

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2017
FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mr. Sarnoff.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Holly 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 June 9, 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 (*arrived at 6:34 p.m.*), Mr. Anthony Papavasiliou, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino (*arrived at 6:34 p.m.*), Mr. Joseph Surace (*arrived at 6:34 p.m.*), Mr. David Sarnoff

Also Present: Mr. Kenneth Rota, Dr. Sharon Amato, Ms. Haquisha Taylor, Kathleen Nestor, Esq., Ms. Massa Assaad, Student Representative

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Colbath, at 6:32 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:31 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Rota reported that there were four (4) HIB incidents. One (1) was founded.

Fire/Security Drills have been posted for the Board.

Dr. Amato and Mrs. Carrubba gave a presentation on our 2016-2017 Standardized Testing Results. The presentation will be posted on our website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Osso shared that the B&G Committee met on 10/5/17. The Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP) was reviewed and is being updated.

The Finance Committee met on 10/5/17 to discuss the budget calendar, the anticipated challenges, and the need to shore up our capital reserves.

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Assaad shared the following:

1. PSAT's were held last Wednesday.
2. Students are finalizing plans for Homecoming which will be held on Saturday, October 28th.
3. The Homecoming Court will be announced later this week and will be recognized at the homecoming football game next Friday.
4. Spirit Week will be next week with the themes being: Wear Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness, Twin Tuesday, Pajama Day, Decade Day, and Fort Lee Colors Day. Information about Spirit Week will be going out to students later this week.
5. We will be asking volunteers to assist with putting flags in front of the High School for Field of Heroes.

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 Mrs. Romba, at 8:05 p.m., to open the floor to the public.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Speaker No. 1 expressed discontent with the lack of a settled teacher's contract.

Speaker No. 2 expressed discontent with the lack of the accessibility of school based budgets.

Speaker No. 3 (School #3 student) expressed discontent with the uncomfortable School #3 building temperature in both the summer and the winter.

Speaker No. 4 expressed discontent with the uncomfortable School #3 building temperature in both the summer and the winter.

Speaker No. 5 expressed discontent with the uncomfortable School #3 building temperature in both the summer and the winter.

Speaker No. 6 (School #1 student) expressed discontent with the uncomfortable School #1 building temperature in the summer.

Speaker No. 7 expressed discontent with the uncomfortable School #3 building temperature in both the summer and the winter.

Speaker No. 8 expressed uncertainty that the FLBOE understood what the issues are at Schools #1 and #3.

Speaker No. 9 inquired about parents' input in the five-year strategic planning.

Speaker No. 10 inquired which facility projects have a higher priority than HVAC at Schools #1 and #3.

Speaker No. 11 expressed discontent with not hearing answers from the FLBOE to questions about HVAC at Schools #1 and #3.

Speaker No. 12 expressed discontent with the uncomfortable School #3 building temperature in both the summer and the winter.

Speaker No. 13 expressed discontent with the outdated HVAC at School #3, the lack of a settled teacher's contract, and the lack of police presence at School #3 at dismissal.

Speaker No. 14 asked what options other than capital reserve and referendum exist to fund capital projects.

Speaker No. 15 recommended that, at least, we ensure each hot classroom has working fans.

Board Members, the Superintendent, and/or the Business Administrator responded to each speaker.

Mr. Sarnoff shared that many referendums for higher amounts for upgrades to School #1 and School #3 were attempted and were voted down by the community. In 2014, Mr. Paul Saxton (then Superintendent), worked with members of community and settled on supporting a \$50MM referendum primarily to meet the growing enrollment need (additions to School #2 and to Lewis F. Cole Middle School). Mr. Sarnoff and Superintendent Rota shared that we rely on our professionals (architects and engineers) to identify our most urgent facility needs.

Mr. Rota shared that Mr. Bendul (Supervisor of B&G) and Mr. Berman have confirmed that the heat in School #3 is operational. He shared that an HVAC renovation at School #3 is estimated to be \$1.8MM.

Mr. Rota shared that he speaks with Chief Bendul regularly and will follow up with the Chief about safety concerns at School #3 at arrival and dismissal times.

Ms. Taylor shared that building based budgets include less than \$200k of, primarily, supplies (workbooks, paper, pencils, nurse supplies, etc.). Salaries, benefits, utilities, special education, transportation, and other costs are budgeted at the district level and would not be found in a building based budget. Building based budget are available upon request.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Colbath, at 9:53 p.m., to close the floor to the public.

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	October 2, 2017
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	October 2, 2017

- 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 and travel expenditures for a Board Member 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 \$65 for the following attendee:

<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	Esther Han Silver	The Conference Center at Mercer 1200 Old Trenton Road West Windsor, NJ	Not to exceed \$65 per person

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

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-2, for item #1B. Mrs. Morell and Mr. Surace abstained. MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0, for item #2B. MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 8-0-1, for item #3B. Mrs. Han Silver abstained.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

1B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following change order:

CHANGE ORDER SUMMARY SHEET	OWNER	Fort Lee Board of Education
	ARCHITECT	SSP Architectural Group
	CONTRACTOR	Dobco, Inc.
PROJECT NO. 14-8231	FIELD	Turner Construction Co.

PROJECT: Lewis F. Cole Middle School Date: October 12, 2017
Additions and Alterations Phase 2

CONTRACTOR	C.O. NO.	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	AMT APPLIED TO ALLOWANCE
Dobco, Inc.	CO-6	PCO-34 Retaining Wall	\$61,611.66	\$61,611.66
		TOTAL	\$61,611.66	

2B&G THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the submission of the **Initial Kindergarten Bathroom Waiver Application** for the 2017-2018 school year to the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools.

School No. 2

Room No. 213

MOTION by Mr. Osso, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Board of Education approves items #1B&G and #2B&G.

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 8-0-1, for item #1B. Mr. Surace abstained. MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0, for item #2B.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1CW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves additional appointments of **student representative to the Fort Lee Board of Education** at public board meetings for the 2017-2018 school year:

Julia Huang (Junior)
Massa Assaad (Junior)
Sally Park (Senior)

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

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 9](#)

2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **District Testing Results** for the 2016-2017 school year, as presented at the Public Board Meeting of October 16, 2017.

3CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **Curriculum Revision for Physical Education for the 2017-2018 school year**. [Curriculum Document Link](#)

4CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **following out-of-district placements for the 2017-2018 school year**:

Student	Placement	Dates	Tuition/Costs
#9900053	Transfer from BCSS-New Bridges Program to a residential placement at The CEA School in Flemington, NJ	10/9/17 – June 2018	Annual tuition cost of \$75,297.30, prorated to \$54,984.54 (157 days @ \$350.22 per diem); 1:1 Aide at \$150 per diem totaling \$32,250 per year, prorated to \$23,550.
#32058	CTC-Academy Fair Lawn, NJ	10/17/17 – June 2018	Annual tuition cost of \$83,156.02, prorated to \$64,990.87 (161 days @ \$403.67 per diem). Parent will transport.

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

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

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 \$1,022,406.03** for October 2017 checks. [See Appendix Page 10](#)

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

Item	Amount/ Estimated Value	Donor	On Behalf Of
3 – Sony DSC-H300 Digital Cameras & 3 64GB SD Memory Cards	\$632.94	School #4 PTA	School #4 – 6 th Grade Camera Club
Check	\$1,400.00	Maged Hamad for Fort Lee Alumni Group	School #1 – to be applied to new backboards and nets
Check	\$1,000.00	School #1 PTA	School #1 – to be applied to new backboards and nets
Amazon Gift Card	\$100.00	Yellow Folder	District Employee Wellness Initiative
TOTAL VALUE	\$3,132.94		

- 3F **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 Thursday, May 31, 2017 at The Liberty House in Jersey City.**
- 4F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to utilize transportation services with **TLC/The Learning Center for Exceptional Children in the amount of \$53,100.70 for ESY and Fall** transportation for the 2017-2018 school year as follows:

Route #	Contract Amount
LCEC ESY	\$ 7,409.40
LCEC Fall	\$45,691.30
Total Contract Amount	\$53,100.70

MOTION by Mr. Surace, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Board of Education approves items #1F through #4F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0, with exception. Mr. Osso abstained on one name listed in #1F – Rachel DiBartolo; Mr. Surace abstained on one name listed in #1F – Sally Macaluso. Mr. Papavasiliou abstained on #2F-first listed donation.

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, accepts the **resignation of Deanna Cappiello as an LLD Teacher at School No. 2**, effective December 5, 2017.
- 3P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of Jennifer Perez as a Part-Time Paraprofessional at School No. 2**, effective December 1, 2017.
- 4P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of Julie Kim as a Leave Replacement Teacher at Fort Lee High School**, effective November 23, 2017.

- 5P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Aides** for the 2017-2018 school year, as follows:

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
Aurela	Sokoli	PT Classroom Aide (.83)	S4	1	Non-Degreed	\$17,752	10/25/17	Grade 4 Overage
Nicole	Piccinich	PT Classroom Aide (.83)	S4	1	Degreed	\$21,019	10/17/17	IEP Need
Katrina	Dumicic	PT Classroom Aide (.83)	S2	1	Degreed	\$21,019	10/17/17	IEP Need
Lisa	Novello	PT Classroom Aide (.83)	S2	1	Degreed	\$21,019	10/18/17	IEP Need
Burcu	Kayar	PT Classroom Aide (.83)	S4	1	Non-Degreed	\$17,752	10/18/17	Grade 4 Overage

- 6P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **transfer of Staff Members for the 2017-2018 school year**, as outlined below:

Assignment Change for the 2017-2018 School Year					
First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc Change	Effective Date	Reason
Lorraine	McFarland	Instructional Aide Grades 2-4 ASD to 1:1 PreK Special Ed	S2	10/16/17	IEP Need

- 7P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Stefanie Ciavarella as a Special Education Teacher at School No. 2** for the 2017-2018 school year, to be placed at Step 1, Class MA, on the 2015-2016 Teachers' Guide, at an annual salary \$59,530.00, to be prorated, pending negotiations, effective November 1, 2017.

- 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
Nina	Anderson	Art Teacher	MS	Medical	New	12/15/17-1/5/18	N/A	N/A	1/8/18
Jennifer	Andrada	Kindergarten	S3	Maternity	New	3/8/17-5/10/17	5/11/17-10/13/17	10/16/17	11/1/18
Robert	Ciccione	Physical Ed Teacher	S3	Medical	New	11/20/17-12/22/17	N/A	N/A	1/2/18
Stacey	Dee	Elem Teacher	S3	Maternity	Amended	11/27/17-1/16/18	1/17/18-4/30/18	5/1/18 - 8/31/18	9/1/18
Sandy	Kim-Namkung	Elem Teacher	S4	Medical	New	9/19/17-10/20/17	N/A	N/A	10/23/17

- 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 REPLACEMENTS						
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	GRADE/SUBJECT	SCHOOL	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Marissa	Hyde	Grade 4	S4	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: 10/23/17 to 6/4/18	Maternity Leave Sandy Kim
Jocelyn	Levine	Kindergarten	S3	The daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1.	Extended Work days: 9/1/17 to 11/2/17	Maternity Leave for Jennifer Andrada
Jocelyn	Levine	Grade 3	S3	The daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1.	Amended Work days: 11/20/17 to 6/30/18	Maternity Leave for Stacey Dee

- 10P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following **Substitute** for the 2017-2018 school year:

**Nicole Piccinich
Georgette Freeman**

- 11P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following appointments for additional **Co-Curricular Advisors** during the 2017-2018 school year:

2017-2018 Applicant	Co-Curricular Activity	Class	17-18 Stipend Pending Negotiations
Klarissa Bruno	Interact Club Advisor (Amended from Co-Advisor to Advisor)	A	\$2,126.00
Jahaira Francisco	Foreign Language Club - MS	A	\$2,126.00
Joseph Picone	Spring Musical Director + \$2,000	A+\$2,000	\$4,126.00
Diana Ladd	Junior Class Advisor	B	\$3,161.00
Erin Powers	Science League - MS	B	\$3,161.00

- 12P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Winter Coaches** for the 2017-2018 school year, as follows. All appointments are subject to completion of all personnel documentation and fingerprinting process, prior to starting of said activities.

Name	Sport	Position	Season	Class	Step	Stipend Pending Negotiations
William Straub	Boys Basketball	Assistant Coach	Winter	II	2	\$6,524
Sean Scully	Boys Basketball	Assistant Coach	Winter	II	2	\$6,524
Allison Evangelista	Girls Basketball	Assistant Coach	Winter	II	2	\$6,524
Gerald Carroll, Jr.*	Wrestling	Head Coach	Winter	II	2	\$8,975
Jeffrey Rodriguez*	Wrestling	Assistant Coach	Winter	II	2	\$6,524
Michael Raccioppi*	Wrestling	Assistant Coach	Winter	II	2	\$6,524
Daniel Cirone	Winter Track	Head Coach	Winter	III	2	\$5,349
Charles Salame	Winter Track	Assistant Coach	Winter	III	2	\$4,785
Angela Johnson	Winter Track	Assistant Coach	Winter	III	2	\$4,785
Demba Mane	Winter Track	Assistant Coach	Winter	III	2	\$4,785
Richard Bello	Bowling	Head Coach	Winter	III	2	\$5,349

*Non-Staff Member

- 13P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **additional staffing for the Child Study Team**, as outlined below:

Additional CST Staffing			
Name	Position	Maximum # of Hours	Hourly Rate of Pay
Robert Azzolino	Home Programming for Student ID#9900068	Up to 10 Hours Per Week from 7/1/17 to 7/28/17 and from 9/1/17 to 6/30/18 as per student's IEP to be charged to Account #11-000-216-320-60-000	\$30.00 per hour

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Board of Education approves items #1P through #13P.

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

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Morell thanked the student representative for an informative update.

Mrs. Romba recommends that we reinstitute board member liaisons for each school.

Mr. Sarnoff recognized the Soccer Team for their valiant loss.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Papavasiliou, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to adjourn, 9:59 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor

HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY