

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

MINUTES – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, April 13, 2015

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

1. The Public Work Session was called to order at 8:00 PM by Mr. David Sarnoff, 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: 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, Mr. Ammad Quraishi, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Joseph Surace, Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Mr. David Sarnoff

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Sharon Amato, Mr. David Rinderknecht, and Mr. Dennis McKeever, Esq.

ABSENT: Mr. Paul Saxton, Mr. Michael Osso, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Michael Zhadanovsky and Ms. Arielle Vertsman

5. REPORT OF THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato spoke about the One-to-One laptop program for students. She then introduced Jason Ruggiero who conducted a video presentation that showed features of the program and how the computers would be utilized. He estimated that from 1,200 to 1,250 computers would be purchased. A question and answer period followed for Board and the public.
- ◆ Dr. Amato presented the Violence and Vandalism (HIB Report for 2014-2015, Period 1). There was an opportunity for discussion. She also noted that the district is committed to programs to reduce HIB incidents.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Reported by Chairperson of respective committee

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| 1. Board Report (by President) | 8. Finance |
| 2. Negotiations | 9. Technology – District Technology Purchase |
| 3. School Security | 10. Contracts and Legal |
| 4. Buildings & Grounds | 11. Athletics and Community Involvement |
| 5. Personnel | 12. Sick Day Bank |
| 6. Curriculum | 13. Superintendent Search |
| 7. Policy | |

- ◆ Personnel Committee Report – Mrs. Holly Morell gave an overview of the CST Program and stated that the committee agreed with the Superintendent’s goals for the Child Study Team. She noted that they met with a Business Administrator candidate and requested that the Superintendent continue searching for more candidates. Other topics included the status of teacher contract renewals and Superintendent evaluation and merit goals. Mrs. Morell reported on attendance at a Leadership Conference sponsored by NJSBA and found it very informative, including learning how to involve the community.
- ◆ Curriculum Committee Report – Mrs. Candace Romba reported that PARCC went smoothly. She also reported on the summer math program, Middle School band trip and One-to-One computer initiatives. Mrs. Candace Romba said that the Kindergarten entrance age policy is being studied. A recommendation for change is forthcoming. Other topics reported included Summer Curriculum writing, STEM, Social Studies Program, Math Program, teacher evaluation and the Marshall Program.
- ◆ Finance Committee Report – Mr. Joseph Surace reported that the Finance Committee met and has another meeting scheduled for this Thursday to discuss the 2015-2016 proposed budget.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on February 23, 2015, the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on March 9, 2015, the Private Executive Session and the Special Public Business Meeting on March 16, 2015 and the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on March 23, 2015.

<p>Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on February 23, 2015, the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on March 9, 2015, the Private Executive Session and the Special Public Business Meeting on March 16, 2015 and the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on March 23, 2015.</p>	<p>Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from the minutes on March 16, 2015. Mr. Michael Osso and Mr. Yusang Park, were absent.</p>
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8. BOARD SECRETARY REPORT AND TREASURER’S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2015

- ◆ For the month of February 2015.

	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver	
	To Approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Report for the month of February 2015.	On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Michael Osso and Mr. Yusang Park, were absent.	

9. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION – FEBRUARY 2015

- ◆ For the month of February 2015.

	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba	
	Monthly Budget Status Certification for the month of February 2015.	On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Michael Osso and Mr. Yusang Park, were absent.	

10. PUBLIC WORK SESSION-None

At approximately 8:50 PM Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba, to open the Public Work Session portion of the meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

- ◆ Mr. David Rinderknecht explained the services of NJ/ARM being approved this evening.

At approximately 8:55 PM Mrs. Candace Romba, offered, seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg, to close the Public Work Session portion of the meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Holly Morell offered, seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba, 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

- ◆ Mr. Howard Lipoff referenced a call received regarding no homework on April 8, 9, and 10, 2015. He inquired about the cost to the taxpayer for holding school on April 8th, 9th and 10th. Costs requested include Crossing Guards, bussing and substitutes.

- ◆ Other inquiries involved how absent Board members would have voted on conducting school on April 8th, 9th and 10th. Mr. Jeff Weinberg said he would have supported the decision of the Board. Mr. Ammad Quraishi and Mr. Joseph Surace said they did not hear the full discussion and are not taking a position on the vote.

- ◆ A question was asked regarding how many staff attended the three days.

- ◆ It was noted that 700 students were missing in the High School on Friday. A concern was raised about food cost on those days. Other topics included questions about a class trip, whether an RFP was done for hiring of the legal firm of Sciarillo Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC and hiring of Karl and Associates, Inc.

- ◆ A concern was expressed that there is construction debris and other garbage around the Middle School that should be cleaned up.

- ◆ A suggestion was made that the Board of Education should work with the town to open up the fields because there aren’t enough fields for children to play.

- ◆ A question was asked about establishing an Academy at the High School. Dr. Amato said it is a priority, but no timeline is established.

Mr. Jeff Weinberg offered, seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace, to close the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

<u>Board Committee</u>		
#2B	RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING	
#3B	APPOINTMENT OF BOARD ATTORNEY FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 2015 TO THE REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN JANUARY 2016	
	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #2B & #3B	Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Michael Osso and Mr. Yusang Park, were absent.

<u>Buildings and Grounds</u>		
#1B&G	ASBESTOS REMOVAL PLAN	
	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1B&G	Seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Michael Osso and Mr. Yusang Park, were absent.

<u>Curriculum Committee</u>		
#1CUR	APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$12,059	
#2CUR	ATTENDANCE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR BOARD MEMBERS MR. MICHAEL OSSO AND MRS. HOLLY MORELL	
#3CUR	APPROVAL OF DR. JANE PETROZZINO TO PROVIDE PD SERVICES FOR DYSLEXIA TRAINING FOR CHILD STUDY TEAM	
#4CUR	APPROVAL OF HANDLE WITH CARE TO PROVIDE RESTRAINT TRAINING	
#5CUR	APPROVAL OF MARSHALL PILOT PROGRAM EVALUATION TRAINING PROPOSAL	
#6CUR	GENERAL EDUCATION PRESCHOOL PROGRAM	
	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1CUR - #6CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Resolution #2CUR, Mrs. Holly Morell abstained from her name. Mr. Michael Osso and Mr. Yusang Park, were absent.
#8CUR	APPROVAL OF EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM FOR SUMMER 2015	
#9CUR	APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FOR SUMMER MATH ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM	

	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #8CUR & #9CUR Resolution #7CUR-PULLED	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Michael Osso and Mr. Yusang Park, were absent.
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Finance		
#1F	APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$1,031,506.58	
#2F	APPROVAL – LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR FEBRUARY 2015	
#3F	APPROVAL – CAFETERIA CLAIMS FOR FEBRUARY 2015 TOTALING \$78,469.01	
#4F	APPROVAL OF FIRST STUDENT TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS FOR 2015-2016	
#5F	APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL DATA SERVICES FOR 2015-2016	
#6F	AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES OF THE NEW JERSEY ASSET AND REBATE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (NJ/ARM)	
#7F	ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS	
#8F	APPROVAL OF EXTENDED SCHOOL DAY PROGRAM (ESDP) AGREEMENT WITH JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE, INC. (JFS) FOR 2015-2016	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #8F	Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Resolution #1F, Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name. Mr. Michael Osso and Mr. Yusang Park, were absent.

Health-Welfare and Safety		
#1HWS	PAYMENT OF HOME AND BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION SERVICES	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1HWS	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Michael Osso and Mr. Yusang Park, were absent.

Personnel	
#1P	APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$1,270
#2P	RESIGNATION OF LAUREN DIMICK AS ELEMENTARY TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 2
#3P	RESIGNATION OF ROBERT RAFFAELE AS 2:1 AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 4
#4P	APPROVAL OF LEAVE REPLACEMENTS DURING 2014-2015

#5P	SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR ANJELICE PIPER AS PART-TIME AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 2	
#6P	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TPAF APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR DISABILITY RETIREMENT FOR ELIZABETH SOFIA AS ELEMENTARY TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 3	
#7P	AMENDED TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR 2014-2015 AS PER FLEA AGREEMENT	
#8P	APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTES FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR	
#9P	APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER AT SCHOOL NO. 1 FOR 2014-2015	
#10P	AMENDED MATERNITY LEAVE FOR ANGELA JANG AS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 3	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #10P	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Resolution #4P - Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name. Resolution #5P - Mr. Joseph Surace abstained. Mr. Michael Osso and Mr. Yusang Park, were absent.

13. **OLD BUSINESS** – None
14. **NEW BUSINESS** –Mrs. Holly Morell reported that there are holes in the field used by the National League that should be corrected.
15. At approximately 9:15 PM, Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver, to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


 DAVID L. RINDERKNECHT
 INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

DLR/mp
 Att. 4-20-15