

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

MINUTES

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

CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Sarnoff.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Surace.

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 January 11, 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. Esther Han Silver (*arrived at 6:39 p.m.*), Mrs. Holly Morell (*arrived at 6:43 p.m.*), Mr. Michael Osso, Mr. Anthony Papavasiliou, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mr. Joseph Surace, Mr. David Sarnoff

Absent: Mrs. Paula Colbath

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, at 6:33 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 6-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Rota reported that there were no HIB investigations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Morell, Liaison for AOF, stated that the 3-on-3 basketball tournament between AOF and Chamber of Commerce was a huge success and a fun evening. It was an enjoyable event to raise scholarship funds for AOF. At the Internship luncheon, business members of the community spoke very highly of our students.

Mr. Surace shared that the Finance Committee met today to discuss Budget. Budget Presentation will be held next week.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Board members have no questions regarding the agenda.

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, at 7:44 p.m., to open the floor to the public.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Ms. April Mazzola shared that, although she has been told by the Administration that Field Trips would occur this year, teachers have shared that "it is not in their contract." Mr. Rota assured Ms. Mazzola that it is business as usual but will follow up.

Mr. Michael Sharpe asked if there is a teacher being hired at School No. 4. Mr. Rota responded affirmatively.

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to close the floor to the public, 7:50 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules (per District Policy #0167):

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.

RESOLUTIONS

BOARD

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

Public Business Meeting Minutes	February 21,2017
Private Executive Meeting Minutes	February 21,2017

- 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** of the following Board Members for the **Bergen and Passaic County School Board Association program** as outlined below:

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
Advocacy – Effectively communicating with legislators	Thursday, March 30, 2017	P. Colbath E. Han Silver H. Morell M. Osso A. Papavasiliou C. Romba D. Sarnoff	Maggiano's Little Italy The Shops at Riverside 70 Riverside Square Hackensack, NJ 07601

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

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-1, on item #1B. MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, for items #2B and #3B.

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 7*
- 2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the services of **Kaplan K12 Learning Services, LLC for PSAT and SAT Prep for eligible Title I High School students**, not to exceed a total cost of \$31,975, to be funded by the Title I grant.
- 3CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **2017-2018 District Calendar**, as per the attached. *See Appendix Page 8* **PULLED**

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Board of Education approves items #1CUR and #2CUR. Item #3CUR was **PULLED**.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, with one exception. Mr. Osso abstained on one name for #1CUR.

FINANCE

- 1F** **TABLED** **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 of January 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 (TBD)* **TABLED**

- 2F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon **TABLED** recommendation of the Superintendent, confirms the **line item transfers for the month of January 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 (TBD)* **TABLED**
- 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 **\$4,444,514.80** for March 2017 checks. *See Appendix Page 9*
- 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 **\$188,824.09** for February 2017 checks.
- 5F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the School Business Administrator to renew a **Transportation Contract with South Bergen Jointure Commission** for the 2017-2018 school year. *See Appendix Page 24*
- 6F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following **donation**:

Item	Amount/ Estimated Value	Donor	On Behalf Of
<u>Art Supplies & Storage Units consisting of:</u> 3 flat tables (36" x 80") and 1 drafting table & chair	\$3,000	Andre Thibault Leonia, NJ	Lewis F. Cole Middle School
3 flat file cabinets			Buildings & Grounds
TOTAL VALUE	\$3,000		

Item #1F and #2F were **TABLED**. MOTION by Mr. Surace, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Board of Education approves items #3F through #6F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, with one exception. Mr. Surace abstained on Dobco check on #3F.

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 Jeannie Weldin as an ESL Teacher at School No. 4**, after dedicating 26 years of service to the district, effective July 1, 2017.
- 3P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **resignation of Kaitlyn Clausman as a 1:1 Aide at School No. 2**, effective June 26, 2017.

- 4P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a **paid administrative leave for Employee #6605** from February 24, 2017 through April 24, 2017.
- 5P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a **suspension, with pay, for Employee #6122**, beginning February 28, 2017.
- 6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **appointment of Gina Freitag as an Elementary Teacher for Fort Lee Public Schools** for the 2016-2017 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 March 6, 2017.
- 7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **leaves**:

Employee First Name	Last Name	Position	Loc	Type	New or Amended	Paid Leave	Unpaid Leave with benefits	Unpaid Leave No Benefits	Return Date
Jennifer	Andrada	Kindergarten Teacher	S3	Maternity	Amended	3/8/17-5/2/17	5/3/17-10/6/17	N/A	10/10/17
Gabrielle	Bernardo	Italian Teacher	HS	Medical	New	2/19/17-3/31/17	N/A	N/A	4/3/17
Brandon	Eldridge	PT Paraprofessional	S4	Personal	Amended	N/A	N/A	1/23/17-3/3/17	3/6/17
Raul	Sanchez	Maintenance	BG	Medical	Amended	9/12/16-3/17/17	N/A	N/A	3/20/17
Soo Mee	Yoo	Spec Ed Math	HS	Maternity	Amended	1/2/17-1/13/17	1/17/17-4/21/17	N/A	4/26/17

- 8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following **Substitutes** for the 2016-2017 school year:

Elida Kadareja
Daniel Lee

- 9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following teachers as additional **after-school and/or Saturday tutors**, during the 2016-2017 school year to be paid a stipend of \$45.00 per hour, to be funded by the Title I grant:

Location	Name
Fort Lee High School	Stephen Dominguez Chloe Bass

- 10P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of additional **Spring Coaches for the 2016-2017 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
Daniel Cirone	Boys Track	Head Coach	Spring	II	2	\$8,975
Nicole Pacciani*	Boys Track	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	1	\$5,955
Charlie Salame*	Girls Track	Head Coach	Spring	II	1	\$7,829
Angela Johnson	Girls Track	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Demba Mane	Girls Track	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524
Anastasia Findanis	Softball	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	2	\$6,524

*Newly appointed

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, with one exception. Mr. Osso abstained on one name for #7P.

POLICY

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **first reading of the following policies/regulations** listed below and attached hereto: [See Appendix Page 28](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P & R 1510	Americans with Disabilities Act (M) (Revised)
P 2415.30	Title I - Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care (M) (New)
P & R 2418	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 -- Students (M) (New)
P & R 2624	Grading System (Revised)
P & R 5116	Education of Homeless Children (Revised)
R 5410	Promotion and Retention (Revised)
R 7510	Use of School Facilities (Revised)
P & R 8330	Student Records (M) (Revised)

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Han Silver recommends closing school on Election Day and swapping/opening on one of the days of Rosh Hashanah or Columbus Day.

Mrs. Romba inquired if we have considered having no voting at the elementary schools.

Mrs. Morell asked about the number of days for students.

Discussion ensued regarding calendar. Weather permitting, we will have two days to give back.

3CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **2017-2018 District Calendar**, as per the attached. [See Appendix Page 8](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Board of Education approves item #3CUR.

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

NEW BUSINESS – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, at 8:02 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 8:13 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to adjourn, 8:13 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Haquisha Q. Taylor

HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY