

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

MINUTES – PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Monday, March 10, 2014

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 8:05 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.

2. Mrs. Holly Morell 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. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace, Mr. Jeff Weinberg, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Yusang Park

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

ABSENT: None

5. REPORT OF THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton reported that the Department of Education took the position that the school calendar is a local control matter. Mr. Saxton identified the additional makeup days for snow closings. Two Saturday minimum days and two full days in Spring Recess have been added. He reported that the new calendar is on line.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton reported on the results of the evaluation of the pilot program. Results showed Fort Lee at 70% to 80% achievement in most areas. The state has developed a more definitive process and we expect to do well.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park presented certificates of achievement to various staff and students.

6. 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 | |

- ◆ Personnel Committee Report – Mrs. Holly Morell reported that the committee met on March 5, 2014 and had a productive meeting.
- ◆ School Security Report – Mr. David Sarnoff explained that the project is to install Security cameras in all schools. This is Phase I of security upgrades.
- ◆ Buildings and Grounds Report – Mr. Joseph Surace reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met. There are numerous projects scheduled for this summer.
- ◆ Student Board Members, Mr. Michael Morell and Mr. Michael Zhadanovsky reported on various activities and events including; the February 28, 2014 talent show that earned \$1,300, the Annual Fashion Show is on March 26, 2014, and the Autism Awareness Month Fundraiser. It was also noted that the Winter Sports Program ended well.
- ◆ Temporary Modular Classrooms – Mr. Paul Saxton explained the need for additional classroom space. Student enrollment continues to increase and previous referenda to address this need had failed. Mr. Paul Saxton also noted that about \$400,000 a year is being spent for four classrooms at the Church of the Good Shepherd and twelve modular classrooms would cost an average of \$170,000 per year over five years. Mr. Saxton noted the action to be taken this evening regarding contracting with Boswell Engineering is to prepare for installing twelve modular classrooms.
- ◆ Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, and unanimously carried to recess for fifteen minutes for refreshments and recognition of the achievement recipients presented with a certificate earlier in the meeting.
- ◆ The meeting resumed at 8:45pm.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Private Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on January 23, 2014, Private Executive Session and the Public Work Session on February 10, 2014, and the Private Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on February 24, 2014.

	<p>Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell</p> <p>The minutes from the Private Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on January 23, 2014, Private Executive Session and the Public Work Session on February 10, 2014, and the Private Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on February 24, 2014.</p>	<p>Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver</p> <p>On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Jeff Weinberg abstained from the January 23, 2014 minutes. Mr. Peter Suh and Mr. Jeff Weinberg abstained from the February 10, 2014 minutes. Mrs. Esther Han Silver and Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Jeff Weinberg abstained from the February 24, 2014 minutes.</p>
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8. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN

- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff, offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, to open the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Lipoff requested that Home Economics and Industrial Arts classes be continued.
- ◆ The High School Industrial Arts teacher, Alfred Epstein challenged the Board to look at what is going on in other districts regarding the Industrial Arts Program.
- ◆ Antoinette Kofler, the Consumer Education teacher at the Lewis F. Cole Middle School stated that the program is Family and Consumer Science and not Home Economics. She supports keeping the program.
- ◆ Bruna Capalbo, FLEA President, spoke about and had various questions regarding the creation of a Central Office position, Department Supervisors, temporary classrooms, school calendar revisions, and a Director position. She also emphasized that more teachers are needed. Mr. Paul Saxton responded to her questions.
- ◆ At approximately 9:15 PM, Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg, to close the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

9. ALL RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Board Committee		
#1B	APPROVE PRIVATE WORK SESSION	
#2B	RESOLUTION FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENTS	
	<p>Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba</p> <p>To Approve #1B & #2B</p>	<p>Seconded by Mr. Helen Yoon</p> <p>On roll call, Motion carried unanimously.</p>

Buildings and Grounds	
#1B&G	APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH BOSWELL ENGINEERING

#2B&G	APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF PROJECT FOR TEMPORARY CLASSROOM SPACE	
#3B&G	APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FROM SSP ARCHITECTURAL GROUP FOR DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT SPECIFICATIONS FOR TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS	
#4B&G	APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FROM MILLENNIUM COMMUNICATIONS GROUP FOR SECURITY SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1B&G - #4B&G	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried unanimously.

<u>Curriculum Committee</u>		
#1CUR	APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT A COST OF THE DISTRICT OF \$1,200	
#2CUR	APPROVAL OF AMENDED SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2013-2014 TO REFLECT MAKEUP DAYS FOR SCHOOL CLOSINGS	
#3CUR	APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL LITLIFE PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL TOTALING \$10,016	
#4CUR	APPROVAL OF MODIFICATIONS TO MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OFFERINGS AND HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES AND PROCEDURAL CHANGES FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1CUR - #4CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg voted NAY to Resolutions #1 - #4.

<u>Finance</u>		
#1F	APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$1,312,623.42	
#2F	FIRST STUDENT TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS FOR 2014-2015	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #2F	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously.

<u>Health-Welfare and Safety</u>		
#1HWS	PAYMENT OF HOME AND BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION	
#2HWS	APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR 2013-2014	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1HWS - #2HWS	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel			
#1P	APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$1,129.33		
#2P	ADJUSTMENT OF INITIAL CLASSIFICATION PLACEMENTS		
#3P	APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL COLON AS PART-TIME MAINTENANCE WORKER		
#4P	APPOINTMENT OF JOHN LARUSSO AS PART-TIME PHYSICAL EDUCATION AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 2		
#5P	PLACEMENT OF STUDENT TEACHER FOR SPRING 2014		
#6P	ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT OF JUDY GRATALE AS KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 1		
#7P	ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT OF DIANE HENRY AS MEDIA SPECIALIST AT SCHOOL NO. 1		
#8P	APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SPRING COACHES FOR 2014		
#9P	CREATION OF NEW POSITION FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS		
#10P	CREATION OF NEW POSITION FOR DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL		
#11P	APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTION FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS		
#12P	APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTION FOR DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL		
#13P	APPROVAL OF REINSTATEMENT OF POSITIONS OF DEPARTMENTAL LIAISONS		
#14P	APPOINTMENT OF DR. SHARON AMATO AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS FOR THE TERM OF 3/12/14 TO 6/30/14		
#15P	APPOINTMENT OF DR. SHARON AMATO AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #15P</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Holly Morell abstained on Resolution #4P. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name, Nancy Sanders on Resolution #1P.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #15P	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Holly Morell abstained on Resolution #4P. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name, Nancy Sanders on Resolution #1P.
Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #15P	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Holly Morell abstained on Resolution #4P. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name, Nancy Sanders on Resolution #1P.		

10. **OLD BUSINESS - None**

11. **NEW BUSINESS - None**

12. At approximately 9:30 PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, to adjourn the Public Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David L. Rinderknecht", is written over a horizontal line.

MR. DAVID L. RINDERKNECHT
INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

DLR/mp
Att. 3-14-14