

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

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2016  
FLHS MEDIA CENTER  
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 given by Mr. Surace.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure 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 (*arrived at 6:46 p.m.*), Mrs. Esther Han Silver,  
Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. Michael Osso, Mrs. Candace Romba  
(*arrived at 6:35 p.m.*), Mr. Joseph Surace, Mr. Jeff Weinberg,  
Mr. David Sarnoff

**Absent:** Mr. Ammad Quraishi

**Also Present:** Mr. Kenneth Rota, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mr. H. Ronald Smith,  
Dennis McKeever, Esq.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (#1)**

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

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 7-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Rota spoke about the following:

- ◆ Governor's Educator of the Year (GEOY) Program Awards
- ◆ HIB Report
- ◆ Fire & Security Drills for January 2016
- ◆ Discussion of Proposed School Calendar 2016-2017

Mr. Rota handed out "Teacher/Educational Specialists" plaques.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Mrs. Han Silver reported that the Negotiation Committee has a meeting on Wednesday night with FLEA.

**MINUTES**

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

Private Executive Meeting Minutes	February 8, 2016
Public Business Meeting Minutes	February 8, 2016

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 7-0-1; Mr. Weinberg abstained.

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION** – No Board comments.

**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.

**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. Romba, to open the floor to the public, 7:50 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

Mr. George Porto asked about the award of the bid for the construction on the addition to School No. 2.

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, to close the floor to the public, 7:55 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 8-0.

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

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Board of Education approves item #1B.

<b>1B</b>	<b>RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING</b>
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MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (Mr. Osso, Chairperson)**

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

<b>1B&amp;G</b>	<b>SCHOOL NO. 2 ADDITION AND ALTERATIONS BID</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 Mrs. Han Silver, that the Board of Education approves items #1CUR, through #6CUR.

<b>1CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT NO COST TO THE DISTRICT</b>
<b>2CUR</b>	<b>PAYMENT OF HOME INSTRUCTION SERVICES</b>
<b>3CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF PATRICIA VITALE-REILLY CONSULTING PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT 2016 FOR FORT LEE PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS</b>
<b>4CUR</b>	<b>AMENDING RESOLUTION FOR PATRICIA VITALE-REILLY CONSULTING PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR LITERACY TRAINING FOR ELEMENTARY TEACHERS</b>

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES****FEBRUARY 22, 2016**

<b>5CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA) ACCOUNTABILITY ACTION PLAN-2015 PARTICIPATION RATE</b>
<b>6CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF KAPLAN K12 LEARNING SERVICES PROPOSAL FOR PSAT AND SAT PREP FOR ELIGIBLE TITLE I HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS</b>

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

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

MOTION by Mr. Surace, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, that the Board of Education approves items #1F through #5F.

<b>1F</b>	<b>APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$6,325,265.29</b>
<b>2F</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT AUDITOR FOR 2015-2016</b>
<b>3F</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ENGINEER FOR 2016-2017</b>
<b>4F</b>	<b>ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS</b>
<b>5F</b>	<b>AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT AN AMENDMENT OF THE IDEA GRANT FOR 2015-2016</b>

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, with exception on #1F; Messrs. Osso and Surace abstained on one name.

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

MOTION by Mr. Weinberg, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Board of Education approves items #1P through #11P.

<b>1P*</b>	<b>APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$6,095.94</b>
<b>2P*</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF 2015-2016 GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF YEAR PROGRAM RECIPIENTS (GEOY)</b>
<b>3P</b>	<b>ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT OF LINDA EIMAN AS ELEMENTARY TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 3</b>
<b>4P</b>	<b>MEDICAL LEAVE FOR JAY BERMAN AS PRINCIPAL OF SCHOOL NO. 3</b>
<b>5P</b>	<b>MATERNITY LEAVE FOR CHRISTINA MURPHY AS MATHEMATICS TEACHER AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>
<b>6P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL EIS HOMEWORK CLUB TUTORS FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>7P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL TUTORS FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>8P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL 6<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD STIPENDS FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR</b>

<b>9P* Tabled</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTION FOR MAINTENANCE FACILITIES REPAIR</b>
<b>10P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF SPRING COACHES FOR 2015-2016</b>
<b>11P</b>	<b>RESIGNATION OF EMMA DIAZ AS PHYSICAL EDUCATION AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 3</b>

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, for items #1P through #8P, with exception on #1P. Mr. Surace abstained on one name. Item #9P was tabled. MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0, for item #10P, with exception. Mr. Osso abstained on one name. MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-1, for item #11P. Mr. Sarnoff abstained.

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

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

<b>1POL</b>	<b>SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF REVISED POLICIES AND REGULATIONS</b>
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MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-1; Mr. Surace abstained.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Mr. Rota spoke with the Board regarding Band Camp Summer Training.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Mrs. Han Silver reported that School No. 3 community recently held a fundraiser for a student who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Many vendors donated their services and food as well as teachers and staff volunteering for this event.

Mr. Osso reported that he read STEAM legislation articles about bringing retired police officers to school districts to assist with security. Mr. Rota spoke about possibility of replacing security officers with retired police officers because of experience and training they bring to job.

Mr. Rota met with PTA presidents and they spoke about idea of small reward for people who inform district of unauthorized students that may be attending the Fort Lee Public Schools.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (#2)**

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, at 8:35 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

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

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 8:44 p.m.

**PERSONNEL – Walk-In**

MOTION by Mr. Surace, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Board of Education approves items #12P.

<b>12P Walk In</b>	<b>RESIGNATION OF H. RONALD SMITH AS INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY</b>
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MOTION carried unanimously, with regret, upon roll call vote, 8-0. The Board wished Mr. Smith well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, to adjourn, 8:45 p.m.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



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H. RONALD SMITH  
INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HRS/haa  
02-24-16