

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

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2018  
FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
6:45 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mrs. Romba.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Sarnoff.

**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 10, 2018 and posted in the entrance hall of the Board Office, 2175 Lemoine Avenue; published in the Board's designated online media outlet/newspaper: The Record; 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:** Ms. Elisa Cho, Mrs. Paula Colbath, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mrs. Luran Tuck, Mrs. Candace Romba

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #1**

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mrs. Morell, at 6:48 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:32 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Rota reported that there were fourteen (14) investigations; eight (8) were founded.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance Committee – Mr. DiMeglio shared that the committee had their second budget meeting prior to today's public meeting.

Negotiations Committee – Mrs. Han Silver shared that the memorandum of agreement between the Board of Education and the Fort Lee Education Association is on today's agenda for approval. The two negotiation teams met last Monday until 2am but came to an agreement. Further, she confirmed that earlier this afternoon, the Association ratified the memorandum of agreement.

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Mrs. Colbath inquired about the 2018-2019 proposed general education preschool program changes including number of students that will be participating, if all lotteried students will pay, and how the increased \$900 tuition rate was determined.

Mr. Rota referenced the 2/16/18 weekly board update report detailing the proposed program expansion from 9 students to 12 students, change from part-day to full-day program, and the Director of Special Services surrounding program tuition comparability survey.

Mrs. Colbath asks the benefit of Friday (2/15/19) in one week and Monday (2/18/19) in the following week as vacation days for the 2018-2019 District Calendar. Mrs. Colbath recommends vacation days of Monday (2/18/19) and Tuesday (2/19/19) for the 2018-2019 District Calendar.

Mr. Sarnoff congratulated the negotiations committee and administrators. Mrs. Colbath also thanked the negotiations committee and administrators and thanked Mrs. Han Silver for influencing negotiations to continue late Monday evening when talks were beginning to break down.

Mr. Rubino shares that school security will be reviewed and a report on any changes will be shared.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN**

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mr. DiMeglio, at 7:42 p.m., to open the floor to the public.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Mr. George Porto, Fort Lee resident, is interested to learn about how school security might be improved.

Ms. Amy Ko-tang, School No. 3 parent, shares that a group of School 3 parents concerned with facility issues as well as overcrowding have broadened their scope. She further shared that they have met with the Mayor with the goal being a collaborative approach in light of school budget constraints. Ms. Ko-tang congratulated the Board on getting the contract settled.

Ms. Genevieve Callahan, employee, thanks the Board for settling the teacher's contract. Ms. Callahan shared that the feeling in the hallways is so much better and, again, thanked the Board for settling the contract.

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mrs. Morell, at 7:50 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   | February 20, 2018 |
| Private Executive Meeting Minutes | February 20, 2018 |

- 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 the NJSBA Board Member Delegate for the New Jersey School Boards Association Semi-Annual Delegate Assembly**.

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>GSA RATE MILEAGE AND TOLLS MAX \$65</u>
NJSBA's Semi- Annual Delegate Assembly	05-19-2018	Holly Morell	The Conference Center at Mercer (Mercer County Community College Campus) 1200 Old Trenton Road West Windsor, NJ 08550	\$65

- 4B THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Negotiations Committee, approves the **Memorandum of Agreement between the Fort Lee Board of Education and the Fort Lee Education Association** for a Successor Contract to the Current Contract Between the Board and the Association for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019, subject to prior ratification by the Fort Lee Education Association.

5B

**RESOLUTION**

**Gun Control and Mental Health Services to Protect Our Youth**

- WHEREAS,** A prerequisite to student growth, learning, well-being and success is a safe and secure school environment; and
- WHEREAS,** Children throughout the nation have been negatively affected directly and indirectly by violent crimes involving firearms; and
- WHEREAS,** Military-style assault weapons and large-volume ammunition magazines were used in recent mass killings in schools and other locations; and
- WHEREAS,** Profiles of school shooters illustrate the need for a thorough examination of the care and treatment of the mentally ill and for effective intervention;
- WHEREAS,** The New Jersey School Boards Association's 2014 study, *What Makes Schools Safe?*, cited reports by state and federal agencies, which found that mental health intervention did not take place prior to three-quarters of school shootings; and
- WHEREAS,** New Jersey has among the strongest gun control laws in the nation and the lowest incidence of gun-related deaths, but protective laws are not in place in many other states or at the federal level; and
- WHEREAS,** The tragedies of Parkland, Florida, of Newtown, Connecticut, of Columbine High School in Colorado, emphasize the need to address access to firearms and the delivery of mental health services. Now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Fort Lee Board of Education, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, urges President Trump and Congress to identify and implement meaningful action to address access to and ownership of military-style assault weapons and ammunition, the delivery of mental health services, and financial support to ensure a safe and secure school climate; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Fort Lee Board of Education supports Governor Murphy's call to end the "epidemic of gun violence that plagues far too many of our communities" and supports enhancements to state law that will provide protection for our schools and communities; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That a copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald J. Trump, U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, U.S. Senator Cory A. Booker, U.S. Representative Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., Governor Philip D. Murphy, State Senator Loretta L. Weinberg, Assembly Representative Valerie Vainieri Huttie, Assembly Representative Gordon M. Johnson, the New Jersey School Boards Association, and the National School Boards Association.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1B through #4B. MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0, for items #1B, #2B and #4B. MOTION carried upon roll call vote, 8-0-1, for item #3B. Mrs. Morell abstained.

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #5B.

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 7](#)

**2CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **2018-2019 District Calendar**, as per the attached. [See Appendix Page 8](#)

**3CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **program for Summer 2018**:

- **Summer 2018 Math Advancement Program** for students from Thursday, July 5, 2018 through Friday, August 10, 2018 to be held at Lewis F. Cole Middle School.

**4CUR THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **program for Summer 2018**:

- **Extended School Year (ESY) 2018 Program for Special Education** students from Monday, July 9, 2018 through Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at School No. 2 for elementary students and Lewis F. Cole Middle School for secondary students, to be funded by the general education fund.

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mr. Sarnoff, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1CUR, #3CUR and #4CUR.

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

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #2CUR as amended. February 15, 2019 will be eliminated and Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> will be added.

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

Mrs. Han Silver stated that next year, when we change school “closed” days, Mr. Rota will review attendance.

**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 \$5,040,124.50 for March 2018 checks. [See Appendix Page 9](#)
- 2F **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 \$124,028.74 for March 2018 checks. [See Appendix Page 26](#)
- 3F **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 2018-2019 school year. [See Appendix Page 28](#)
- 4F **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Board Secretary to **advertise the General Education Preschool Lottery Program** in all designated newspapers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves the **tuition rates for the General Education Preschool Program for the 2018-2019 school year** as follows:

- **\$900.00 per month per student for full-day program**

MOTION by Mr. DiMeglio, seconded by Mr. Sarnoff, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #4F.

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

**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 31](#)
- 2P **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 Changes for the 2017-2018 School Year							
	<u>Transfer From</u>		<u>To</u>				
Name	From Location	From Position	To Location	To Position	Salary Change Prorated Pending Negotiations	Effective Date	Reason
Joann Galasso	School 3	1:1 Aide Grade 6	School 2	1:1 Aide Grade 6 LLD	N/A	3-5-18	Moving with student

- 3P 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
Stefanie	Ciavarella	Special Ed ASD Teacher	S2	Maternity	Amended	4/9/18-4/25/18	4/26/18-5/31/18	6/1/18-8/31/18	9/1/18
Anthony	Galatioto	Technology Teacher	HS	Medical	Amended	1/16/18-4/30/18	N/A	N/A	5/1/18
Alla	Brutter	Speech & Language Specialist	S1	Medical	Amended	10/2/17-1/18/18	1/19/18-4/30/18	N/A	5/1/18
-	#4925	-	-	Admin	Amended	12/22/17-2/22/18	N/A	N/A	2/23/18

- 4P 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 REPLACEMENT						
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	GRADE/ SUBJECT	SCHOOL	Salary	Effective Dates	Reason for opening
Chae	Ri Han	Special Education Inclusion	MS	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: 3/8/18 to 6/30/18	Admin Leave for #4793
Amanda	Apice	Grade 2-4 ASD	S2	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: 4/5/18 to 6/30/18	Maternity Leave for Stefanie Ciavarella
Mervet	Said	Grade K	S2	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: 4/5/18 to 6/30/18	Maternity Leave for Kristine Rodriguez
Caryn	Gilbert	Language Arts Grades 7-8	MS	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: 4/5/18 to 6/30/18	Maternity Leave for Katherine Busch-McArdle

- 5P 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 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
Jonathan Hroncic	Softball	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	1	\$5,955
Dana Amato	Softball	Assistant Coach	Spring	II	1	\$5,955

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mr. Sarnoff, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #5P.

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

### **POLICY**

- 1POL THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **first reading of the following policy/regulation updates** listed below: [Click here for 2018-03-05 #1POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P & R 5530	Substance Abuse (Revised)

MOTION by Mrs. Colbath, seconded by Ms. Cho, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1POL.

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

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The walk-in resolution provided by NJSBA regarding Gun Control was added to tonight's agenda. President Romba read the resolution into the hearing of the public.

Mr. Rota asks the Board to share with him potential dates for the board retreat as well as their respective views on soliciting advertising on school property for revenues.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION #2**

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mrs. Morell, at 8:00 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 8:59 p.m.



**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Sarnoff, seconded by Mrs. Tuck, to adjourn, 8:59 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Haquisha Q. Taylor*

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SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/haa  
03-15-2018