

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

**MINUTES – PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Monday, May 6, 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 8:24 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.

2. Mrs. Esther Han Silver 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 (left 10:00 pm), Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace and Mr. Yusang Park

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Sharon Amato, Mrs. Ana M. Flores (left 10:17 pm) and Dennis McKeever, Esq.

ABSENT: Mrs. Cheryl Balletto and Ms. Helen Yoon

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

- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato received a plaque from the Korean/American Association.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato and Mrs. Marianela Martin presented a fourth grade student with a plaque for her drug prevention artwork.

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

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Board Report (by President)     | 7. Policy                                    |
| 2. Negotiations – 6-3-13 Flag Mtg. | 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                      |  |

**8. PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

- ◆ Conversations ensued regarding the contract for Monica Palestis:
- ◆ Mr. Peter Suh expressed his financial concern.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace was concerned about Monica Dodd Palestis's availability this summer.
- ◆ Mrs. Holly Morell also expressed her concerns about the summer contract for Monica Palestis. She would like periodic updates on the review of Special Education Services, and questioned the benefits of the attorney/client privilege.
- ◆ Dr. Amato stated that she will have contact with Monica Palestis during the summer and will get back to the board.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace asked if Monica Palestis will bill for additional services.
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever explained that it will not be a quick fix but instead the objective is to correct institutional problems going forward. The Board will be billed separately and hiring her as a Special Education attorney you might avoid future litigation through attorney client privilege.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace called for a Finance Meeting to discuss the appointment of an auditor and Interim Business Administrator.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that more students take the PSAT's when the district pays for it.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff requested that we get an annual fee from Accuscan.
- ◆ Mrs. Ana Flores informed the board that three companies participated in the walk-through for food service as requested by the RFP. Proposals are due on Tuesday.
- ◆ The Board and Mr. Dennis McKeever, Esq. discussed the Nepotism Policy.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato informed the board of computer purchases, wireless upgrades and tablets as discussed earlier in the Technology Committee Meeting.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato explained that the added overtime services were required by the related service providers.
- ◆ The entire board is happy with the appointment of Dr. Richardson.
- ◆ Mrs. Holly Morell questioned the length of time for Dr. Richardson's contract.
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever, Esq. stated that Dr. Richardson negotiated his contract until December 2013. This does not hold future boards to an existing contract.
- ◆ Mrs. Candace Romba questioned the cost of the buses for the spelling bee.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that it is a great loss with the resignation of James Puliatte and Mrs. Candace Romba agreed.

**9. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN - None**

10. **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<b><u>Board Committee</u></b>		
<b>#1B</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ANGEL CONSULTING, LLC</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained. Mrs. Holly Morell voted NAY. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.

<b><u>Buildings and Grounds</u></b>		
<b>#1B&amp;G</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF ASBESTOS CONTRACT FOR HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE LABS</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B&G	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace On roll call, Motion carried. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.

<b><u>Curriculum Committee</u></b>		
<b>#1CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT A COST TO THE DISTRICT OF \$5,800</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.

<b><u>Finance</u></b>		
<b>#1F</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF DENTAL AND VISION BENEFITS FOR 2013-2014</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.

<b><u>Health-Welfare and Safety</u></b>		
<b>#1HWS</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF PALESTIS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS PROPOSAL FOR A PROGRAM REVIEW OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1HWS.	Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino On roll call, Motion carried. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.

<b>Personnel</b>			
<b>#1P</b>	<b>APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$40.59</b>		
<b>#2P</b>	<b>RESIGNATION OF JAMES PULIATTE AS TECHNOLOGY STAFF DEVELOPER</b>		
<b>#3P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTE FOR 2012-2013 AND 2013-2014</b>		
<b>#4P</b>	<b>RENEWAL OF MARIANELA MARTIN AS PRINCIPAL OF SCHOOL NO. 2 FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR</b>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1P - #4P</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr. and Mrs. Candace Romba voted NAY to Resolution #2P. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1P - #4P	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr. and Mrs. Candace Romba voted NAY to Resolution #2P. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.
Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1P - #4P	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr. and Mrs. Candace Romba voted NAY to Resolution #2P. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.		

11. **OLD BUSINESS** - NONE
12. **NEW BUSINESS** – Discussion of evaluation system in the district.
13. At approximately 9:50 PM, Mr. Peter Suh offered, Mr. Carmelo Luppino seconded by, to adjourn the Public Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Roll calls and resolutions of this meeting are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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ANA M. FLORES  
ASSISTANT BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

AMF/mp  
Att.  
5-28-13