

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

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 6, 2012

All Purpose Room, School No. 1 – 250 Hoym St.

1. The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 8:02 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. Angela Napolitano,
Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Steven Engravalle, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto, and Mr. Matthew Giacobbe, Esq.

ABSENT: Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Arthur W. Levine
5. **REPORT OF THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**
 - ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle thanked everyone on their support of the Referendum.
 - ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that the Girl's Basketball team at the Fort Lee High School will be playing tomorrow night and would like everyone to proceed from the concession stand to the American Cancer Society stand. Mr. Engravalle thanked Stacey Zafaris and Bill Straub for a wonderful program.
 - ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated the non matching grant Technology, Fort Lee is one of nine districts to participate in the Intel Teach Program. He stated that we have a master teacher from each school including two staff developers.
 - ◆ Mr. Engravalle stated that it's an honor that the State Committee nominated Diane Baker to write the Curriculum.
6. **REPORT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**
 - ◆ Sarah Moore said that they will honor the Wind Concert, Spring Musical and the Community Musical. Valentine chocolate is being sold by the Student Council.
 - ◆ Ross Fasman stated that there should be an official day off for the Giant's parade. The Fort Lee Baseball team will be going on a trip to Florida and he would like to thank the board and the cheerleaders who will also go to compete. The IB Program will start assessments and multiple exams.
7. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**
 - ◆ Mr. Peter Suh stated that he was concerned about the election law. Pros we can prepare without worrying about failing. It's a tough decision and would like to hear from the public. This is not something to vote on lightly and he doesn't know the final decision. We can't undo the decision for four years.

- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that the voter turnout is low. If we move the election to November then more people will be involved. The Governor has given the town council the ability to override the board and he doesn't like that part which has pros and cons. We have to look at this as a community.
- ◆ Mr. Peter Suh stated that this is a great point about November but it is still tough.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that we don't know how the mechanics to work. Let's see how it works out. We can change our minds. We don't know what Trenton was thinking why the municipality can change it.
- ◆ Mrs. Angela Napolitano stated that fortunately our budget has always passed. Most people support our budget. More people will vote on who the representatives would be and more people will be involved yet still undecided.
- ◆ Mr. Joe Cevieri stated that he has not discussed it and stated how we will save money on the election. There is no discussion at the council level.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that if we use a 2% CAP our jobs will be more focused with a clean slate on our budget moving forward.
- ◆ Mrs. Rosemary Giacomelli asked when does it start?
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe board attorney stated no to the change to November. If we are within our CAP then it is county approved. If over 2% then we can't spend till after the election in November.
- ◆ Mrs. Rosemary Giacomelli asked what is a benefit.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that right now it is capped at 2% and to increase the voter turnout. Also there will be longer voting hours.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Lipoff stated that the FLEA-NJEA did support this legislation and asked if we have been budgeting for this move?
- ◆ Ms. Diane Sicari stated that the election in November has political lines and this concerns her. If we do go above 2% CAP and it passes, it requires new tax bills which are an expense.
- ◆ Mr. Mathew Giacobbe stated that members can't run under Republican or Democrat. There will be a separate line.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated that the CAP was raised to 2% to 2.80%. It is not a fixed number like you assumed. If it is raised to 5% we still can't vote.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated then we will still save money on the election.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated that we had three referendums and the cost is not a big concern to this board.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that she had mixed feelings and does see a benefit about cost. With more voting and a 2% CAP we can be more political. The November election will set the board members till January. She sees a potential problem. It is linked for four years and the board waited too long to discuss it. The board doesn't have any time and we must act by February 17, 2012.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern is it a majority of full board or members present?
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that he doesn't know but because there is no guidance I would say the majority of the full board would be the safest course of action.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl stated that he thought it would be nice to address the issue sooner. He spoke to the council that had spoken about it. In Patch.com the dialogue is a lot of conversation. The special interest groups can get eliminated. People will get on board if special interest groups weren't there like people who don't live in town. The board didn't care about it and it is insulting. The board is trying to do the best and put dollars aside to better our schools. We support your decision.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that the prudent approach is a lot of uncertainties that happens in one year. What reluctance do you have with this.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that for him he has the opportunity to decide what we want to do and keep it in our hands.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that if voted to keep the election in April do you think they would do it? I don't think they would veto your decision.

- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Frederico stated that due to the time frame by February 17, 2012 we would like to hear a discussion now.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that he is not ready to vote tonight and we are discussing it.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that we should have faith if we keep within the 2% CAP. If we take a right away from the public then history proves there will be rebellion. We should have the right to vote on the school budget. Waiting a year doesn't hurt a thing.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ◆ Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on February 6, 2012.

	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano	Seconded by Mr. Yusang Park	
	To Approve Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on February 6, 2012.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Arthur Levine were absent.	

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

- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that he congratulates the board and administration on passing the referendum. Homeowners and the community support this. The whole world is watching how we will handle this responsibility. Are there any members who did not cast a vote? It is a public referendum and the public has the right to know now.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that he would not put anyone in that position. It is public and anyone can get that information.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that the Search Agreement Committee is having a meeting and has been precedent to meet with the firm one on one with no board members. It was a productive meeting and would ask the board to reconsider.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Frederico asked why the Bills List tuition settlement is blacked out.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that the tuition is complying with the court order and is done through an AOL judge.
- ◆ Ms. Christina Yoo asked if there will be four classrooms and what is the best fit for it. She doesn't know what the enrollment will be. With the number of Special Education students what is the option of where they would be placed.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that a part of the reason for the referendum is that we believe those children are served better here.
- ◆ Ms. Christina Yoo stated that there are an extra sixty aides and we want our children here and not on the bus. We should talk about it and not the month before.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that he thought it would be easy but pieces are constantly changing.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that there is a great deal of preparation that goes on and changes are not overnight.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that Mr. David Sarnoff's comments for the Superintendent Search and all of the proposals included some type of forum that is important for the stakeholders to come to give their vision, qualifications and experience for the position. What is the status of the contract with Leadership Advantage?
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked did every board member know that number 2 was crossed out.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that they should have known in their packet.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if someone had known then something was missing. What was the \$2,900 used for with the District Management Council. She stated that it went to the membership fees for the Superintendent and the Business Administrator's membership. It is a district membership. Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if there are separate resolutions and asked if the difference is the consulting fee for the leadership team or for the audit work.

- ◆ Ms. Aida Garcia asked about why was there an omission for piece for candidates? In the past there were no board members present and parents went with a search firm alone. She asked about Mr. Engravalle's \$10,000 stipend.
 - ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated that no payment has been made since November 1, 2011.
10. At approximately 9:20 PM, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, offered, Mrs. Angela Napolitano seconded by, to recess the Regular Business meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
11. At approximately 9:30 PM, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, offered, Mr. Peter Suh seconded by, to return to the Regular Business meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico asked about the resolution and if we need to rescind it.
 - ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto answered that she is working with the county for guidance. It is a new law.
 - ◆ Mr. Yusang Park asked if the board members gave Mrs. Cheryl Balletto permission to call the county.
 - ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto answered no. As Board Secretary her role is to make sure we are in compliance with the laws and she can call the county for guidance.
 - ◆ Mr. Yusang Park asked if certain board members knew that she was calling the county.
 - ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto answered no, and that she can call alone.
 - ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that the input on the Superintendent Search is the purpose of the meeting. What she wants is an interim and a different person in the permanent Superintendent position. People did not speak truly for this. We can look at the tape and search firms will do it without the board present. This is done to protect the board and everyone can speak freely. We have had that and it is disingenuous. \$13,500 for \$9,500 and should she assume that the \$4,000 it will take to run a day to meet with the stakeholders. It is an important decision to make and the entire nine board members and committee members would like to participate in the criteria. The integral part of search committee \$8,500 to \$15,000. It is a very tough job ad I would think it would be to your best interest before you place an ad to hear what the community wants and charge \$1,000 for all of it. Contracts can be amended.
 - ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl stated that the FLEA is one of the stakeholder groups in the meeting who has the best interest of all and would like to have a meeting. He also asked if a clause was deleted and was the contract reduced and for how much? On Saturday night the High School booster dance would have like to see more board members. Each student pays \$150 each to be in the sports program. In the future please come or donate \$35.
 - ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that he heard they had a great turnout.
 - ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked about Resolution #2B and the clarity of the \$10,000 item on the July 25, 2011 agenda. Did it get Executive County approval November 1, 2011 to February 1, 2012? The Executive County accompanied the entire compensation amount of benefits \$2,900 and reported the health benefits. In the schedule did you include \$10,000?
 - ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto answered no because it is not part of the Interim Superintendent Contract. He has two contracts and is still the Assistant Superintendent. He has not been paid the \$10,000 since November 1, 2011 the day of the acting contract. This is a new law.
 - ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that \$13,500 is in it with a clause. She asked to reduce the fee and change it from \$13,500 to \$9,500.
 - ◆ Mrs. Mildred Frederico stated that there should be a reduction and reduces it to \$9,500.
 - ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated that they had the experience in the past.
 - ◆ Mr. John Bang stated that as he was driving to work he heard on the radio that we had received favorable coverage and would commend our interim Superintendent.
 - ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace asked when is the security audit.
 - ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that he is looking forward to March.
 - ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that there are more items to be addressed.

12. **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- ◆ To add back the public input session for the Superintendent search at no additional cost.

	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve Clause 2	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Arthur Levine were absent.
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<u>Board Committee</u>		
#1B	Approval – Resolution Regarding School District Report of Incidents of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying	
#2B	Approval of Revised Interim Superintendent Contract	
	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1B & #2B	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Arthur Levine were absent.

<u>Buildings and Grounds</u>		
#1B&G	Approval – Delegation of Authority to the School Business Administrator for Supervision of the School Facilities Project	
#2B&G	Approval – Execution of Grant Agreements	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1B&G & #2B&G	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Arthur Levine were absent.

<u>Curriculum Committee</u>		
#1CUR	Approval – Approval of Class Trips at No Cost to the District	
	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1CUR	Seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang abstained from 1 item. Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Arthur Levine were absent.

<u>Finance</u>		
#1F	Approval – Current Bills List Totaling \$7,615,128.69	
#2F	Approval – Revised Budget Calendar for 2012-2013	
#3F	Approval of Working Advantage Agreement at No Cost to the District	

	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #3F	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Arthur Levine were absent.
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Health-Welfare and Safety		
#1HWS	Approval – Payment of Home Instruction Services	
	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1HWS	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Arthur Levine were absent.

Personnel		
#1P	Approval - Staff Trips and Conferences Totaling \$4,257.81	
#2P	Approval – Rescinding the Appointment of Jenna Costello as Part-Time Preschool 1:1 Aide at Fort Lee Early Childhood Center	
#3P	Approval – Amended Maternity Leave for Christina Murphy as Mathematics Teacher at Lewis F. Cole Middle School	
#4P	Approval – Extended Maternity Leave for Aimee Desheplo as Guidance Counselor	
#5P	Approval – Joann Tarabola Sick Day Payout	
#6P	Approval – Extending Appointment of Meghan Lynch as Leave Replacement for Guidance Counselor at School No. 2	
#7P	Approval – Appointment of Barbara Oliveri as Leave Replacement for Middle School Mathematics	
#8P	Approval – Addition to Home Instructors List for 2011-2012	
#9P	Approval – Additional Tutors for 2011-2012 School Year	
#10P	Approval – Additional Substitutes for the 2011-2012 school year	
#11P	Approval – Medical Leave for Beverly Delaney as Music Teacher at School No. 2	
	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1P - #11P	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Arthur Levine were absent.

Policy			
#1POL	Approval – Second Reading and Adoption of Policies/Regulations		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1POL</td> <td>Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Arthur Levine were absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1POL	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Arthur Levine were absent.
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13. At approximately 10:00 PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, 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,

 CHERYL BALLETO
 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

CB/mp
 Att.
 1-13-12