and exceeded many of our expectations. Mr. Sarnoff stated that since 2000, we have had 12

superintendents. There is no substitute for stability in the superintendent's office. On behalf of the Board, we thank you and look forward to the future.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, at 8:20 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 8:34 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mr. Papavasiliou, to adjourn, 8:35 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor

HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/haa
09-27-2017