

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

MINUTES – PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Monday, September 9, 2013

Fort Lee High School Library/Media Center,
3000 Lemoine Ave. Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

1. The Public Work Session was called to order at 8:26 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mrs. Candace Romba 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: Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr., Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell,
Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Peter Suh,
Mr. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Yusang Park

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Paul Saxton, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mr. Robert Brown and
Dennis McKeever, Esq.

ABSENT: None

5. PRIVATE WORK SESSION**6. REPORT OF THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton stated that the district has passed QSAC monitoring and has been designated as high functioning.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton praised the students for their input to the solution. He mentioned card readers reading student ID cards and has been implemented card readers. This will count the students going out and coming in.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton talked about this program that will implement the week of Veterans Day.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton gave an update on the master plan for facilities and future facility improvements.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Reported by Chairperson of respective committee

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| 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 | |

- ◆ School Security Report - Mr. Paul Saxton gave an update on the Security Meeting with the Chief of Police. Another meeting will be on September 16, 2013.
- ◆ Buildings and Grounds Report – Mr. Robert Brown, the Interim Business Administrator gave an update on the Construction Projects.

8. PUBLIC WORK SESSION-None

At approximately 8:40 PM, Mrs. Candace Romba, offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, to begin Public Comment. 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

- ◆ A senior student presented a petition signed by over 300 students expressing various concerns over the closed lunch policy. The Superintendent responded and thanked the student for his good communication.
- ◆ A parent expressed concerns over the Closed Lunch Policy. The parent said that the parents should have the right to have their children go out.
- ◆ A resident expressed support over the Open Lunch Policy and suggested that parents could sign a waiver of liability to allow their children to go out. The Superintendent responded.
- ◆ A resident expressed concerns over the Closed Lunch Policy and the effect on local businesses. The superintendent responded.
- ◆ A resident asked if students walk to and from school why they can't be responsible to go out at lunch time.
- ◆ A resident expressed concerns about the Closed Lunch Policy. He asked the administration to reconsider.
- ◆ A resident expressed a concern that students will not be able to cope with situations often in High School if they can't go out for lunch.
- ◆ Students expressed opposition to the Closed Lunch Policy. She stated that twenty minutes is not long enough to eat lunch. Comments were made that students will do drugs and have various issues if they go out or stay in.
- ◆ A student thanked the Superintendent for caring about the student's safety and stated that the students would still prefer to go out.
- ◆ A student stated that going out to lunch is a benefit that upper classroom students look forward to getting and has waited two years.

- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton acknowledged that all of the comments have very compelling points. The administration will meet again with student representation and look at the policy.

10. At approximately 9:17 PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace, to recess the Regular Business Meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
11. At approximately 9:28 PM, Mr. Joseph Surace, offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, to return to the Regular Business Meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
12. The Superintendent introduced the High School Administration. Dr. Calabria briefed the public on several issues involving increasing enrollment that were affecting the high school. He also talked about professional development activities that have occurred. Dr. Sharon Amato also addressed the public concerning professional development.
13. At approximately 9:50 PM, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, offered, seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba, to open the floor to the public. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
 - ◆ A resident asked about security issues and the dumpster at School #1.
 - ◆ A resident asked about getting a student representative on the board. She also asked about having PTA President Meetings. She offered the help of the PTA's.
 - ◆ A resident complimented the board on the ceiling at School #4 in the All Purpose Room. She also asked about Professional Development activities and also about Curriculum.
 - ◆ A resident offered to reach out from the Academy of Finance to the Board Finance Committee. He also stated that someone is willing to buy advertising at the Athletic fields.

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

<u>Curriculum Committee</u>		
#1CUR	APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT NO COST TO THE DISTRICT	
#2CUR	APPROVAL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) TEXTBOOKS FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR	
#3CUR	BCSS SUSPENSION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (SAP) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR 2013-2014	
#4CUR	APPROVAL OF ONLINE VIDEO STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM THROUGH GLOBAL COMPLIANCE NETWORK (GCN)	
	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1CUR - #4CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried.

<u>Finance</u>		
#1F	APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$3,493,118.28	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #11F	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried.

Health-Welfare and Safety		
#1HWS	APPROVAL OF CATAPULT LEARNING AGREEMENT FOR SUBSTITUTE NURSING SERVICES FOR THE 2012-2013 AND 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1HWS	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried.

Personnel		
#1P	APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$2,691.60	
#2P	APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR CLASSROOM TEACHER, COORDINATOR OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION AND SUPERVISOR OF GUIDANCE/COMMUNITY SERVICE	
#3P	RESIGNATION OF KATHLEEN REINKE AS PART-TIME PHYSICAL EDUCATION AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 3	
#4P	ADDITIONAL HOURS FOR IRENE O'BRIEN AS PART-TIME CLERK AT SCHOOL NO. 1	
#5P	MEDICAL LEAVE FOR CORY SOHN AS ELEMENTARY TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 1	
#6P	ALLOCATION OF 6th PERIOD STIPENDS AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL	
#7P	APPOINTMENT OF ANTI-BULLYING COORDINATOR AND ANTI-BULLYING SPECIALISTS FOR 2013-2014	
#8P	APPOINTMENT OF FACULTY COORDINATORS FOR 2013-2014	
#9P	APPROVAL OF DAILY RATE FOR SUBSTITUTE NURSES FOR 2012-2013 AND 2013-2014	
#10P	APPOINTMENT OF GIOVANNI SOTO AS ASSISTANT BOYS SOCCER COACH FOR 2013-2014	
#11P	APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTES	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #11P	Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from Resolutions #7P and #8P.

#1T	RESCINDING SOFTWARE LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR MAP OS IN SCHOOLS	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1T	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried.


15. **OLD BUSINESS** – Mrs. Holly Morell asked for the old sound system to be removed.

16. **NEW BUSINESS**

17. At approximately 10:13 PM, Mrs. Candace Romba, offered, seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace, to adjourn the Public Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
18. At approximately 10:15 PM, Mr. David Sarnoff, offered, seconded by Mr. Peter Suh, to reenter the Private Work Session to discuss personnel and legal issues with seconded by no action to be taken. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
19. At approximately 10:40 PM, Mrs. Esther Han Silver, offered, seconded by Ms. Helen Yoon, to adjourn the Private Work Session and adjourn the meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Roll calls and resolutions of this meeting are attached.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT R. BROWN
INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

RB/mp
Att. 9-17-13