

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

MINUTES – SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Library, School No. 1 – 250 Hoym St.

1. The Public Work Session was called to order at 6:43 PM by Mr. Arthur Levine, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Yusang Park led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Public Announcement by the President of the Fort Lee Board of Education:
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, 255 Whiteman Street; published in the Board's designated newspapers: The Record, The Star Ledger, The Bergen News and The Suburbanite; filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Fort Lee; and mailed to all persons, if any, who have requested said notice.
4. **ROLL CALL**
PRESENT: Mr. John Bang, Mr. Carmelo Luppino (7:07), Jr., Mrs. Linda McCue, Mrs. Angela Napolitano (6:53), Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon (6:53) and Mr. Arthur W. Levine

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Raymond J. Bandlow, Mr. Steven Engravalle, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto,

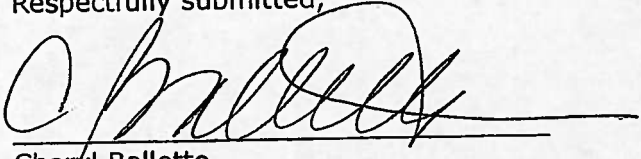
ABSENT: Mr. Peter Suh
5. **SPECIAL PUBLIC WORK SESSION – GOALS LIST**
Mrs. Susan McCusker from the New Jersey School Boards worked with the board members and administration to develop goals for the 2011-2012 school year. The report will be attached upon receipt.
6. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA**
 - ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that it is worthwhile to comment on the board goal process.
 - ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that there is a lot of conflicting analysis. There is no trust. One or two goals are optimal. Teachers are not unified with the reading curriculum.
 - ◆ Ms. Diane Sicheri stated that communication with the community is needed. Parents are disappointed.
 - ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked what is the next step.
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that we will follow up with timelines. This will be developed with the Board.
 - ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if it will be available to the public and does the board vote on it.
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that the Strategic Plan includes goals.
 - ◆ Mrs. Tracey Mattei stated that her suggestion is to decide on committees to educate parents about the school process.
 - ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated that it is obvious that certain items are not discussed in public and there are walk-ins that are not emergencies.

- ◆ Ms. Paige Soltano stated that parent involvement is a way to be seen on a regular basis.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that this is a very busy time of year. Attendance falls lower at the Middle School and High School. At the grade school level there are more parents.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that he stays involved.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that last Friday there was a low turnout.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that community involvement is needed. Public input is not valued. Forums should be created because they have important things to say.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that we hear comments every day.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that we can give feedback every day of the year.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that we get feedback every day and certain things can't be discussed.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that there is still accountability through the administration.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that the board should think about ways to be involved on evaluations.
- ◆ Ms. Paige Soltano stated that they should be more involved in the survey.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that we see the same faces every week. We never meet in the middle.
- ◆ Mrs. Linda McCue stated that the board is seen as the enemy.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that we have to look at situations for 3,000 students and make decisions for all schools.
- ◆ A parent said that you can get far if you get nicer.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that she is frustrated and tired.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico stated that the board should learn how to communicate. The Public Relations Committee had monthly PTA meetings.
- ◆ Ms. Stephanie Stern stated that she is new to the Board of Education system and hopefully represents the parents. If you want to be heard parents should come to the meetings. We want to keep Ms. Cecere because she is professional and has seen her at every event. We have 120 signatures on the online petition.

7. **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY TOPIC OF CONCERN-NONE**

8. At approximately 9:05pm Mrs. Linda McCue, offered, Mr. Joseph Surace, seconded by, to adjourn the Special Public Business meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Balletto
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

CB/mp
Att.
6/23/11

**FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISTRICT AND BOARD GOALS**

2011-2012

DISTRICT GOALS:

- 1. Continue to work on closing the gap between student achievement for special education and regular education students district-wide.**
- 2. Review and revise K-12 language arts and K-8 mathematics curricula.**
- 3. Continue to address and resolve overcrowding, update facilities and repair aging infrastructure.**
- 4. Increase and actively encourage parental involvement.**

BOARD GOALS:

- 1. Improve communication and working relationships between Board members, focusing on confidentiality and trust.**
- 2. Set up a process for monitoring progress towards district goals.**