

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

MINUTES – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, February 23, 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 8:03 PM by Mr. David Sarnoff, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Jeff Weinberg 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. Michael Osso, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Ammad Quraishi, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Joseph Surace, Mr. Jeff Weinberg, and Mr. David Sarnoff

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Paul Saxton, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mrs. Ana M. Flores, Mr. Dennis McKeever, Esq.

ABSENT:

Mr. David L. Rinderknecht, Mr. Michael Zhadanovsky and Ms. Arielle Vertsman

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

- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton informed that a Meet & Greet will be scheduled in March to introduce the new Superintendent-Kenneth Rota.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton was happy to present Anthony J. Lione Sr., Vice Commander of the VFW with the Field of Heroes donation in the amount of \$7,762.76.
- ◆ The School Security Drills report for the month of January 2015 was available to the Board.
- ◆ Student Achievement Awards were presented by Middle School Principal-Robert Daniello and Board President-David Sarnoff.
- ◆ Dennis McKeever explained that 95% of the students must take the PARCC (Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) test or the district will be considered in need of improvement which may lead to loss of federal funds. They then entertained questions from the audience.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS – Reported by Chairperson of respective committee**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 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 | |

- ◆ None

7. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Mrs. Candace Romba, offered, seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver, to open the meeting for Public Work Session portion of the meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Candace Romba, offered, seconded by Mr. Yusang Park, to close the meeting for Public Work Session portion of the meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg, to open the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Ada Garcia expressed her concerns as ground breaking is to begin at the Middle School. Are the architects and engineers aware of the magnitude of rock.

Mrs. Bruna Capalbo expressed her concern with the loss of instruction time for students as a result of the PARCC exam. Teachers have had limited training and are concerned with the responsibility bestowed upon them to monitor the test.

Mr. Daniel Michael and others expressed what a role model and great influence Demba Mane was to them academically and personally as a track coach.

Mrs. Candace Romba, offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, to close the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

9. ALL RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Board Committee			
#2B	RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING		
#3B	ATTENDANCE AND TRAVEL FOR BOARD MEMBER WORKSHOPS		
#4B	APPOINTMENT OF MR. KENNETH ROTA AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS		
	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #2B and #4B Resolution #3B - PULLED</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Resolution #2B - Mrs. Holly Morell abstained. Resolution #2B - Mr. Joseph Surace was absent. Resolution #4B - Mr. Joseph Surace voted yes in absentia.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #2B and #4B Resolution #3B - PULLED	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Resolution #2B - Mrs. Holly Morell abstained. Resolution #2B - Mr. Joseph Surace was absent. Resolution #4B - Mr. Joseph Surace voted yes in absentia.
Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #2B and #4B Resolution #3B - PULLED	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Resolution #2B - Mrs. Holly Morell abstained. Resolution #2B - Mr. Joseph Surace was absent. Resolution #4B - Mr. Joseph Surace voted yes in absentia.		

Buildings and Grounds			
#1B&G	BOSWELL ENGINEERING SERVICES		
#2B&G	APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FROM SSP ARCHITECTURAL GROUP FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL TURF FIELD AND HIGH SCHOOL FIELD RECONSTRUCTION		
#3B&G	APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FROM SSP ARCHITECTURAL GROUP FOR RE-DESIGN OF THE COURTYARD AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL - PHASE 1 ADDITION		
	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1B&G - #3B&G</td> <td>Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph Surace was absent.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1B&G - #3B&G	Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph Surace was absent.
Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1B&G - #3B&G	Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph Surace was absent.		

Curriculum Committee			
#1CUR	APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT NO COST TO THE DISTRICT		
	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1CUR</td> <td>Seconded by Mr. Yusang Park On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph Surace was absent.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1CUR	Seconded by Mr. Yusang Park On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph Surace was absent.
Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1CUR	Seconded by Mr. Yusang Park On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph Surace was absent.		

Finance	
#1F	APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$6,026,066.01
#2F	APPROVAL – LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR JANUARY 2015

#3F	APPROVAL – CAFETERIA CLAIMS FOR JANUARY 2015 TOTALING \$75,991.45	
#4F	AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT AN AMENDMENT OF THE IDEA GRANT FOR 2014-2015	
#5F	ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1F - #5F	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph Surace was absent.

<u>Health-Welfare and Safety</u>		
#1HWS	PAYMENT OF HOME INSTRUCTION SERVICES	
#2HWS	APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENT FOR 2014-2015	
	Motion by Mr. Yusang Park To Approve #1HWS & #2HWS	Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph Surace was absent.

<u>Personnel</u>		
#1P	APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$135.03	
#2P	APPROVAL OF LEAVE REPLACEMENTS DURING 2014-2015	
#3P	APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTES FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR	
#4P	APPROVAL OF REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR HEAD CUSTODIAN	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #4P	Seconded by Mr. Yusang Park On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Resolution #3P - Mrs. Candace Romba abstained. Mr. Joseph Surace was absent.

10. **OLD BUSINESS** – None
11. **NEW BUSINESS**-None
12. Mr. Al Annunziata held a School Ethics Act presentation on PowerPoint.

13. At approximately 10:03 PM, Mrs. Candace Romba, offered, seconded by Mr. Ammad Quraishi, to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ana M. Flores". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

ANA M. FLORES

ASSISTANT BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

AMF/mp
Att. 4-2-15