

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

**MINUTES – PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Monday, June 9, 2014

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

1. The Public Work Session was called to order at 8:06 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.

2. Mr. Peter Suh 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: 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:** Mr. Yusang Park, Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace, Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Paul Saxton, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mrs. Ana M. Flores, Mr. Dennis McKeever, Esq., Mr. Michael Morell and Mr. Michael Zhadanovsky

**ABSENT:** None

**5. REPORT OF THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton acknowledged the staff and presented them with certificates for the development of the Program of Studies Guide for the 2014-2015 school year for the Fort Lee High School.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton presented George Porto with a certificate in appreciation for all his hard work in organizing the 2014 Memorial Day Parade and making it a success.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park also gave Mr. Porto special thanks for donating television sets to the veteran's hall with the monies left over from the parade. He also thanked Mr. Saxton and Mr. David Sarnoff for their participation in organizing the parade.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Reported by Chairperson of respective committee**

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Board Report (by President) | 7. Policy                                    |
| 2. Negotiations                | 8. Finance                                   |
| 3. School Security             | 9. Technology – District Technology Purchase |
| 4. Buildings & Grounds         | 10. Contracts and Legal                      |
| 5. Personnel                   | 11. Athletics and Community Involvement      |
| 6. Curriculum                  |  |

- ◆ Personnel Committee Report – Mrs. Holly Morell stated that the Sick Day Bank is being reviewed.
- ◆ Mrs. Candace Romba, Mrs. Holly Morell and Mr. David Sarnoff attended the New Jersey School Boards Bergen County Meeting on May 6, 2014 where the elimination of the superintendent caps was discussed. They also discussed how Board members should be aware of social media and the impact it may have to the community.
- ◆ Student Board members Mr. Michael Morell and Mr. Michael Zhadanovsky reported on the final exams and next year's office elections.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on May 19, 2014.

**8. PUBLIC WORK SESSION-None**

At approximately 8:28 PM, Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba, to open the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern thanked the Board for passing the resolution opposing to fund the Charter Schools. She also thanked the board for amending the School Calendar to close on Election Day for the safety of the children. She also thanked the Board for proposing the resolution to eliminate the Superintendent's cap. This resolution needs to be supported by phone calls to our representative. She reminded the Board to attend the AOF ceremony on Tuesday, June 17, 2014.
- ◆ Mrs. Bruna Capalbo had questions regarding Charter Schools, the Dual Use of educational space, the Capital Reserve funds being returned and School Grants.
- ◆ Evelyn from the School #2 PTA President questioned whether the Fort Lee Engineering Department was handling all of the safety issues regarding School 2.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton will give a year end update.
- ◆ Ms. Serena Park requested that the soil testing results be made available and asked if Kindergarten students were being relocated to the Temporary Classroom Units?

- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton expressed that the original intent was to only have preschoolers in the Temporary Classroom Units.
- ◆ Ms. Leslie Weinstein asked about the usage of bathroom and dual use space. She requested that parents be informed during the summer of any updates involving the Temporary Classroom Units and of traffic safety plans. She has concerns about First Student.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl asked for the target date for the completion of the Middle School renovations.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton will give a year end update at the next meeting.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl asked about negotiations and stressed that morale is low. He is very concerned about the future. What are the plans for replacement of administration?
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton will work with the board during July to set up a timeframe.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl wants an answer regarding scoreboards.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Umrichin is concerned with traffic around the Middle School. Maybe a "No U Turn" sign is required or access roads should remain open.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico thanked Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Candace Romba and Mr. David Sarnoff for attending the meeting.

At approximately 8:46 PM, Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Ms. Helen Yoon, to close Public Comment. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

10. **ALL RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<b>Board Committee</b>					
<b>#1B</b>	<b>APPROVE PRIVATE WORK SESSION</b>				
<b>#2B</b>	<b>RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ELIMINATING SUPERINTENDENTS' CAPS</b>				
<b>#3B</b>	<b>APPROVAL TO SEND LETTER TO LEGISLATORS REGARDING NON-SUPPORT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS</b>				
<b>#4B</b>	<b>RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE MR. GEORGE PORTO FOR DEVELOPING, COORDINATING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2014 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE</b>				
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To Approve #1B - #4B</td> <td>On roll call, Motion carried unanimously.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba	To Approve #1B - #4B	On roll call, Motion carried unanimously.
Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba				
To Approve #1B - #4B	On roll call, Motion carried unanimously.				

<b>Buildings and Grounds</b>	
<b>#1B&amp;G</b>	<b>APPLICATION FOR ALTERNATE BATHROOM FACILITIES FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>#2B&amp;G</b>	<b>APPLICATION FOR DUAL USE OF EDUCATIONAL SPACE AND SUBSTANDARD INSTRUCTIONAL SPACE FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR</b>
<b>#3B&amp;G</b>	<b>THE FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY SELECTING AN ENERGY SERVICES COMPANY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ENERGY SAVINGS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT</b>
<b>#4B&amp;G</b>	<b>AWARD BID FOR TEMPORARY CLASSROOM UNITS</b>

<b>#5B&amp;G</b>	<b>LEASE FINANCING FOR TEMPORARY CLASSROOM UNITS</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1B&G - #5B&G	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously.

<b><u>Curriculum Committee</u></b>		
<b>#1CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS TOTALING \$3,050.</b>	
<b>#2CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF BILINGUAL/ESL THREE-YEAR PROGRAM PLAN WAIVER FOR THE 2014-2017 SCHOOL YEARS</b>	
<b>#3CUR</b>	<b>MODIFICATION OF SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2014-2015 TO CLOSE ON ELECTION DAY</b>	
<b>#4CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF PROGRAM OF STUDIES FOR FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
<b>#5CUR</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR BOARD MEMBER MR. JEFFREY WEINBERG AT A COST OF \$249</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1CUR - #5CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg abstained from his own name.

<b><u>Finance</u></b>		
<b>#1F</b>	<b>APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$5,702,048.41</b>	
<b>#2F</b>	<b>RETURN OF CAPITAL RESERVE EXCESS FUNDS</b>	
<b>#3F</b>	<b>CUSTODIAL SERVICES</b>	
<b>#4F</b>	<b>PARENT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT FOR 2013-2014</b>	
<b>#5F</b>	<b>RENEWAL OF MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN A COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM, THE MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION FOR 2014-2015</b>	
<b>#6F</b>	<b>SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION FOR PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE NJDOT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS GRANT</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #6F	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried unanimously.

<b><u>Health-Welfare and Safety</u></b>		
<b>#1HWS</b>	<b>PAYMENT OF HOME AND BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION</b>	

#2HWS	<b>APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL OUTSIDE PLACEMENTS FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
#3HWS	<b>APPROVAL OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT AND NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL SERVICES WITH REGION V COUNCIL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR 2014-2015</b>	
#4HWS	<b>OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS FOR 2014 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY) PROGRAM</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1HWS - #4HWS	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously.

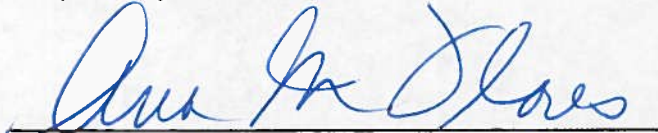
<b>Personnel</b>		
#1P	<b>APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$54.64</b>	
#2P	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING EFFORT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES GUIDE FOR 2014-2015</b>	
#3P	<b>ACCEPTANCE OF DEFERRED RETIREMENT OF CATHERINE PATILIS AS PART-TIME CLERK TYPIST AT SCHOOL NO. 4</b>	
#4P	<b>APPROVAL OF ANNE REGINA AS PART-TIME CLERK TYPIST AT SCHOOL NO. 4</b>	
#5P	<b>APPOINTMENT OF DEBRA BRIGIDA AS PROJECT JUMP START COORDINATOR FOR SUMMER 2014</b>	
#6P	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL CO-CURRICULAR PERSONNEL FOR 2013-2014</b>	
#7P	<b>APPOINTMENT OF MICHELLE DESIERVO AS ELEMENTARY TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 3 AND RESIGNATION AS 3/5<sup>TH</sup> BSI TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 3</b>	
#8P	<b>APPOINTMENT OF KAREN LALLO AS LEAVE REPLACEMENT FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR [at School #3 for Joanne Bakas]</b>	
#9P	<b>ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTES FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #9P	Seconded by Ms. Helen Yoon On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name on Resolutions #8P.

11. **OLD BUSINESS** – None

12. **NEW BUSINESS** – None

13. At approximately 9:20 PM, Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Ms. Helen Yoon, to adjourn the Public Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



---

MRS. ANA M. FLORES  
ASSISTANT BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

DLR/mp  
Att. 6-23-14