SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE:
Congratulations to the FLHS class of 2019. I wish you all great success in your future.

It has been a positive and productive school year filled with accomplishments and successes for our district. I hope that you are able to take some time to relax and enjoy the summer months. We will be ready when we all return in September.

The Fort Lee Board of Education pose for a yearbook picture at the May public Board meeting. 
**First Row:** Ms. Elisa Cho, Ms. Kristen Richter, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Ms. Holly Morell, Dr. Sharon Amato, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

**Second Row:** Ms. Esther Han Silver, Board President, Ms. Paula Colbath, Mr. Michael Rubino, Ms. Lauran Tuck, Ms. Yasmine Kahtane, Student Representative, Ms. Candace Romba, Board Vice President, and Mr. Kenneth J. Rota, Superintendent of Schools.
BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

4/22/19

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – Mr. DiMeglio updated the board on attorney interviews.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION – Mrs. Romba shared that three (3) parents attended.

SECURITY COMMITTEE – Mr. DiMeglio shared that the Mayor and Council and students had a debate and it was unbelievable, almost like an encore and definitely very informative.

STUDENT REPORT

Sarah Silver, student, spoke about the success of some of the high school’s varsity sports teams over Spring Break:

- Baseball’s close victory over Dwight Morrow
- The Softball team’s win against Cliffside Park, their 3rd in a row
- The Golf team crushed Passaic Valley in a 160-201 defeat
- The Boys’ Tennis team beat Cliffside Park in a scoreless game for their competitors
- And, a win for the Boys’ Track and Field team over Ridgefield Park

Sarah also spoke about the success of the Academy of Theatre Arts and its production of “Godspell” on April 4, 5, and 6 where they told the story of the lessons of Jesus Christ through song and dance. She announced that the school’s Spring concert for the band, orchestra, and chorus was on May 1st. They were playing some really fun pieces including a performance of Hamilton by the chorus and medley of songs from Les Mis by the band. She also mentioned some of the fun and interesting projects that students have been doing in their visual arts classes. The Digital Photography classes were learning to make their very own gifs while the 3D Design classes were making “tunnel books” with a location of their choice that gave the illusion of making certain features in the landscape seem three dimensional.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Han Silver went to see the show and was very impressed with it.

Fort Lee High School debaters debated a topic with the Mayor and Council. Mrs. Morell commended on the impressive quality of the student’s debate. Mrs. Han Silver shared that Fort Lee posted the video of the debate on the website.

Mrs. Romba asked if we have Dr. Sugarman’s book in our school libraries.

5/6/19

Dr. Amato congratulated the Business Office and the Board of Education, on County approval of the preliminary budget. Dr. Amato further shared that the final budget is on tonight’s agenda for approval and adoption.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – Mr. DiMeglio shared that FLEA negotiations are on-going and both sides have been collaborative.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Ms. Taylor shared that our FY19 PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) funding will be approved by the Mayor and Council on Thursday with payment to follow thereafter.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Amato shared that the Math Pilot Teachers grades Kindergarten to 4th grade selected the GO Math! program. The Fort Lee Board of Education will be adopting this new Math program in September.

Mrs. Han Silver announced that she and Mrs. Romba attended the NJSBA Leadership workshop. There were 20 hours of training and collaboration with about 100 other Board members throughout the state. Ms. Han Silver extends her appreciation to all Board members for their contributions and commitment to the students of the Fort Lee Board of Education.

Mrs. Han Silver congratulated Mrs. Morell on achieving her Certified Board Leader award.

Mrs. Richter shared that it is Teacher’s Appreciation week and thanks all of the Fort Lee Board of Education teachers.

5/20/19

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – Mr. DiMeglio shared that the negotiations committee met about non-affiliated staff and discussed preliminaries.

Mrs. Morell shared that she and Ms. Colbath went to the Delegate’s Assembly meeting; The meeting was very spirited. She shared that the assembly voted down a resolution regarding allocation of school funding by the State.

SECURITY COMMITTEE – Mr. Rubino shared that a new Chief of Police was appointed.

STUDENT REPORT

Student Representative, Ian Gilenson, gave a summary report on some of the Fort Lee High School events:

- Acting classes had a showcase where they performed. The performance counts for their finals.
- Track has sectionals.
- Tennis finished its regular season. Fort Lee tennis will be facing Summit in the State tournament.
- AOF students will be participating in the annual Career Day where they will be introduced to workers in all fields of business.
- The sophomore and junior classes are hosting fundraisers to raise money for several events that are coming up.
- Sophomores are having a dodgeball tournament on May 30, 2019 and juniors are having a volleyball tournament.
- Prom is rapidly approaching and the Athletes Dinner is coming up on Thursday, June 6th.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Colbath shared a report from Mrs. Tuck and herself on the Legislative Committee of New Jersey School Boards. They met on May 11th in Trenton. The former Supreme Court Justice from New Jersey sued State of New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) for desegregation. If liability is founded, legislators will have to take action. There was a similar case in Connecticut (Hartford is being forced to desegregate).

Also, there was a standard update that they do on legislation and the biggest thing was that Governor Murphy signed a bill that expanded statute of limitations for sexual abuse cases. Formerly, victims could sue up to the age of 20. This was extended to the age of 55.

Mr. Rota recommended reviewing the 2019-2020 District Calendar to move the opening date from September 5th to September 9th. Board conversation ensued about calendar changes to accommodate a later school opening, Easter Monday and Passover.

Ms. Colbath shared that Mayor Sokolich approached her about potentially doing an advisory committee between the Board of Education and the Mayor and Council (a non-binding liaison committee which will
be a mechanism to have an open dialogue). Board conversation ensued about this communication.

Mrs. Han Silver shared that at the end of April, everyone should have received an email from Matt Lee about the Superintendent’s evaluation and to please complete it by Friday, May 31st. Mrs. Han Silver also shared that the Lewis F. Cole Middle School had an exciting Play 60 program where on multiple days they had NFL football players coming in doing activities with the 7th and 8th grade students. Mrs. Han Silver commended Mrs. Tuck for bringing this program to the school. Ms. Colbath asked if as a Board we can do a handwritten thanks.

6/3/19

Mr. Rota introduced Ms. Nancy Stern of the Fort Lee Rotary who introduced Carmine Meluccio, President of the Fort Lee Rotary. Mr. Meluccio shared the mission and many of the outreach services of the Rotary including a youth camp called RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards).

Mr. Meluccio invited a senior from Fort Lee High School, Arundeep Patwalia, to share her experience at RYLA. Arundeep shared her 5-day RYLA camp experience including meeting new friends, various team activities, and exhibiting leadership qualities.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE - Mrs. Han Silver shared that the Negotiations Committee met with FLEA on May 23rd and continue to exchange proposals. Mrs. Han Silver further shared that the next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2019.

STUDENT REPORT - Griselda Jesse-Dodoo shared a summary report on some of the Fort Lee High School events including the Spanish club recently hosting their annual fundraiser, Noche Latina, the sophomore class’ successful dodge ball tournament fundraiser for prom, and Science PARCC testing for juniors.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Romba commended the Fort Lee Public Library Board on its 100th anniversary “Evening in the Stacks” event.

GO MATH! COMING TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS!!

After an extensive program review and piloting process, the K-4 Math Committee has selected GO Math! by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for district-wide adoption in grades K-4 beginning in September. GO Math! will be replacing enVision Math by Pearson as the core math program used in our elementary schools. GO Math! is designed to meet rising state standards with focus, coherence, and rigor, incorporating the latest thinking in its comprehensive approach that engages digital natives with cross-platform technology. It helps teachers to differentiate instruction, building and reinforcing foundational math skills that translate from the classroom to real life. The program uses a 5E instructional model—Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate—to transform planning and teaching and develop mathematical understanding in students. GO Math! incorporates STEM content to connect with today’s learners, and challenges students to envision the role math can play in their college and career plans. GO Math! provides a wealth of resources for the classroom and beyond, such as the Personal Math Trainer (PMT), which gives students personalized unlimited practice, real-time feedback, and a variety of question types and learning aids. For more information, visit https://www.hmhco.com/programs/go-math.

The district will continue its math curriculum review process, reviewing and piloting programs in grades 5-6 during the 2019-2020 school year.

STIGMA FREE!

Fort Lee is proud to be stigma free. The Fort Lee School District incorporated a variety of programs this past year to help support the Fort Lee Stigma Free initiative. First and foremost, the district trained over 90 teachers in Youth Mental Health First Aid. This workshop focused on developing the staff’s ability to identify and respond to acute mental health crises in the student population. Staff were also trained on how to incorporate mindfulness techniques in the classroom. Additionally, juniors and seniors at the high school participated in a mindfulness based wellness program called the School of Balance. This program sought to enhance the students’ positive coping skills and self-awareness. We also had students participate in events outside of Fort Lee; a group of students from the high school represented the district in the Ramsey Stigma Free Walk in early May. These are just a few of the programs that were incorporated across the district in grades K-12 and were a great addition to the excellent work already being done by school counselors throughout the district. This school year has seen a lot of progress in moving our district toward the goal of being stigma free. We look forward to continuing the initiative next year!
NY Giants - Play 60!

The New York Giants and American Heart Association recently adopted Lewis F. Cole Middle School for their annual Play 60 Challenge. Numerous current and retired Giants players visited the school each week for four weeks from April 22 to May 17, including a community night held at Fort Lee High School on Tuesday, May 7. The purpose of the Play 60 initiative is to have the Giants players take over the middle school’s physical education classes, and encourage the students to get 60 minutes of active play every single day. Players that visited the students of LFCMS included Saquon Barkley, Sterling Shepard, Evan Engram, Justin Tuck, Jonathan Cassillas, Aldrick Rosas and many others. The N.Y. Giants media production team put a highlight video together that is posted on our school district’s website. A special thanks to the N.Y. Giants, Dr. Daniello and staff for making the most out of this awesome opportunity. Very proud of the Giants and Bridgemen!
Rock Project...

To celebrate diversity, all elementary students read and discussed the book “Only One You” by Linda Kranz, and in turn painted their own unique design on the sides of a river rock. Students placed their painted rocks outside their school building, creating a beautiful mosaic celebrating each school’s culture of acceptance. Principals, guidance counselors, and art teachers worked collaboratively on this very special project.
Circle The Arts...

On Friday, May 17, 2019, Fort Lee Public Schools celebrated Circle the Arts at Fort Lee High School. The festival included visual and practical arts exhibits, vocal and instrumental music ensembles, and the extraordinary acting skills of the students in our community.

School No. 2 students performed alongside students from all four elementary schools at Circle of the Arts and were given the opportunity to showcase their artwork that evening.
Circle The Arts...
What’s Happening @ S#1...

School No. 1 - Students created a poetry book and parents shared and wrote a poem with their child. All 4 second grades participated. Way to go 2nd grade!
What’s Happening @ S#1...

School No. 1 celebrated teachers during Teachers’ Appreciation Week.
What's Happening @ S#2...

School No. 2: This month many of our classes at School 2 participated in class trips. Our Pre-School classes enjoyed a trip to the Turtle back Zoo. At the zoo they learned many interesting facts about animals they knew and discovered new animals! They also participated in a number of fun games and activities on Pre-K Field Day.

Second grade had a great day at The Liberty Science Center! Some of the things we experienced were comparing salt and fresh water, walking the skyscraper, and making energy while peddling bikes. Our third graders loved learning more about animal adaptations and life cycles while visiting The Tenafly Nature Center.

The School 2 ABA classes took a class trip to Bounce U. There our students had a great time working on motor skills and having fun on the equipment!
What’s Happening @ S#2...

Our fourth grade students visited the Meadowlands Environmental Center and participated in the “Solar Energy: Living With the Sun” program. They learned how the sun affects the earth and how we use the sun’s motion to heat and cool earth.

The Environmental Club visited the Tenafly Nature Center where they learned about climate change, endangered animals, and living organisms in different bodies of water. The group then got to meet endangered animals and learn about their history. The group was involved in many hands on activities as they worked together to explore nature around them.

The fifth grade took their class trip to the Bergen Performing Arts Center to see a show called “Science of Ecology” starring Steve Trash. Students were entertained through his magic and comedic demonstration on how trash can be a valuable resource.

This month our PTA treated the staff to a breakfast during teacher appreciation week! Thank you PTA.
What’s Happening @ S#3...

School No. 3 PTA and media specialist Anna Zieba hosted an author visit on May 30th. Popular children’s author and illustrator, Jarrett J. Krosoczka, spoke about the process of publishing children’s books, drew some illustrations, held a book signing and had lunch with invited students and teachers.

School No. 3 PTA conducted a Buy One Get One Book Fair during the week of May 20th to encourage summer reading. Students seen in photos stocking up on books which will help to prevent ”summer slide.”
What’s Happening @ S#3...

School No. 3 celebrated its cultural diversity at our International Festival on April 26th. The celebration included delicious foods from the many countries that represent our school, a Colombian martial arts and music performance, a visit from members of the Fort Lee School Board and even a Mariachi Band, all pictured.
What’s Happening @ S#3...

School No. 3 PTA conducted a week long variety of activities to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Pictured are Super Heroes Day in which teachers were presented with classroom supplies, treats brought in for teachers in the teacher’s lounge, and a breakfast catered from Brownstone Diner, including eggs, pancakes and bacon.

School No. 3 parents and kids had fun celebrating our community at Yankee Stadium.
What’s Happening @ S#4...

The School No. 4 PTA planned out a fabulous week for our teachers to recognize them for Teacher Appreciation Week. Each day the teachers were given a special treat in their mailbox ranging from snacks to gifts, culminating in a wonderful luncheon celebration. A very special Thank You to our PTA and of course, to our tremendous teachers at School No. 4.

The SADD Committee completed their annual Pennies for Patients Coin Drive. In total, this year, the School No. 4 Community along with our SADD Committee raised $2,962.38 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society! Congratulations to Ms. Kim, and the SADD Committee!

The kindergarten classes had a great time at their buddy BBQ on May 23rd. They enjoyed lunch, ice cream, and a magician show with their buddies. It was a great way to bond with our buddies before they go to the middle school.

The kindergarten through 3rd grade classes have taken part in Reader’s Theater, where the students acted out several different books. They created a backdrop and worked together to practice their lines. All of the students did an amazing job! The students have also celebrated their hard work in writing with publishing parties!
What’s Happening @ S#4...

School No. 4 Field Day took place on Monday, June 3rd after several cancellations due to rain. The wait was well worth it!!! Students and staff enjoyed healthy competition and showed great sportsmanship throughout the day!

Ms. Shuki’s third-grade class enjoying the ice cream treats sponsored by the PTA!!

Mr. Ziemba keeping a close eye on the “tug-o’ war” competition!

The second-grade classes competing in the “sponge relay race.”

The day culminated with a “BMX Stunt Show” by Action Sports Team. The show coupled entertainment with a Bike Safety Message for our students.
What’s Happening @ FLHS...

The Academy of Finance had a busy spring season complete with career readiness activities.

In May, AOF students participated in the annual Career Day, whereby students interact and listen to various professionals who tell the students about their careers. The guest speakers discuss their educational backgrounds, their past job experiences, and current career path. It helps the students navigate through their own career path. Guest speakers included Anthony DiMeglio of Sea Straws, Kimberly Osorio, Brooks Brothers, and Mike Medrano.

In June, the AOF Juniors took a field trip to KPMG, a Big 4 Accounting firm, where they had a worksite tour, learned about accounting and robotics, and interacted with new hires to understand the interviewing process and what the first year of work is like. In addition, the AOF celebrated with our AOF Seniors at the AOF Senior Recognition Night. This year’s Seniors earned 7 college credits from Syracuse University and Fairleigh Dickinson University. In addition, our Seniors took the NOCTI exam (short for the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute). This test delivers a battery of assessments for students studying career and technical programs. Based on this test 5 students earned an additional 3 college credits and 20 out of 22 students earned the Workplace Competency Credential. We wish our Seniors the best of luck in college.

The Botany Class at Fort Lee High School, under the direction of Ms. Julieth Colorado, created a beautiful wreath for the Fort Lee Board of Education to present during the Memorial Day festivities held on May 27th.
Athletic Happenings...

**Softball:**
Fort Lee’s softball team closed out the 2019 season with a 14-0 win over league foe Ridgefield Park to cap off a rebuilding season. The Bridgemen qualified for the NJSIAA State Sectional Tournament as the sixteen seed traveling to the number one seeded Hanover Park Hornets. While the Hornets struck first scoring three runs in the bottom of the first inning, Fort Lee bounced back scoring five to start the second. The Bridgemen in the end fell short by a run, the final score, 11-10. Junior Valerie Glass led the team in batting average hitting .438 in 21 games played. On the mound, sophomore Lily Schulman commanded a 3.615 earned run average in 40.2 innings pitched. Fort Lee opened the year with a 18-3 win over JFK (Paterson). After hitting a four game skid, the Bridgemen rebounded with three straight wins (two in league) over Ridgefield Park, Harrison and Cliffside Park. With only three graduating seniors, the Bridgemen will return a large part of their lineup and will only build upon it come next spring.

**Softball (Field Day):**
Our varsity softball team helped out at School No. 1’s Field Day!

**Baseball:**
Fort Lee baseball notched their first win of the season, an 11-1 tilt over Wallington, on April 6th. The Bridgemen followed that up with their first league victory of the year, a 6-4 win over the Scarlets of Ridgefield Park. Fort Lee also split the series with Dumont at one-game-a-piece and closed out the regular season with another 11-1 one, this time over Elmwood Park. Fort Lee qualified for the NJSIAA State Sectional Tournament as the fourteen seed and traveled to number three, Newark Tech, on May 20th. Falling behind quickly, 4-0, the Bridgemen rallied four runs in the top of the third to even the game at 4 runs. However, that proved to not be enough as the Bridgemen came up short in the end, 13-4.
Athletic Happenings...

Boys’ Tennis:
Fort Lee’s boys tennis team played a very competitive independent schedule on top of the rigorous Big North American schedule this season. The Bridgemen finished 2019 with a 12-9 record, good for fifth place in the NJSIAA’s North 2, Group II section. The Bridgemen faced Voorhees in the first round of the State Sectional Tournament, leaving with a 4-1 victory. To close out the regular season, Fort Lee topped new league rival Westwood Regional, 4-1. Returning to the second round of the tournament, the Bridgemen traveled to the number one seed Summit, falling 5-0. Fort Lee had big wins against non-public giants St. Joseph (Montvale) and Bergen Catholic and swept the regular season series against foes Ridgefield Park and Cliffside Park.

Golf:
The Bridgemen golf team finished the 2019 regular season with a 17-3 record. Fort Lee finished tied for second place in an expanded Big North Conference, American Division after winning the league five straight seasons. Earlier this school year, senior Sun Hwang signed with Florida Southern (D. II) and will golf there this coming season at the NCAA level. Hwang was also seeded first in the state at the NJSIAA’s Girls’ Golf Tournament of Champions where she finished tenth overall in New Jersey out of over 70 golfers. She was 1st Team All-State this year and was 1st Team All-County. Hwang and sophomore, Joseph Choi, were honored as 1st Team All-League recipients this season.

NJSIAA Scholar-Athlete Luncheon:
Senior Sameer Idrees was awarded the “History of Wrestling” scholarship at the NJSIAA’s Scholar-Athlete Luncheon, held at the Pines Manor on May 19th. Idrees competed in football, wrestling and track and field this year for the Bridgemen. He will attend Rutgers University in the Fall.
Athletic Happenings...

Track and Field (Boys and Girls):
Fort Lee’s track and field teams had another great season in 2019 with two county champions and a school record broken... twice! Senior El Taylor was the 2019 Bergen County Group B champion in the 100m dash and senior Huasly Paredes captured the Bergen County Group B championship in javelin on May 10 at Hasbrouck Heights. At the Bergen County Meet of Champions (BMOC) held at Hackensack High School, junior Emily Diaz broke the Fort Lee record in girls’ javelin with a 104'8” throw! To follow that feat, Diaz threw 105'0” at the NJSIAA Sectional Meet where she took second place in the event. Diaz will advance to the Group meet and represent Fort Lee.

Senior El Taylor - 2019 Bergen County Group B champion in the 100m dash.

Senior Huasly Paredes - 2019 Bergen County Group B champion in javelin.

Junior Emily Diaz broke the Fort Lee record in Girls’ javelin with a 104’8” throw!

Boys’ Track & Field at Penn Relays.

Girls’ Track & Field at Penn Relays.
Athletic Happenings...

Signing Day
On May 3rd, there was a signing day for student-athletes in the West Gymnasium at Fort Lee High School for the following:

Two student-athletes will be playing football at William Paterson
Two student-athletes will be playing football at Dean
One student-athlete will be participating in both basketball and track and field at Utica.

Congratulations!

NJSIAA Representative:
This year, as part of the inaugural NJSIAA’s Student-Athlete Advisory Council, Fort Lee senior, Erik Holzapfel, represented the Bridgemen along with just over 100 other student-athletes from across the state. The SAAC met twice, once in Woodbridge and again at the Rutgers Football Hale Center. Holzapfel contributed to the discussion as the council spoke about time commitments for athletes, mindfulness in sports, nutrition, length of seasons and a multitude of additional topics. The Ambassadors released an Op-Ed piece, reviewing all of their findings this past month. The link is available on our district website under the ‘Athletics’ tab at www.flboe.com.
MINDFULNESS PRACTICE OF THE MONTH:

Savor some silence.
During a period of enforced quiet, everyone goes through their regular routines—but they don’t speak. Start with 5 or 10 minutes and try to work up to an hour or more. (A family I know observes silent Saturdays from wake-up until noon.) Other types of communication—writing, signaling, sign language—should be discouraged, although you can give everyone a small note pad to jot down thoughts, to be passed around later. The first time I observed silence, I was shocked—not by the quiet, but by the noise. My mind rushed to fill the stillness with jabbering inside my head. After a while though, the mental noise lessens (but never stops entirely). You will notice that the world is more vibrant than before, because when you shut down the avenue where so much energy escapes, it is rechanneled to the other senses.

Mindfulness Activities to do as a Family: [https://www.parents.com/fun/activities/5-mindfulness-activities-you-can-do-as-a-family/](https://www.parents.com/fun/activities/5-mindfulness-activities-you-can-do-as-a-family/)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 15, 2019</td>
<td>Board of Education Public Meeting (HS Media Center)</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, August 12, 2019</td>
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<tr>
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Child Study Team Staff celebrated Special Education Week (May 12-18) at Board & Brush in Ramsey.