

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

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, January 9, 2012

Library, School No. 1 – 250 Hoym St.

1. The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by Mr. Arthur W. Levine, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Carmelo Luppino, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Public Announcement by the President of the Board of Education:  
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, 255 Whiteman Street; published in the Board's designated newspapers: Fort Lee Patch.com, 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.

4. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mr. John Bang, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr., Mrs. Linda McCue (left at 8:15), Mrs. Angela Napolitano, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Arthur W. Levine

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Steven Engravalle, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto, and Mr. Yaacov Brisman, Esq.

ABSENT:

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

- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Armstrong had a presentation of the High School website called breakthesilence.com.

6. **REPORT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES - None**

7. **BOARD SECRETARY REPORT – NOVEMBER 2011**

- ◆ For the month of November 2011.

	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano	
	To approve the Board Secretary Report for the month of November 2011.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue was absent.	

8. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION**

- ◆ For the month of November 2011.

	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh	
	To approve the Monthly Budget Status Certification for the month November 2011.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue was absent.	

9. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

10. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ◆ Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on January 9, 2012.

	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano	
	To Approve Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on January 9, 2012.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue was absent.	

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

- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that Mr. Steven Engravalle already has made changes as Interim Superintendent and he would like an explanation of why there is a walk-in of significant consequence. The letter is from today and there is a need for a public search.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated the county gave the approval letter today and they required the board to change the name from acting to interim. That is the only change from the original resolution.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that the board should do a Superintendent search. The board passed a resolution in October to solicit proposals. I have filed an OPRA request and have not received a response. Do I need to file a complaint. The board needs to do a search so people can apply.
- ◆ Mr. Yaacov Brisman stated that there are people employed who might be candidates Mrs. Paula Colbath asked when the board will retain a firm.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that Interim vs Acting is different. An Interim is one who has all the credentials and Acting doesn't have the credentials. The process of choosing a search firm is a public discussion. To interview a firm is a public meeting. Are you going to interview firms?
- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia asked how a job could not be posted.
- ◆ Mrs. Paige Sarnoff stated that the date of the proposal should take into account the amount of time you are losing.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl stated that he had supported Mr. Steven Engravalle and that a search is not needed. If the board came out they could give him Acting Superintendent and a trial amount of time. Then if Mr. Engravalle did not wish to be Superintendent the search could be conducted. A promise of a search would be done and we should be positive not negative for the board and community.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that the trust is jeopardizing the referendum.
- ◆ Mr. Keith Jensen stated that the opportunity for a Scholarship Act we might not be one of the lucky towns and not get assistance. I think Mr. Engravalle would be a fine Superintendent. There is a vagueness of process. We should do a search firm or look who you have in the system.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine thanked Mr. Joe Cevieri and Jan Goldberg for coming for coming to the meeting.
- ◆ Ms. Christina Yoo stated that the School Image Story was read in 4B and would like to know who reviewed the book.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that the cover of the book was approved by Principal Kravitz and if needed for board approval.
- ◆ Mr. Alex Floratos asked if there is a CAP and how does that work?
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that everyone wants a long term Superintendent but now there's CAPS on the salary.

- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that the shift started when the state took away tenure.
- ◆ Ms. Diane Sicari stated that parents are very disappointed with the actions of the board with the public. They watch the council meetings and this doesn't happen. We want to support the referendum.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Frederico stated that on page 10 there is blacked out portion?
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balleto stated the name is blacked out due to a settlement.
- ◆ Mr. Levine stated we are clearly against Charter Schools when funds are out of our pocket. And yes we will put on a resolution.
- ◆ Holly Morrelle asked about resolution #1F and the \$5,400 for the website?
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balleto stated that it is for the referendum website.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked if the law allows 15% for merit pay?
- ◆ Mr. Yaacov Brisman stated yes if the person meets district goals.
- ◆ Mrs. Carol Simon stated that the trust is what we don't have. My son is in the High School and with great teachers.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if we are not hiring a Search Firm what steps would people take to make sure there is support from administrators and teachers.
- ◆ Mr. Levine stated that most of us have interaction with the staff and hear concerns all the time.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that if he ran his business this way he would be out of business. We have nine board members, great administrators and teachers. We have been elected to make the right decisions and are nine very strong willed people. We will come up with the best decision after listening to the public. We will make the right decision.
- ◆ Mr. George Porto stated that Mr. Luppino hit all the numbers. If we don't like it then we will get rid of you. This is like a family. Where do you stand moving the election to November?
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that he agrees with Mr. Levine. Keep politics out and most people will vote for the budget or candidate.
- ◆ Ms. Kathy Lee stated that it is in our best interest to make the right decision. I'm observing the lack of transparency. Some things are not made public. Selecting the Superintendent Why isn't this top priority? This should have been already been decided. We would like an answer before the meeting is over.
- ◆ Mr. Yaacov Brisman stated that it has not been reached.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that we are not happy with the choices of firms. Internal candidates also have come up.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that we are on a gag order by the attorney and we did not speak of employees.
- ◆ Mr. Yaacov Brisman stated that the board has no final decision.

12. **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<b><u>Board Committee</u></b>	
<b>#1B</b>	Approval – <b>Resolution Regarding School District Report of Incidents of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying</b>
<b>#2B</b>	Approval – <b>Seeking Amendment to Senate Bill 2925 (Ruiz)/Assembly Bill 4132 (Coutinho/Singleton) to Retain Local School Board and Superintendent Authority over Personnel Decisions</b>
<b>#3B</b>	Approval – <b>Resolution in Opposition to Senate Bill 1872 and Assembly Bill 2810 "Opportunity Scholarship Act"</b>
<b>#4B</b>	Approval – <b>Approval of Usage of School Image for "Blue Ribbon Story" Book Cover</b>

	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B - #4B	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue was absent.	
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<b><u>Buildings and Grounds</u></b>			
<b>#1B&amp;G</b>	Approval – <b>Agreement with The Liberty Group to Move Central Office at a cost not to exceed \$4,500</b>		
<b>#2B&amp;G</b>	Approval – <b>Authorizing Business Administrator to Solicit Bids for Document Management System</b>		
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B&G & #2B&G	Seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue was absent.	

<b><u>Curriculum Committee</u></b>			
<b>#1CUR</b>	Approval – <b>Approval of Class Trips</b>		
<b>#2CUR</b>	Approval – <b>CPR/First-Aid Training</b>		
	Motion by Mr. Arthur Levine To Approve #1CUR & #2CUR	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue was absent.	

<b><u>Finance</u></b>			
<b>#1F</b>	Approval – <b>Current Bills List Totaling \$4,424,812.37</b>		
<b>#2F</b>	Approval – <b>Line Item Transfers for November 2011</b>		
<b>#3F</b>	Approval – <b>Authorization to Establish Bank Account with TD Bank North for the Flexible Spending Account Program</b>		
<b>#4F</b>	Approval – <b>Lease Agreement with Pitney Bowes at \$868.00 per month</b>		
<b>#5F</b>	Approval – <b>Agreement with National Joint Powers Alliance</b>		
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #5F	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue was absent. Mrs. Angela Napolitano abstained from Resolution #1F. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name on Resolution #1F.	

<b><u>Health-Welfare and Safety</u></b>			
<b>#1HWS</b>	Approval – <b>Payment of Home Instruction Services</b>		
<b>#2HWS</b>	Approval – <b>Appointment of ABA Related-Service Provider</b>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1HWS &amp; #2HWS</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue was absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1HWS & #2HWS	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue was absent.
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<b><u>Personnel</u></b>			
<b>#1P</b>	Approval – <b>Staff Trips and Conferences</b>		
<b>#2P</b>	Approval – <b>Retirement of Joyce Krieger as School Nurse at School No. 2</b>		
<b>#3P</b>	Approval – <b>Retirement of Phyllis Citrin as High School Science Teacher</b>		
<b>#4P</b>	Approval – <b>Resignation of Lucie Iuzzolino as Leave Replacement (For Foreign Language Teacher) at Fort Lee High School</b>		
<b>#5P</b>	Approval – <b>Resignation of Peter Wood as Part-Time Classroom Aide at Lewis F. Cole Middle School</b>		
<b>#6P</b>	Approval – <b>Resignation of Angela Rodriquez as Part-Time Preschool 1:1 Aide at Fort Lee Early Childhood Center</b>		
<b>#7P</b>	Approval – <b>Maternity Leave for Jenny Mccann as Elemetary Teacher at School No. 4</b>		
<b>#8P</b>	Approval – <b>Maternity Leave Kathleen Weissman-Wei as Preschool Teacher at Fort Lee Early Childhood Center</b>		
<b>#9P</b>	Approval – <b>Appointment of Rachel Smith as Leave Replacement at School No. 4</b>		
<b>#10P</b>	Approval – <b>Appointment of ABA Home Instructors</b>		
<b>#11P</b>	Approval – <b>Appointment of Additional Co-Curricular Personnel for the 2011-2012 School Year</b>		
<b>#12P</b>	Approval – <b>Extra Compensation for District Assignment</b>		
<b>#13P</b>	Approval – <b>Volunteer at School No. 4</b>		
<b>#14P</b>	Approval – <b>Additional Substitutes for the 2011-2012 school year</b>		
<b>#15P</b>	Approval – <b>Approval of Interim Superintendent Contract</b>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1P - #15P</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue was absent. Mr. Yusang Park abstained on Resolutions #10P and #15P.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1P - #15P	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue was absent. Mr. Yusang Park abstained on Resolutions #10P and #15P.
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13. At approximately 9:45 PM, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, offered, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, seconded by, to adjourn the Regular Business meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Roll calls and resolutions of this meeting are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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CHERYL BALLETO  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

CB/mp  
Att.  
1-20-12