

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

**MINUTES – PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Monday, June 10, 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 8:20 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: 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, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Yusang Park

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

ABSENT: Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr.

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

- ◆ Retiree and Teacher of the Year Recognition

At approximately 9:40 PM to 9:55 PM the Board took a recess.

- ◆ Donation by School #4 and Chrome Books
- ◆ The YMCA gave a presentation for the Extended School Day Program.
- ◆ Introduction of Dr. John Richardson.

**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                      |  |

- ◆ Technology Committee Report – Multiple proposals were received, and the most cost effective and most high tech return plan was recommended.

**8. PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

- ◆ Mrs. Esther Han Silver asked if there was a preference for district employees to be hired for the YMCA? Also, are there background checks?
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths said yes, preference is given to district employees and all individuals hired must have fingerprints.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato asked about scholarships and if the program will be in the morning and when school is closed.
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths stated that some students may qualify for scholarships and have morning and holiday care if needed.
- ◆ Mrs. Candace Romba asked if the program is open to children if their parents aren't working?
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths said correct.
- ◆ Mrs. Candace Romba asked if the students have to come all week.
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths stated no. Three, four and five days a week is available.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato asked if the cost will match our fees and is it for one year?
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths said yes and only the cost of living increase each year.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked if volunteer High School students will be used to tutor and how will we serve snacks.
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths said she welcome the idea and snacks will be provided.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato asked if all the schools will have the same curriculum, staff training and have students with disabilities.
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths said yes in each school and every other month there will be twenty hours of training and at no extra cost.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace asked will they be open when school is closed.
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths said if school is closed they don't run and they have holiday care. If the district has a custodial fee then they will pick it up for the extra hours they work.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked about Security and if the YMCA will be responsible for the students.
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths said parents receive a 25 page packet which includes a form on who is allowed to pick up the students.

- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if the YMCA came in and observed what we have and how is their program different. What are the staff rates, and is the ratio? Are students from out of our district allowed to join and is it age appropriate for each activity?
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths stated that she had not observed the program but has had meetings.
- ◆ Mrs. Candace Romba asked about the half day program.
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths stated they would cover it.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if you could increase your time.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that it is worth considering.
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths stated that before care is from 7:00 AM till school begins and they serve breakfast.
- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia asked if there is any chess activity.
- ◆ Amelia Griffiths stated that it is special under the YMCA's enrichment program which is separate.

At approximately 10:30 PM, Mrs. Esther Han Silver, offered, Mrs. Candace Romba, seconded by, 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**

- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia asked if the school district met with the police department or the county prosecutor's office since there were no numbers in the windows.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that they have had several meetings with the Police and Fire Departments.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that this will be discussed.
- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia asked if the donation of Chrome Books from School #4 PTA is in addition to what is being purchased by the district.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that all donations are considered and we will be receiving 41 desktops and in addition 60 Chrome Books.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl stated that the Academy of Finance had an ad in the paper and questioned the salary.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that the district is seeking a Director of the Academy and the salary will be determined.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl stated that we need a qualified director that has a good reputation. He asked if the Middle School field is closed then where are the teams going to practice.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that we will look into it.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl stated that he ran a nursing home with professional administration who knew how to handle a crisis. He asked if a person knows nothing and has to be trained in house how is the level determined. If a person chooses not to do the job and it pays good salaries then it works hand in hand. Is the district looking for an assistant at \$120,000 with benefits? Is there a policy to have Fridays off so we don't pay any extra money? He hopes Mrs. Cheryl Balletto will be available to help. He is receiving phone calls regarding Mellissa Salvati and her affiliation with a board member, Mr. Joseph Surace. The program is age appropriate and follows state ration of 15:1. The program is only for district students.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that she can't comment on personnel and stated that she would try to hire the best people at a low cost for the Academy of Finance.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl stated that he cannot stop this from occurring because they are friends or family.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that this is why they are working on a Nepotism Policy.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico stated that soil testing was done in 2007.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated yes and all appropriate measures were done.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico stated that she is disappointed that the four day work week is allowed when the PTA is raising money.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that the Academy of Finance hoped you received an invitation for the ceremony.

- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked about Resolution #5P and should be given out on a timely basis, not excluding information to the public. Transparency is an important issue. She asked if the board has the contract that is to be approved by the Executive County Superintendent.
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever stated yes the county has to approve it first.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked how you can vote for a contract you haven't seen it.
- ◆ Ms. Diane Sicheri asked why there is a four day work week in Central Office and said it is unfair and wrong. Employees should take a vacation day.
- ◆ Ms. Diane Sicheri stated that if the district is hiring she hopes they will not be hiring friends of the Police, Mayor and Council.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked about Resolution #5P and would like to know why the website didn't disclose the name.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that they wanted to give the entire board time to meet Mr. Brown and wanted to maintain confidentiality.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if the full board met about Resolution #5P. She asked if on Resolution #1T this was the lowest quote asked? She also stated she was approached by someone at the last meeting and was given a quote that was the lowest. She also asked when was goal setting.

**10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Private Work Session and Public Work Session on May 6, 2013 and the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on May 20, 2013.

	<p>Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba</p> <p>The minutes from the Private Work Session and Public Work Session on May 6, 2013 and the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on May 20, 2013.</p>	<p>Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell</p> <p>On roll call, Motion carried.                  Abstentions – Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Peter Suh, and Ms. Helen Yoon                  Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr. was absent.</p>	
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**11. RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<b>Board Committee</b>			
<b>#1B</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF TUITION SETTLEMENT</b>		
	<p>Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver</p> <p>To Approve #1B</p>	<p>Motion by Ms. Helen Yoon</p> <p>On roll call, Motion carried.                  Mr. Joseph Surace and Mr. Peter Suh voted NAY.                  Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.</p>	

<b>Committee of the Whole</b>			
<b>#1CW</b>	<b>APPROVAL - ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF 2013 TEACHER/EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS AND DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR</b>		
	<p>Motion by Mr. Peter Suh</p> <p>To Approve #1CW</p>	<p>Seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace</p> <p>On roll call, Motion carried.                  Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.</p>	

<b><u>Buildings and Grounds</u></b>		
<b>#1B&amp;G</b>	<b>APPROVAL - SOIL TESTING FOR LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL ADDITION PROJECT</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1B&G	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.

<b><u>Curriculum Committee</u></b>		
<b>#1CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT A COST TO THE DISTRICT OF \$3,359</b>	
<b>#2CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF DISTRICT COMMON CORE CURRICULUM GOALS AND REVISED CURRICULUM</b>	
<b>#3CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL - RENEWAL OF TEACHSCAPE PROPOSAL</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1CUR - #3CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.

<b><u>Finance</u></b>		
<b>#1F</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CHARTWELLS CONTRACT FOR 2013-2014</b>	
<b>#2F</b>	<b>APPROVAL - PROPOSED BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PRICES FOR 2013-2014</b>	
<b>#3F</b>	<b>APPROVAL - ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F- #3F	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.

<b><u>Personnel</u></b>		
<b>#1P</b>	<b>APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$531.39</b>	
<b>#2P</b>	<b>APPROVAL - APPOINTMENT OF DEBRA BRIGIDA AS PROJECT JUMP START COORDINATOR FOR SUMMER 2013</b>	
<b>#3P</b>	<b>APPROVAL - SALARY CORRECTION FOR CHERYL KOVALICK AS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT (COTA) FOR THE CHILD STUDY TEAM FOR 2013-2014</b>	
<b>#4P</b>	<b>APPROVAL - APPOINTMENT OF IRENE MIN AS SUPERVISOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR 2013-2014</b>	
<b>#5P</b>	<b>APPROVAL - APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY</b>	

<b>#6P</b>	<b>APPROVAL - RETIREMENT OF CHRIS SEBEKOS AS PART-TIME CLERK TYPIST AT SCHOOL NO. 1</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #6P	Seconded by Ms. Helen Yoon On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.

<b>#1T</b>	<b>APPROVAL - WIRELESS SYSTEM UPGRADE</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1T	Seconded by Mr. David Sarnoff On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.

**12. OLD BUSINESS**

- ◆ Evaluations and field trip busing.
- ◆ Pay phone School #4.
- ◆ Microphones for Board Meetings.

**13. NEW BUSINESS**

- ◆ Mrs. Holly Morell stated that she wanted to vote no on the Monica Palestis contract but said yes.

14. At approximately 11:40 PM, Mrs. Esther Han Silver, offered, Mr. Peter Suh, seconded by, to adjourn the Public Work Session and go into the Private Work Session to discuss personnel with no action to be taken. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

15. At approximately 11:50 PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, Mr. David Sarnoff, seconded by, to adjourn the Special Private Work Session and adjourn the meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Roll calls and resolutions of this meeting are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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CHERYL BALLETO  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

AMF/mp  
Att.  
6-21-13