

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

**MINUTES – SPECIAL PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Monday, March 4, 2013

Fort Lee High School Auditorium,  
3000 Lemoine Ave. Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

1. The Special Public Work Session was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.

2. Mr. Joseph Surace led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. **PUBLIC 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: Fort Lee Patch.com, 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.

4. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Candace Romba,  
Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace (left 8:21 pm),  
Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Yusang Park

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Sharon Amato, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto and Mr. Dennis McKeever, Esq.

ABSENT: Mr. Steven Engravalle and Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr.

5. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION: PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL PUBLIC WORK SESSION -**

- ♦ **TO ADJOURN IMMEDIATELY INTO PRIVATE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS**

6. At approximately 7:05 PM, Mr. David Sarnoff, offered, Mr. Peter Suh seconded by, to adjourn the Public Work Session and go into the Private Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
7. At approximately 8:05 PM the board of education readjoined into the Special Public Work Session

The board attorney read three resolutions that the board would be considering that night.

8. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN**

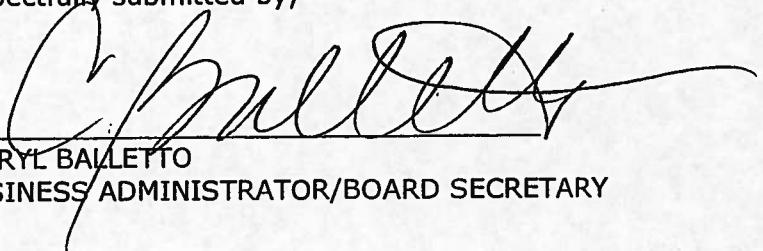
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated the resolutions are to approve an agreement, accept a resignation and to appoint Dr. Amato as acting superintendent? Can you tell the financial impact?
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever said yes, Mr. Engravalle will be paid \$66,000 and we cannot divulge the strategy but through mutual compromise. We have a waiver and release for any claims under confidentiality and non-desperate clauses.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if the \$66,000 includes expenses? Can we get a copy?
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever stated you can OPRA it tomorrow. Prior to approval is not a public document.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked how long is Dr. Sharon Amato's appointment.
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever stated that there no concrete plans and the board is pleased with the Dr. Sharon Amato.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if the Board plans to do a new search. They should look at the list of interims and tell us next steps.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated give us a chance to catch our breath.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that this has been a situation since July 30, 2012.
- ◆ Mr. Sean Armone asked if the board can discuss the reason for the resignation.
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever stated that the reason is the relationship has been broken.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked if the severance agreement have to go to the commissioner for approval.
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever stated that he talked to the county office at this time. They don't have to sign off but will give a copy as a courtesy.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked if Dr. Sharon Amato will have terms and conditions and will there be any differential of compensation. A resolution will normally state that.
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever stated that it is under negotiations.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked if the budget question is based upon the new state numbers and are we planning to redo them.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated yes. The new state aid figures were received on February 28<sup>th</sup> and the additional monies will be included during the public budget hearing on March 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be one of the edit checks from the county office.
- ◆ Mrs. Esther Han Silver stated that this is not an easy situation. There needs to be a lot of discussion and consideration. We have to decide what would be best for the students.
- ◆ Mrs. Candace Romba stated that she is looking forward to doing something and is thankful for Dr. Sharon Amato.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff thanked the board members in the discussion and Mr. Park's leadership on this. He has dealt with challenges and this was not easy. Look at the oath I took to make the decisions for welfare and the students. He hopes to talk about WIFI.
- ◆ Ms. Helen Yoon agreed with all that was said. It is a difficult process. She opposed the appointment of Mr. Engravalle. It is a difficult decision.
- ◆ Mr. Peter Suh agreed and for the best interest of the district and no one came out happy. We are in good hands with Dr. Amato. The board worked hard.
- ◆ Mrs. Holly Morell found this to be difficult and also wanted the best interest at heart. She wants the healing to start.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park read a statement.

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9. At approximately 8:32 PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, Ms. Helen Yoon, seconded by, to adjourn the Special Public Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Roll calls and resolutions of this meeting are attached.

Respectfully submitted by,



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CHERYL BALLETO  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

CB/mp  
Att.  
3-5-13