

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

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
JULY 18, 2016  
FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
6:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mr. David Sarnoff.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Weinberg.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 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 11, 2016 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, The Suburbanite; 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. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell  
(*left meeting at 7:58 p.m.*), Mr. Michael Osso, Mr. Ammad Quraishi,  
Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Jeff Weinberg, Mr. David Sarnoff

**Absent:** Mr. Joseph Surace

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, at 6:30 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 spoke about the following:

- ♦ HIB Report

- ♦ Fire & Security Drills for June 2016
- ♦ SSP Architectural Group to present project details for LFCMS addition.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Colbath spoke about the two policies on tonight's agenda - P2431 Athletics Activity; and P5111.6 Reward for Illegally Registered Students.

**MINUTES**

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Board of Education approves the following minutes:

Public Business Meeting Minutes	June 20, 2016
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	June 20, 2016
Special Public Meeting Minutes	June 29, 2016
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	June 29, 2016

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

**BOARD SECRETARY REPORT AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MAY 2016**

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mr. Quraishi, that the Board of Education approves the following:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2. 11(c) (4), we certify that as of May 31, 2016, the board secretary's and treasurer's monthly financial reports did not reflect any overexpenditure in any of the major accounts or funds in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2. 11(b), and based on the appropriation balances reflected on the reports and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year and accepts the financial reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies.

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

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION – MAY 2016**

MOTION BY Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Colbath, that the Board of Education approves the Monthly Budget Status Certification for May, 2016.

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

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Mrs. Colbath stated that she will support Superintendent Rota's Merit Goals but that she is looking forward to setting goals focused on student achievement and fiscal responsibility.

Mrs. Colbath also stated that she wanted to congratulate Rosemarie Ruggerio, Classroom Aide, School No. 2, on her retirement and thank her for her dedication to Fort Lee Schools for the last 26 years.

Mr. Osso thanked the elementary school principals, Athletic Director, Head Varsity Wrestling Coach and Mr. Rota for a successful summer camp retreat.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate.
2. Participants are limited to three minutes in which to make their statement. Additional time may be granted at the discretion of the presiding officer.
3. The Board will not entertain any comments from persons who communicate obscene material, make statements which are considered bias intimidation in which a person intends to intimidate any individual or group because of race, color, religion, gender, handicap, sexual orientation or ethnicity or makes comments intending to harass or speak any offensive language.
4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.
5. The presiding officer may:
  - a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
  - b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
  - c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
  - d. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and
  - e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS**

During this portion of the meeting, the residents are invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns that may be in respect to the operation of their school.

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, to open the floor to the public, 7:37 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Mrs. Patty DiCostanzo thanked Scott Bendul for accepting and receiving her calls. Mrs. DiCostanzo stated that her house was inspected (outside) without her permission. She asked when the blasting would start and shared that the project has been an eyesore since it started.

MOTION by Mr. Weinberg, seconded by Mr. Quraishi, to close the floor to the public, 7:42 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, to open the floor to the public, 7:43 p.m.

A resident spoke about co-curricular athletic activities for his daughter, a home-schooled student.

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to close the floor to the public, 7:44 p.m.

**ALL RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****BOARD COMMITTEE**

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

<b>1B</b>	<b>RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING</b>
<b>2B</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT KENNETH ROTA'S MERIT GOALS FOR 2015-2016</b>

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, for item #1B. MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 6-0-2, for item #2B; Mrs. Morell and Mr. Osso abstained.

**B&G COMMITTEE**

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, that the Board of Education approves item #1B&G.

<b>1B&amp;G</b>	<b>RENEWAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT FOR 2175 LEMOINE AVENUE</b>
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MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE** (Mrs. Romba, Chairperson)

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mr. Quraishi, that the Board of Education approves items #1CUR through #10CUR.

<b>1CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT A TOTAL COST TO THE DISTRICT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,675.00</b>
<b>2CUR</b>	<b>PAYMENT OF HOME INSTRUCTION SERVICES</b>
<b>3CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE EVALUATORS AND TRANSLATORS FOR 2016-2017</b>
<b>4CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CATAPULT LEARNING AGREEMENT FOR NON-PUBLIC NURSING SERVICES FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>5CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORING PLANS FOR 2016-2017</b>
<b>6CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF INTERACTIVE MUSIC K-6 CURRICULUM</b>
<b>7CUR</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM WRITERS FOR 2016-2017</b>
<b>8CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF BCSS SUSPENSION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (SAP) FOR 2016-2017</b>
<b>9CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF BCSS HOME/HOSPITAL PROGRAM SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>10CUR</b>	<b>RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ACHIEVE NJ EQUIVALENCY WAIVER</b>

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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** (Mr. Surace, Chairperson)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Board of Education approves items #1F through #10F.

<b>1F</b>	<b>APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$5,858,298.42</b>
<b>2F</b>	<b>APPROVAL – LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR MAY 2016</b>
<b>3F</b>	<b>APPROVAL – CAFETERIA CLAIMS FOR JUNE 2016 TOTALING \$149,542.37</b>
<b>4F</b>	<b>YCS LUNCH PROGRAM FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>5F</b>	<b>RENEWAL OF SCHOOL ALLIANCE INSURANCE FUND</b>
<b>6F</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF REVISED FIRST STUDENT TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS FOR 2016-2017</b>
<b>7F</b>	<b>DISPOSAL OF VEHICLES</b>
<b>8F</b>	<b>NJSIAA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2016-2017 [\$2,150]</b>
<b>9F</b>	<b>BERGEN COUNTY DIRECTORS OF ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS' RATES FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>10F</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF OFFICIAL FEES FOR CLOCK OPERATORS</b>

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-1, for item #1F; Mrs. Morell abstained. MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, for items #2F through #10F.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** (Mrs. Morell, Chairperson)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, that the Board of Education approves items #1P through #30P.

<b>1P*</b>	<b>APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES AT A TOTAL COST TO THE DISTRICT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,395.02</b>
<b>2P</b>	<b>TERMINATION OF ELYSE COHEN AS SUBSTITUTE</b>
<b>3P</b>	<b>RESIGNATION OF TERESA HARRIS AS ENGLISH TEACHER AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL</b>
<b>4P</b>	<b>RETIREMENT OF ROSEMARIE RUGGIERO AS CLASSROOM AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 2</b>
<b>5P</b>	<b>DISABILITY RETIREMENT OF MARYANN CORDARO AS CLASSROOM AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 2</b>
<b>6P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF VASILIKI PSIHARIS AS KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 3 FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>

<b>7P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF GABRIELLE BROWN AS GUIDANCE COUNSELOR AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>8P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF KRISTINA LEALE AS SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 2 AND ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION AS AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 1 FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>9P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF TARA LAWLOR AS GUIDANCE COUNSELOR AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>10P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN WUENSCH AS DISTRICT BEHAVIORIST FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>11P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ULISES VARELA AS MAINTENANCE FACILITIES REPAIR AND ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION AS PART-TIME MAINTENANCE FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>12P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF JOHN BRENNAN AS ELEMENTARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>13P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF TENY YOUNSHAKIAN AS BIOLOGY TEACHER AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>14P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF KEJIA LU AS PART-TIME MANDARIN TEACHER AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>15P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL AIDES FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>16P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CHANGE IN ASSIGNMENT FOR MICHAEL JANSON AS AIDE FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>17P</b>	<b>TRANSFER OF STAFF MEMBERS</b>
<b>18P</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL STAFF AND REVISED RATES FOR SPEECH AND OT FOR 2016 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM</b>
<b>19P</b>	<b>MATERNITY LEAVE FOR JARITZA ROJAS AS SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 2</b>
<b>20P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF LEAVE REPLACEMENTS DURING 2016-2017</b>
<b>21P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF HOURLY RATE FOR SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS</b>
<b>22P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTES FOR 2016-2017</b>
<b>23P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF CUSTODIAL SUMMER 2016 STUDENT INTERNS</b>
<b>24P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL FALL COACHES FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>25P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF BASEBALL COACHES FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>26P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ANN MARIE CORCIONE AS A HOME INSTRUCTOR FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>27P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF JOANNE CHACK AS BRAILLE TRANSLATOR FOR 2016-2017</b>

<b>28P</b>	<b>UNUSED VACATION PAYOUT FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>29P</b>	<b>OVERNIGHT STIPENDS</b>
<b>30P</b>	<b>EXTRA COMPENSATION FOR FILMING OF BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR</b>

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, for items #1P through #11P and items #13P through #30P. MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-1, for item #12P; Mrs. Morell voted no.

**POLICY (Mrs. Colbath, Chairperson)**

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Osso, that the Board of Education approves item #1POL.

<b>1POL</b>	<b>SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF POLICY NO. 2431: ATHLETIC COMPETITION (M) (REVISED) (As Amended)</b>
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MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-1. Mrs. Morell voted no.

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, that the Board of Education approves item #2POL.

<b>2POL</b>	<b>SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF POLICY NO. 5111.6: REWARD FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ILLEGALLY REGISTERED STUDENTS" (New) (As Amended)</b>
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MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-1. Mr. Quraishi voted no.

**TECHNOLOGY (Mr. Quraishi, Chairperson)**

MOTION by Mr. Quraishi, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Board of Education approves item #1T.

<b>1T</b>	<b>DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT</b>
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MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Jeanne Perantoni and Dan Spanton, SSP Architectural Group, presented LFCMS referendum vs. current design.

- Full size middle school vs. small elementary-sized gym
- Cooking kitchen vs. warming kitchen

**Value Engineering**

- Less masonry on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors
- Because of less weight/material, less steel is required
- Gypsum wall

Mr. Sarnoff stated that the Board looks to SSP as the quarterback of the team of engineers/contractors and that there has been a drop-off in communication; when SSP learns something of concern, the Board should be notified immediately.

Mr. Osso stated that 21<sup>st</sup> century classrooms are now transparent and inquired about the number of heating zones.

Mrs. Colbath asked for the specific date the site work will be completed. SSP stated that blasting should be done by September 1<sup>st</sup> and substantial completion of site work by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Osso asked where the staging would be. Mr. Osso shared that, in September, the field is highly utilized and that the site will be a challenging worksite when school begins.

Existing alternates were originally a part of the base bid. SSP had to scale back design to the referendum amount. To keep the project moving forward and implement redesign, the site work was extracted from the total project for bid and award in time to utilize the 2016 summer.

Mr. Weinberg stated that we need to consider IT rooms and their requirement of A/C and ventilation.

SSP finished presentation at 8:54 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Due date for those candidates running for office – July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Fort Lee Night Out – August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Receipt of email from Englewood Cliffs to possibly accept high school students on a tuition basis. Send/receive is governed by County. There are currently 950 students at Fort Lee High School. Last study capacity of Fort Lee High School at 1,215 (8<sup>th</sup> grade class). All Board Members present are comfortable with Superintendent exploring receiving high school students from Englewood Cliffs.

Superintendent stated that he would like to add a section of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in School No. 4 to relieve the overcrowding (sections of 31 students). Superintendent recommends to convert media center to classroom (temporary set-up for 2 years); fire code official is on board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, to adjourn, 9:04 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



**HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR**  
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY