

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
April 22, 2019
Fort Lee High School – Media Center
6:02 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mrs. Han Silver.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Romba.

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 April 15, 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, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mrs. Lauran Tuck, Mrs. Esther Han Silver

Also Present: Mr. Kenneth Rota, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mr. Dennis McKeever, Attorney (6:40 p.m.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, at 6:03 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:29 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Rota shared that there were seven (7) HIB investigations. Five (5) were founded HIB related. Mr. Rota will review the HIB reports.

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

Reminder, April 23rd at the FLHS is the Budget Public presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiations Committee – Mr. DiMeglio updated the board on attorney interviews.

Coffee and Conversation – Mrs. Romba shared that three (3) parents attended.

Security Committee – Mr. DiMeglio shared that the Mayor and Council and students had a debate and it was unbelievable, almost like an encore and definitely very informative.

Sarah Silver, student, spoke about the success of some of the high school's varsity sports teams over Spring Break:

- Baseball's close victory over Dwight Morrow
- The Softball team's win against Cliffside Park, their 3rd in a row
- The Golf team crushed Passaic Valley in a 160-201 defeat
- The Boys' Tennis team beat Cliffside Park in a scoreless game for their competitors
- And, a win for the Boys' Track and field team over Ridgefield Park

Sarah also spoke about the success of the Academy of Theatre Arts and its production of "Godspell" on April 4, 5, 6 where they told the story of the lessons of Jesus Christ through song and dance. She announced that the school's Spring concert for the band, orchestra, and chorus was on May 1st. They were playing some really fun pieces including a performance of Hamilton by the chorus and medley of songs from Les Mis by the band. She also mentioned some of the fun and interesting projects that students have been doing in their visual arts classes. The Digital Photography classes were learning to make their very own gifs while the 3D Design classes were making "tunnel books" with a location of their choice that give the illusion of making certain features in the landscape seem three dimensional.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Mrs. Han Silver and Mrs. Romba attended Dr. Sugarman's Memorial.

Mrs. Romba asked why Dr. Sugarman's wife was on the bills list, Mr. Rota explained the district is responsible for spousal benefits based on his contract.

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, 7:41 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to close the floor to the public, 7:41 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 18, 2019
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	March 18, 2019
Public Business Meeting Minutes	April 1, 2019
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	April 1, 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.

- 3B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the attendance of Board Members at the following workshops:

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>AMOUNT PER PERSON</u>
Annual Delegate Assembly	Saturday, May 18, 2019	Holly Morell Paula K. Colbath	The Conference Center at Mercer 1200 Old Trenton Road West Windsor, NJ	GSA Rate Mileage and Tolls - Not to exceed \$65 per person
Bergen County Spring Meeting	Thursday, May 30, 2019	Elisa Cho Paula Colbath Esther Han Silver Holly Morell Candee Romba	Holiday Inn 283 NJ-17 Hasbrouck Heights, NJ	-0-

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0, with exception. Ms. Cho, Ms. Colbath, Mrs. Morell and Mrs. Romba abstained on their names on item #3B.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- 1B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Second Addendum to the Lease Agreement for Central Office space at 2175 Lemoine Avenue, Fort Lee, New Jersey**, with the Second Landlord, Unlmted Real Estate Group, to extend the term of the lease for **six (6) months** for the period January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020. All other terms continue to remain in effect at the monthly rental rate of \$13,487, for a total not to exceed \$80,922, plus electric energy charges, and authorizes the Board Secretary to execute the agreement. [See Appendix Page 9](#)

- 2B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes that the **District's Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP) be updated to include the School 2 Elevator Piston Replacement**, to be completed as an Other Capital Project.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B&G through #2B&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 11

2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **Dr. Fernando Naiditch** to provide **professional development training** during Spring 2019, as outlined below. This resolution supersedes Resolution No. 29488 dated March 7, 2019.

Professional Development Training	Total Not to Exceed	Account
To provide three (3) days of professional development and training for teachers on identifying, understanding, and addressing the specific language needs of English Language Learners and developing appropriate instructional pedagogy.	\$5,775.00	#20-241-200-320-30-000

3CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following NJDOE accredited **public school academic program providers that offers courses for advancement and credit recovery, to be delivered in either traditional or online format, for the 2019 Summer Session and the 2019-2020 school year at no cost to the district.** Advancement and credit recovery will be granted only with written consent from the Guidance Department. Students are responsible for all fees associated with these programs.

**Bergen Community College - High School Program
Bergenfield High School
Bogota High School
Dwight Englewood High School
Educere Online
PAMOJA Online
Paramus Catholic High School
Leonia High School
Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOECS)/NJ
Virtual School
The Virtual High School
Ridgewood High School**

MOTION by Mrs. Richter, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR through #3CUR.

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 February 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 February 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 \$6,363,531.60** for April 2019 checks. [See Appendix Page 12](#)
- 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 \$159,606.49** for April 2019 checks. [See Appendix Page 44](#)
- 5F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the **Board of Education**, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following **donations**:

Item	Amount/ Estimated Value	Donor	On Behalf Of
Check	\$100.00	AXA Financial Inc. (Cybergrant)	FLHS – AOF Shark Tank 2019
TOTAL VALUE	\$100.00		

- 6F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the execution of the contract for the **Jewish Family and Children's Services of North Jersey, Inc. (JFCS) Extended School Day Program** for the 2019-2020 school year. [See Appendix Page 45](#)

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #6F.

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 53](#)

- 2P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of additional **Curriculum Writers for 2018-2019**, for services to be performed outside the contractual day, to be paid a stipend at an hourly rate of \$45.00 per hour, not to exceed \$450.00, to be charged against account # 11-000-221-104-00-000, for the teaching staff member listed below:

CONTENT AREA	CERTIFICATED STAFF MEMBERS
ESL	Denise Morales (up to 10 hours)

- 3P **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
Klarissa Martin	Teacher Special Education English	FLHS	6/5/19

- 4P **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
Pooja Bhansali	LFCMS	PT Paraprofessional (.5) 05-9101-107	LFCMS	PT Paraprofessional (.83) 05-9101-78	Step 1/Degreed \$21,019.00	Amended 4/29/19

- 5P **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of the following Substitute** for the 2018-2019 school year:

<u>Substitute Resignations</u>	
Name	Effective Date
Darae Kim	4/4/19

- 6P **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 member assigned to teach a sixth period** for the 2018-2019 school year as outlined below:

<i>Fort Lee High School</i>		
Teacher	Content	Stipend
Erica Martin	English Special Education	\$6,500 (to be prorated from 4/22/19 – 6/30/19)

- 7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **extending the appointment of the following Building Technology Assistant** at a non-pensionable stipend of \$2,000 for the 2018-2019 school year:

Name	Location
Jacqueline Tozzi	School No. 4 (extended to be prorated from 9/24/18 to 6/30/19)

8P 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
Michelle Avella	Special Education K Teacher	S1	Maternity	Amended	4/3/19 to 5/19/19	5/20/19 to 10/31/19	N/A	11/1/19
Kaitlyn Rakas	Teacher Grade 3	S1	Maternity	New	9/1/19 to 9/26/19	9/27/19 to 2/2/20	N/A	2/3/20
Margaret Ng	PT Clerical	S2	Medical	Amended	4/8/19 to 4/28/19	N/A	N/A	4/29/19
Simone Ballance	Teacher Grade 1	S3	Maternity	Amended	11/27/17 to 1/4/18	1/5/18 to 6/30/18	9/1/18 to 6/30/20	9/1/20
Mary Antunez	Paraprofessional	S2	Federal Family Leave	Amended	2/25/19 to 3/5/19	N/A	3/6/19 to 4/1/19	4/2/19
Stacey Dee	Teacher Grade 3	S3	Maternity	Amended	11/27/17 to 1/16/18	1/17/18 to 4/30/18	5/1/18 to 6/30/20	9/1/20
Ada Cheherian Acosta	Teacher World Language	HS	Maternity	New	10/21/19 to 11/30/19	12/1/19 to 3/1/20	N/A	3/2/20
Elisa Murphy	PT Social Worker	HS	Maternity	New	6/4/19 to 6/30/19	N/A	9/1/19 to 12/16/19	12/17/19
Maria Ibelli Castano	Media Specialist	S2	Medical	New	4/18/19 to 5/19/19	N/A	N/A	05/20/19
Alicyn Liquori	Teacher Kindergarten	S4	Medical	New	5/22/19 to 6/30/19	N/A	N/A	9/1/19
Melissa Rosen	Teacher Social Studies	HS	Maternity	New	N/A	6/17/19 to 10/31/19	N/A	11/1/19
Rachel Ventrella	Grade 3 Teacher	S4	Maternity	Amended	9/24/18 to 1/14/19	1/15/19 to 5/5/19	N/A	5/6/19

- 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 2018-2019 school year, as outlined below:

<u>LEAVE REPLACEMENTS</u>					
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: 04/4/19 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: 10/22/18 to 4/3/19	Maternity Leave Theresa Bustamante
Briana Shuki	Grade 3	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: 9/25/18 to 5/7/19	Maternity Leave Rachel Ventrella
Meeta Kaycee	Kindergarten	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: 5/20/19 to 6/30/19	Medical Leave Alicyn Liquori

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #9P. Ms. Colbath expressed big regrets on item #3P; Clarissa was outstanding. Mrs. Morell expressed no with love on item #3P. She went above and beyond.

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

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Han Silver went to see the show and was very impressed with it. Fort Lee High School debaters debated a topic with the Mayor and Council.

Mrs. Morell commended on the impressive quality of the student's debate.

Mrs. Han Silver shared that Fort Lee posted the video of the debate on the website.

Mrs. Romba asked if we have Dr. Sugarman's book in our school libraries.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Ms. Cho, to adjourn, 8:29 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
04-26-19