

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
May 6, 2019
Fort Lee High School – Auditorium
6:53 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:53 p.m. by Mrs. Romba.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Rubino.

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, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell (7:02 p.m.), Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mrs. Lauran Tuck, Mrs. Esther Han Silver (6:53 p.m.)

Absent: Ms. Paula K. Colbath

Also Present: Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mr. Dennis McKeever, Attorney

Absent: Mr. Kenneth Rota

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, at 6:58 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:27 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Amato shared that there were four (4) HIB investigations. One (1) was founded.

Dr. Amato congratulated the Business Office and the Board of Education, on County approval of the preliminary budget. Dr. Amato further shared that the final budget is on tonight's agenda for approval and adoption.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiations Committee – Mr. DiMeglio shared that FLEA negotiations are on-going and both sides have been collaborative.

Finance Committee – Ms. Taylor shared that our FY19 PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) funding will be approved by the Mayor and council on Thursday with payment to follow thereafter.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

The Board discussed amending item #4B but opted to leave it on the agenda as it is written.

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. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to open the floor to the public, 7:38 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

None.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to close the floor to the public, 7:38 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 | April 22, 2019 |
| Private Executive Meeting Minutes | April 22, 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> |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| New Jersey School Board Association 's Legislative Committee | Saturday, May 11, 2019 | Paula K. Colbath | NJSBA 413 West State Street Trenton, NJ 08618 | GSA Rate Mileage and Tolls - Not to exceed \$65 per person |

4B 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 June 30, 2019.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #4B.

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 **class trips** listed in the attached summary.
See Appendix Page 9

2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **submission of the 2019-2020 Perkins Secondary Grant Application** to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

MOTION by Mrs. Richter, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR through #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 **\$1,092,238.03** for May 2019 checks. *See Appendix Page 10*
- 2F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that 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 Final **2019-2020 School District Budget**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **inclusion in the Final 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 **Final 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 |

MOTION by Ms. Cho, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #2F.

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

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 26](#)
- 2P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, **accepts, with regret, the retirement of Sheryl DeLuca, as an Elementary Teacher at School No. 2**, after dedicating 14 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, 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 |
| Janae | Rodriguez | Accounting Coordinator | CO | 00-9301-03 | \$57,000.00 | 5-13-19 |

- 4P **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 Ed Teacher | S1 | Maternity | Amended | 4/3/19 to 5/9/19 | 5/10/19 to 10/31/19 | N/A | 11/1/19 |
| Kristina Gonzalez | Grade 1 Teacher | S4 | Maternity | Amended | 1/10/19 to 2/26/19 | 2/27/19 to 5/12/19 | N/A | 5/13/19 |
| Jaime Antifonario | Library Media Specialist | S3 | Maternity | Amended | 1/5/18 to 3/6/18 | 3/7/18 to 11/30/18 | 12/1/18 to 6/30/20 | 9/1/20 |
| Amanda Schroeder | Speech Language Specialist | S2 | Maternity | Amended | 3/13/19 to 5/27/19 | 5/28/19 to 10/14/19 | N/A | 10/15/19 |
| Mary Antunez | Paraprofessional | S2 | Federal Family Leave | New | N/A | N/A | 5/1/19 to 5/3/19 | 5/6/19 |
| Margaret Ng | PT Clerical | S2 | Medical | Amended | 4/8/19 to 5/27/19 | N/A | N/A | 5/28/19 |
| Nilsa Benitez | Bookkeeper | CO | Medical | Amended | 4/1/19 to 4/30/19 | N/A | N/A | 5/1/19 |

- 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 |
| Jennifer Cella | Teacher Grade 1 | 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: 01/07/19 - 05/14/19 | K. Gonzalez Maternity Leave |

- 6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following **resignations**:

| <u>Resignations</u> | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Employee | Position | Location | Effective Date |
| Heeseong Lim | World Language Korean Teacher | HS | 6/30/19 |
| Nazanin Ostovar | PT Paraprofessional | S2 | 6/30/19 |

- 7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **salary adjustment for Raul Sanchez, a District Maintenance Worker, to include the \$350.00 Black Seal stipend**, to be prorated as of April 16, 2019.

- 8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of staff members under the Fort Lee Education Association (FLEA) Collective Bargaining Agreements for the 2019-2020 school year, pending negotiations**, in the following categories as per the attached list. *See Appendix Page TBD*

- Teaching Staff Members
- Custodial and Maintenance Staff Members
- Secretarial/Clerical Staff Members
- Paraprofessionals

- 9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of staff members under the Fort Lee Administrator's Group (FLAG) Agreement for the 2019-2020 school year, pending negotiations**, in the following categories as per the attached list. *See Appendix Page TBD*

- Principals
- Assistant Principals
- Director of Special Education
- Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health
- Director of School Counseling Services
- Supervisors

- 10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **amending the stipend for the appointment of Corinne West** (at the employee's request), for the co-curricular activity outlined below for the 2018-2019 school year, previously approved on Resolution No. 29333 dated November 5, 2018.

| 2018-2019 Applicant | Co-Curricular Activity | Class | 18-19 Amended Stipend | Agenda Date |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Corinne West | Elementary Fine Arts Coordinator-MS | B-1 | \$4,754.00 amended to \$4,034.00 | 5/6/19 |

- 11P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **additional hours for the following staff members for services provided in preparation for Circle the Arts 2019**, performed outside the contractual day, to be paid at the rate of \$45 per hour as outlined below, to be charged against Account #11-000-221-104-00-000.

The following teachers are eligible for \$45 per hour, not to exceed 4 hours:

Francesca Suh
Jennifer Leyton
Melissa Merrill
Nina Anderson
Marc Adams
Kate Hetman
Tom Cirone
Melanie Catalano

The following teachers are eligible for \$45 per hour, not to exceed 2 hours:

Anthony Gioia
Jodi Etra
Joseph Picone
Mary Stephenson
Janue Vargas
Yuri Resetovs
Lisandra Hernandez
Sarah McMahon

| |
|--|
| Hae Sook Yook Carl Faust Oleg Rutkovsky Chelsea McFarland |
|--|

- 12P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following high school students as **Academy of Finance (AOF) Summer Interns** for a Summer Internship for Central Office at the rate of \$10.00 per hour, not to exceed 200 hours each, effective July 8, 2019 through August 30, 2019.

| AOF Summer Internships | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Name</u> | <u>Location Assignment</u> |
| Amanda Hooton | Board Office |
| Hyuma Takamatsu | Technology Department |
| Hiromasa Fujita | Technology Department |

- 13P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **amending** of the **appointment of the following Faculty Coordinators** for the 2018-2019 school year:

| Faculty Coordinators | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| <u>Name</u> | <u>Department</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
| Klarissa Bruno Martin | Title I Coordinator | Amended to \$2,000 (\$5,000 prorated from 1/1/19 to 5/31/19). |
| Stephen Dominguez | Title I Coordinator | \$500 (\$5,000 prorated from 6/1/19 to 6/30/19) |

MOTION by Ms. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #13P.

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

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Amato shared that the Math Pilot Teachers grades Kindergarten to 4th grade selected the GoMath program. The Fort Lee Board of Education will be adopting this new Math program in September.

Mr. Rubino shared that a few seniors received athletic and academic scholarships.

Mrs. Han Silver announced that she and Mrs. Romba attended the NJSBA Leadership workshop. There were 20 hours of training and collaboration with about 100 other Board members throughout the state. Ms. Han Silver extends her appreciation to all Board members for their contributions and commitment to the students of the Fort Lee Board of Education.

Mrs. Han Silver congratulated Mrs. Morell on achieving her Certified Board Leader award.

Mrs. Richter shared that it is Teacher's Appreciation week and thanks all of the Fort Lee Board of Education teachers.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to adjourn, 7:43 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor

HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/mo
05-13-19