

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

**MINUTES – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

Monday, March 24, 2014

Fort Lee High School Auditorium,  
3000 Lemoine Ave. Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

1. The Public Work Session was called to order at 8:00 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. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace (left 9:35pm), Mr. Jeff Weinberg, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Yusang Park

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

**ABSENT:** Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Michael Morell and Mr. Michael Zhadanovsky

**5. REPORT OF THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

- ◆ Mr. Robert Bertolini, newly appointed football coach at the Fort Lee High School addressed the Board and Administration and thanked them and the community for their support. He also introduced the football coaching staff.
- ◆ Mrs. Marianela Martin, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mrs. Ann Marie Bruder and Mrs. Priscilla Church spoke about the pre-school program goals and presented the history of the pre-school program. They identified significant student growth that has resulted from the program. It was explained that there is a mandate to educate 3 to 5 year old children with special needs in a least restrictive environment. A significant increase in enrollment is expected. It was explained how the addition of modular classrooms would house pre-school program children and give relief to overcrowding at School #2. Various options to locate increased pre-school program enrollment and the cost impact of each were presented.
- ◆ Mrs. Jeanne Perantoni, architect with SSP Architectural Group, gave a thorough Power Point presentation of the draft version of the proposed Master Plan using PowerPoint. Included in the presentation were enrollment projections, site diagrams of each school, capacity of each school, possible modular classroom locations on various sites and the pros and cons of each option.

At 9:15PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, to open the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

- ◆ Numerous members of the public spoke. Among the concerns expressed were the impact of mold and chemicals on the health of the modular classroom occupants, the effect on home values, and safety of pedestrians, heavy traffic and parking for staff.
- ◆ Suggestions were made to make the Master Plan available to the public, do a traffic study, and bus more children to school. The Board should explore other locations such as the Community Center and test air quality of the modular classrooms.

At 9:55PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, to close Public Comment. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Public Work Session on March 10, 2014 and the Private Executive Session and Special Public Business Meeting on March 17, 2014.

	<b>Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell</b>	<b>Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh</b>
	The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Public Work Session on March 10, 2014 and the Private Executive Session and Special Public Business Meeting on March 17, 2014.	On roll call, Motion carried. *Please note that Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Reported by Chairperson of respective committee-None**

**9. BOARD SECRETARY REPORT AND TREASURER’S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2014**

◆ For the month of February 2014.

	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh	
	To Approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Report for the month of February 2014.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.	

**10. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION – FEBRUARY 2014**

◆ For the month of February 2014.

	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba	
	Monthly Budget Status Certification for the month of February 2014.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.	

At 9:15PM, Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mr. Peter Suh, 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 and questions from various numbers of the public included statements that the Board should have informed residents of the plan to install relocatable classrooms and should have met with parents. Other comments included concern over health hazards, including mold and chemicals, keeping the environment safe and the need for more information and transparency.

◆ Board comments included the need to do preliminary engineering work before a decision could be made as to location of relocatable classroom and that the Board is legally required to educate these pre-school children. It was also stated by Board members the enrollment numbers are going higher and more community outreach will be necessary.

At 10:35PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver, to close Public Comment. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

<b><u>Board Committee</u></b>			
<b>#1B</b>	<b>APPROVE PRIVATE WORK SESSION</b>		
<b>#2B</b>	<b>RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING</b>		
<b>#3B</b>	<b>APPROVE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH PEPPM</b>		
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh	
	To Approve #1B - #3B	On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.	

<b>Curriculum Committee</b>			
<b>#1CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT NO COST TO THE DISTRICT</b>		
<b>#2CUR</b>	<b>DR. HARRY STEIN AND MR. HANK BITTEN AS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS</b>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1CUR &amp; #2CUR</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace were absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1CUR & #2CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace were absent.
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<b>Finance</b>			
<b>#1F</b>	<b>APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$4,803,505.83</b>		
<b>#2F</b>	<b>AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>#3F</b>	<b>APPROVAL – CAFETERIA CLAIMS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 TOTALING \$100,012.14</b>		
<b>#4F</b>	<b>APPROVAL – LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR FEBRUARY 2014</b>		
<b>#5F</b>	<b>REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR BAND UNIFORMS</b>		
<b>#6F</b>	<b>ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION</b>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1F - #6F</td> <td>Seconded by Ms. Helen Yoon On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace were absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1F - #6F	Seconded by Ms. Helen Yoon On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace were absent.
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<b>Health-Welfare and Safety</b>			
<b>#1HWS</b>	<b>PAYMENT OF HOME INSTRUCTION SERVICES</b>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1HWS</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace were absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1HWS	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace were absent.
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<b>Personnel</b>	
<b>#1P</b>	<b>APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$2,232.25</b>
<b>#2P</b>	<b>RETIREMENT OF MARGARET BRENNAN AS GUIDANCE COUNSELOR AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>
<b>#3P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF MARC BISSONNETTE AS ADDITIONAL TUTOR FOR 2013-2014</b>
<b>#4P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF JANINE GROSSO AS HOME INSTRUCTOR FOR 2013-2014</b>

#5P	<b>MATERNITY LEAVE FOR AMY MIRKOVIC AS KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 1</b>	
#6P	<b>MATERNITY LEAVE FOR SHANNON CEVASCO AS ENGLISH SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>	
#7P	<b>APPOINTMENT OF LAUREN CARRUBBA AS DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES</b>	
#8P	<b>UNUSED VACATION PAYOUT FOR KAREN AYVALIOTIS FOR 2012-2013 AND 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEARS</b>	
#9P	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTES FOR 2013-2014</b>	
#10P	<b>APPROVAL OF EXTENDED MEDICAL LEAVE FOR ANTHONY GIAMBONO AS DISTRICT MAINTENANCE</b>	
#11P	<b>AMENDED MATERNITY LEAVE FOR MICHELE SABELLA AS SPECIAL EDUCATION SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>	
#12P	<b>APPOINTMENT OF STELA BASTJANCIC AS LEAVE REPLACEMENT DURING 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1P - #12P	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace were absent.

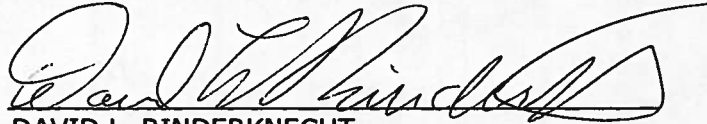
<b>Policy</b>		
#1POL	<b>FIRST READING OF REVISED POLICIES AND REGULATIONS: POLICY 7510 AND REGULATION R7510 USE OF FACILITIES; POLICY 5561 AND REGULATION R7510 USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1POL	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace were absent.

13. **OLD BUSINESS** – None

14. **NEW BUSINESS** – None

15. At approximately 10:40 PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg, to adjourn the Public Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID L. RINDERKNECHT  
INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

DLR/mp  
Att. 3-28-14