

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

MINUTES – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, September 22, 2014

School #1, All Purpose Room,
250 Hoym Street, Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

1. The Public Work Session was called to order at 8:03 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Jeff Weinberg 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: Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace, Mr. Jeff Weinberg (left 8:50PM) and Mr. Yusang Park

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Paul Saxton, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mr. David L. Rinderknecht and Mr. Dennis McKeever, Esq.

ABSENT: Ms. Helen Yoon

5. REPORT OF THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton stated that there is a vacancy on the Board due to the resignation of Peter Suh. He introduced Dennis McKeever who explained that the Board has 65 days to make an appointment for the unexpired term. If the Board fails to appoint, the County Executive Superintendent will make the appointment. The Board decided to seek the County Executive Superintendent's direction as to how to proceed at this time.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton introduced Peter Emr who presented results of the Self-Assessment for Determining Grades Under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.
- ◆ At 8:20PM, the meeting was recessed for five minutes.
- ◆ The meeting resumed at 8:25pm.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton presented a progress report on construction projects including Temporary Classrooms at School #2 as well as fence, driveway and playground equipment.
- ◆ School Security Drills for the months of July and August 2014 were reported.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Reported by Chairperson of respective committee

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| 1. Board Report (by President) | 8. Finance |
| 2. Negotiations | 9. Technology – District Technology Purchase |
| 3. School Security | 10. Contracts and Legal |
| 4. Buildings & Grounds | 11. Athletics and Community Involvement |
| 5. Personnel | 12. Sick Day Bank |
| 6. Curriculum | 13. Superintendent Search |
| 7. Policy | |

- ◆ Mrs. Esther Han Silver referenced the second reading of policies on the agenda for action tonight. She noted that policy 0143 is being withheld from the second reading. She spoke about revised wording being proposed and noted that the Policy Committee will get Board consensus.
- ◆ Mrs. Candace Romba said the Curriculum Committee had a meeting earlier tonight. She also reported that the Boy's Soccer Team beat Cliffside Park for the first time in eight years.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff reported that he, Mrs. Morell and Mrs. Han Silver attended a Bergen County School Boards meeting. The meeting covered various topics and the attendees supported rescinding salary cap on superintendent's salaries.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace announced that the Junior Bridgemen open the football season this Friday against Cliffside Park.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on August 18, 2014 and Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on August 25, 2014 and the Private Executive Session and the Public Business Meeting on September 8, 2014.

	<p>Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on August 18, 2014 and Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on August 25, 2014 and the Private Executive Session and the Public Business Meeting on September 8, 2014.</p>	<p>Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.</p>
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8. BOARD SECRETARY REPORT AND TREASURER’S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2014

- ◆ For the month of August 2014.

	<p>Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Report for the month of August 2014.</p>	<p>Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.</p>
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9. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION – AUGUST 2014

- ◆ For the month of August 2014.

	<p>Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace Monthly Budget Status Certification for the month of August 2014.</p>	<p>Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.</p>
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10. PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba, to open the meeting for Public Work Session portion of the meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park thanked Mr. Peter Suh for his services as a Fort Lee Board of Education member. He said that Mrs. Han Silver will replace Peter Suh as chair of the Policy Committee. He asked that anyone interested in being a member of the committee should let him know.
- ◆ It was announced that teacher Nancy Armstrong is leaving after forty years of service. Mr. Park thanked her for her services to children and her dedication to teaching.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff said that he agreed with the Policy Committee suggestions on Policy 0143. The Board should have the ability to discuss Board appointment in Private Session and vote in public.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton referenced the traffic problem at all schools except the High School. He reported that Scott Bendul has been attentive to the problems and is coordinating a response with the police. Warnings will be given to drivers not driving legally and then he will issue tickets. Traffic patterns at the Middle School were discussed.

At 8:47PM, Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba, to open the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

- ◆ Comments were made about when a replacement would be hired to take Nancy Armstrong's place and how hard it will be to replace her.

At 8:50PM Mr. Jeff Weinberg left the meeting.

- ◆ There was a discussion about Rice notices and what the Board can say in public about staff members versus community members. Mr. Dennis McKeever stated that the public can make any statement they want but the Board cannot respond. The person speaking is responsible for what they say. It was suggested that the Superintendent or Dr. Sharon Amato should be in charge of evaluating the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor.
- ◆ A discussion also took place regarding Board goals. It was suggested that hiring a Superintendent should be goal #1 and that goal #3 is an administrative goal.
- ◆ There were questions regarding the planned referendum. It was noted that the board will be voting on the revised plan and that it is still possible to meet the deadline for a December referendum. Moving of the baseball field at the Middle School was also discussed.
- ◆ The issue of whether new teachers should teach a 6th period was questioned.
- ◆ Other topics discussed included the need for signs to control traffic at School #2 and the need for sidewalks in the surrounding area.
- ◆ An inquiry was made regarding the status of the Superintendent's Search to which Mr. Saxton replied that a meeting is scheduled in early October.
- ◆ It was also reported that FLEA negotiations is ongoing and has gone through mediation and is now fact-finding.
- ◆ A member of Local 41 union workers explained union advantages and noted that they try to work with the community.
- ◆ Mr. Peter Suh said that it was an honor and privilege to serve on the Board of Education and he thanked everyone for their hard work.

At 9:35PM, Mrs. Candace Romba, offered, seconded by Mr. David Sarnoff, to close the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

<u>Board Committee</u>			
#1B	APPROVE PRIVATE WORK SESSION		
#2B	ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF PETER SUH AS BOARD MEMBER		
#3B	APPROVAL OF BOARD GOALS FOR 2014-2015		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1B - #3B</td> <td>Seconded by Mr. David Sarnoff On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1B - #3B	Seconded by Mr. David Sarnoff On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.
Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1B - #3B	Seconded by Mr. David Sarnoff On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.		

Buildings and Grounds			
#1B&G	AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR VEHICLE AND BUS REPAIR SERVICES AND SECURITY SERVICES FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS		
#2B&G	APPROVAL OF SECURITY PERSONNEL SERVICES FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2014		
#3B&G	APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDERS		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1B&G - #3B&G</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1B&G - #3B&G	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.
Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1B&G - #3B&G	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.		

Committee of the Whole			
#1CW	SUBMISSION OF SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR DETERMINING GRADES UNDER THE ANTI-BULLYING BILL OF RIGHTS ACT		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1CW</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1CW	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.
Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1CW	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.		

Curriculum Committee			
#1CUR	APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT NO COST TO THE DISTRICT		
#2CUR	APPROVAL OF DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 2014-2015		
#3CUR	CONTINUANCE OF APPOINTMENT OF DR. JOHN CAMPION AS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1CUR - #3CUR</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1CUR - #3CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.
Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1CUR - #3CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.		

Finance	
#1F	APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$4,817,777.11
#2F	APPROVAL – LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR AUGUST 2014
#3F	APPROVAL – CAFETERIA CLAIMS FOR AUGUST 2014 TOTALING \$118,472.94
#4F	ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS

#5F	FORUM SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR	
#6F	YOUTH CONSULTATION SERVICE ("YCS") LUNCH PROGRAM FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR	
#7F	ADULT LUNCH PRICES FOR 2014-2015	
#8F	THE LEARNING CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN (TLC) TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT	
#9F	APPROVAL OF GARY MOLETTA AS SECURITY CONSULTANT	
#10F	APPROVAL OF ATTENDANCE AND TRAVEL TO THE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS CONVENTION IN OCTOBER 2014	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #10F	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from the following names: Jack DeNichilo and Panetta & Sons Construction, Inc. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from Resolution #9F. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.

Health-Welfare and Safety		
#1HWS	PAYMENT OF HOME INSTRUCTION SERVICES	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1HWS	Seconded by Mr. David Sarnoff On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.

Personnel		
#1P	APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$1,213.78	
#2P	RESIGNATION OF JOHN COVIELLO AS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL	
#3P	RESIGNATION OF PALAK PATEL AS 1:1 AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 4	
#4P	RESIGNATION OF KAITLIN DISTASI AS PART-TIME PHYSICAL EDUCATION AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 1	
#5P	APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE FOR CENEIDA RAMIREZ AS A CUSTODIAN AT SCHOOL NO. 3	
#6P	APPROVAL OF EXTENDED MEDICAL LEAVE FOR VITA ORTIZIO AS A 12- MONTH SECRETARY AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL	

#7P	APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR EMPLOYEE #5235	
#8P	TRANSFER OF STAFF MEMBERS	
#9P	APPOINTMENT OF CO-CURRICULAR PERSONNEL FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR	
#10P	APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT YAN AS CUSTODIAN AT SCHOOL NO. 1	
#11P	SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR EXTENDED LEAVE REPLACEMENTS	
#12P	APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH FINIZIO AS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL	
#13P	APPOINTMENT OF YITZHAK SHNIDMAN AS SCIENCE TEACHER AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL	
#14P	APPOINTMENT OF LEAVE REPLACEMENTS DURING THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR	
#15P	TRANSFER OF LOLA NANNAS FROM 10-MONTH SECRETARY TO ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL TO 12-MONTH SECRETARY TO PRINCIPAL AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL	
#16P	UNUSED VACATION PAYOUT FOR ARLENE SCALA AS 12-MONTH SECRETARY AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL	
#17P	APPOINTMENT OF FACULTY COORDINATORS FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR	
#18P	APPOINTMENT OF PART-TIME AIDES AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL	
	<p>Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #10P - #18P</p>	<p>Seconded by Mr. David Sarnoff On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. David Sarnoff abstained from one name Christina Zalokostas on Resolution #6P and one name Ayako Katayama on Resolution #7P. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from 1 name Anjelice Piper on Resolution #7P, one name Nancy Sanders on Resolution #12P, one name Renee Belmonte on Resolution #16P and one name Nicole Piper on Resolution #18P. Mrs. Candace Romba abstained from one name Morgan Romba on Resolution #18P. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.</p>

Policy			
#1POL	SECOND READING OF POLICY/REGULATION UPDATES (as amended)		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1POL</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1POL	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.
Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1POL	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.		

13. **OLD BUSINESS** – None
14. **NEW BUSINESS** – Comments were made about improved cafeteria food quality.
15. At approximately 9:35 PM, Mr. Joseph Surace, offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID L. RINDERKNECHT
INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

DLR/mp
Att. 10-8-14