

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

MINUTES

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2015
FLHS AUDITORIUM
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Mr. David Sarnoff.

FLAG SALUTE

The Flag Salute was given by Mr. Weinberg.

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 by having the date, time, and place thereof 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.

During the course of the board meeting, the Fort Lee Board of Education offers members of the public an opportunity to address issues regarding the operation of the Fort Lee Public Schools. The Board reminds those individuals who take this opportunity to identify themselves by name and address and to limit their comments to items listed on the agenda and/or items directly related to the operation of the School District. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate. The Board asks all members of the public to be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged and will not be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey. The Board bears no responsibility nor will it be liable for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comment in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments and be aware that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. Michael Osso, Mr. Ammad Quraishi, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Joseph Surace, Mr. Jeff Weinberg, Mr. David Sarnoff

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

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Rota spoke about the HIB Report and the Board of Education Vacancy Candidate interviews.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, to go into Public Work Session.

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

The three candidates for the Board vacancy, Mrs. Colbath, Mr. Rubino and Mr. Pasternak, were asked to make a statement and were asked questions by individual Board members. At the end of the questioning, the candidates were offered an opportunity to make a closing statement. Mrs. Colbath and Mr. Pasternak made statements. Mr. Rubino declined.

The meeting was then opened to the public for questions on the agenda.

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to open the floor to the public, 6:58 p.m.

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

The following people spoke in favor of Mrs. Colbath's candidacy: Mr. George Porto, Mr. Robert Davis, Ms. Diane Sicheri, Mrs. Aida Garcia and Mrs. Julie Liapes.

MOTION by Mr. Weinberg, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to close the floor to the public, 7:07 p.m.

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

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, to close Public Work Session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, 7:07 p.m. to move into Executive Session as per item #1B.

1B	APPROVE PRIVATE EXECUTIVE SESSION
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MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, at 8:10 p.m., to reconvene into public meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Morell, Chairperson of Negotiations Committee, reported that the committee met on the FLEA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and were making some adjustments in the language. Committee hopes to finalize soon.

No other committee reports.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, that the Board of Education approves the following minutes:

Private Executive Meeting Minutes
Public Business Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2015
September 28, 2015

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

BOARD SECRETARY REPORT AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2015

MOTION by Mr. Surace, seconded by Mrs. Morell, 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 August 30, 2015, 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.

That the Board of Education accepts the financial reports of the Treasurer of School Monies for August, 2015.

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

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION – AUGUST 2015

MOTION BY Mr. Surace, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Board of Education approves the Monthly Budget Status Certification for August, 2015.

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

ALL RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

BOARD COMMITTEE

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

2B	RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING
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MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE (Mrs. Romba, Chairperson)

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mr. Surace, that the Board of Education approves items #1B&G through #3B&G.

1B&G	APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDERS
2B&G	REJECT BID FOR WINDOW REPLACEMENT AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL
3B&G	SUBMISSION OF FINAL EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY REVIEW TO NJDOE FOR SCHOOL NO. 2 ADDITION/ALTERATION PROJECT

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 #3CUR.

1CUR	APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT A COST TO THE DISTRICT NOT TO EXCEED \$810.00
2CUR	APPROVAL OF DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 2015-2016
3CUR	APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT GRADUATION RATE FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-1, for item #1CUR; Mr. Surace abstained on one name (Nancy Sanders). For items #2CUR and #3CUR, MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Mr. Surace, Chairperson)

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

1F	APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$2,500,423.19
2F	ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS
3F	APPROVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS 2016 DINNER CONTRACT

For item #1F, MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-1; Mr. Surace abstained on one name (Pennetta Industrial). For items #2F and #3F, MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

HEALTH – WELFARE AND SAFETY

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

1HWS*	PAYMENT OF HOME INSTRUCTION SERVICES
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MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (Mrs. Morell, Chairperson)

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Board of Education approves items #1P through #7P.

1P*	APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$913.86
2P	RESIGNATION OF MARK NERSESIAN AND APPOINTMENT OF JEFFREY RODRIQUEZ AS ASSISTANT FOOTBALL COACH FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR
3P*	ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CLUBS
4P*	ADDITIONAL CO-CURRICULAR PERSONNEL FOR 2015-2016
5P	RESCINDING OF 6TH PERIOD STIPEND FOR BRANDON BARRON FOR 2015-2016
6P*	UNUSED VACATION DAY PAYOUT FOR RETIREE MARY PALL
7P*	HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT ADJUSTMENT FOR KATHERINE BUSCH-MCARDLE

For item #1P, MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 7-0-1; Mr. Osso abstained on one name (Elsa Osso).
For items #2P through #7P, MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sarnoff spoke about agenda item #3B – Appointment of Board Member to fill vacancy. Mr. Sarnoff called for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Mrs. Morell nominated Mrs. Paula Colbath. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Surace. Mr. Sarnoff asked if there were any other nominations.

Mr. Weinberg nominated Mr. Michael Rubino. Mr. Osso seconded the nomination. Mr. Sarnoff asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, the nominations were closed.

The voting on the nomination of Mrs. Colbath took place as follows: 5-2-1.

Yes – Mrs. Han Silver, Mrs. Morell, Mr. Quraishi, Mrs. Romba, Mr. Surace

No – Mr. Osso, Mr. Weinberg

Abstain – Mr. Sarnoff

Mr. Sarnoff announced the decision and asked Mrs. Colbath to come forward to be sworn in. Mrs. Colbath was administered the Oath of Office by Mr. Smith, Board Secretary.

Resolution #3B was then read by Mr. Sarnoff.

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

3B Walk In	APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER TO FILL VACANCY [PAULA COLBATH]
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MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 8-0.

Mrs. Colbath took her seat at the Board table after being congratulated by Board Members.

Mr. Rota announced that he had a request for a Security Committee Meeting by Mr. Weinberg. Finance and Building & Grounds Committees should also meet. Mr. Rota suggested next week.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to adjourn, 8:27 p.m.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



H. RONALD SMITH
INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HRS/haa
10-13-15