

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

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, February 7, 2011

Library, School No. 1 – 250 Hoym St.

1. The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 8:08 PM by Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr., President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Arthur W. Levine 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: The Record, The Star Ledger, The Bergen News and 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. Arthur W. Levine, Mrs. Linda McCue, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace and Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Raymond J. Bandlow, Mr. Steven Engravalle, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto and Mr. Matthew J. Giacobbe, Esq.

ABSENT: Mr. John Bang and Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez

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

- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow talked about Math Counts and that we have won first place at the competition. We were one of two hundred students and had received top honors. One of our students won first place. Ms. Kumar won Coach Of The Year.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow talked about the Regional Band and Orchestra. Seven of our students were selected and four were chorus students.
- ◆ The Budget season is here and it's challenging. There was a cut in funding last year and this year there is a restrictive CAP. Dr. Bandlow stated that he will take a salary freeze. The Assistant Superintendent and the Business Administrator will take a freeze also.
- ◆ Reporting of Fire and Security Drills for the month of January 2011.

6. **REPORT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

- ◆ Sarah Moore said the APA thanks the Desert Theatre. The third marking period started on February 17<sup>th</sup>. All our welcome to come to the Music Honors Recital. We will meet with the counselors about humanities.
- ◆ Peter Liapes said we will have Teen Prep next week. The High School will put on the production of The King and I starting March 24<sup>th</sup> to March 26<sup>th</sup>. The Boy's Basketball will be at the state playoffs. Spring sports sign ups has started today.

7. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION-None**

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ◆ Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on January 24, 2011.

	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh	
	To Approve Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on January 24, 2011.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang and Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez were absent.	

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

- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson asked about Resolutions #3CUR and #4CUR. Why do students have to pay tuition?
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that the Board has a policy that non-resident pupils during their last year of High School can pay tuition to attend Fort Lee High School for the rest of the year.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson asked about Resolution #4F regarding the waiver of requirements for the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (Semi) Program?
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated that the Fort Lee Board of Education can apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative Program and would not provide a cost benefit to the district based on the projection and a low participation rate of eligible students based upon parental consent or eligibility factors.
- ◆ Nancy Stern asked if the policy has changed in March.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that the policy has changed for March 1, 2011.
- ◆ Nancy Stern asked if we are collecting a student activity fee.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto answered yes, unless the students are on free lunch.
- ◆ Howard Pearl asked if board members don't make every meeting is there a board standard to attend certain meetings?
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that there can be extenuating circumstances where three unexcused absences can remove a board member but sometimes there are family circumstances.
- ◆ Howard Pearl stated that Dr. Romano had a discussion of excessive homework. The students stay up till midnight during the week. The track meet is from 3pm to 9:30pm and my son is up to 2am to 3am to do homework. He has five courses of forty-five minutes of homework each. It is graded and counts towards a grade. One teacher said I don't give a damn. Forty-five minutes times five courses plus studying and projects. He said no more the one to two hours of homework. We should have a forum.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that he cannot speak about specifics. Teachers do need to be mindful and a competition that is late is taken into account. I will talk to the High School Administration. Students also sometimes choose to take demanding schedules.
- ◆ Howard Pearl stated that parents and teachers would like to see a forum. We need to understand that they have extra activities. We think something is wrong with the system. Too much efficiency is put on homework.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that there needs to be some flexibility. Students need to be well rounded and have extracurricular activities.
- ◆ David Sarnoff questioned the bill about vouchers of the public tax dollars. We should plan to educate the people of the ramifications.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that we are limited to schools in need of improvement in certain districts. There are implications in funding and \$800 million is going to a direct transfer of money to parochial schools.

- ◆ Nancy Stern asked why doesn't the board take a stand on charter and vouchers. Has it been addressed? The voucher is limited but the intent is to go larger.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated that she heard rumors of the referendum and asked where do we stand?
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that the problem hasn't gone away. We are still in discussion. Fortunately the state extended money to do something.
- ◆ Howard Pearl stated that this Saturday night at 8pm there is a fundraiser for the Booster Club at the Recreation Center.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace asked that at the next board meeting we will update everyone on the referendum.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that we will have a brief discussion to continue to look into the referendum.

10. **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<b><u>Curriculum Committee</u></b>		
<b>#1CUR</b>	<b>Approval of Class Trips</b>	
<b>#2CUR</b>	Approval - <b>Approval of Report Card for Self-Contained Classes and Preschool</b>	
<b>#3CUR</b>	Approval - <b>Attendance of CC at Fort Lee High School</b>	
<b>#4CUR</b>	Approval - <b>Attendance of CL at Fort Lee High School</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue To Approve #1CUR - #4CUR	Seconded by Mr. Arthur W. Levine On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang and Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez were absent.

<b><u>Finance</u></b>		
<b>#1F</b>	<b>Approval – Current Bills List</b>	
<b>#2F</b>	Approval - <b>Revised Budget Calendar</b>	
<b>#3F</b>	Approval - <b>Purchase of Cafeteria Tables for School No. 3</b>	
<b>#4F</b>	Approval - <b>Resolution for Waiver of Requirements for the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (Semi) Program</b>	
<b>#5F</b>	Approval - <b>Acceptance of Donation from Vanguard</b>	
<b>#6F</b>	Approval - <b>Palisades Park BOE Joint Transportation</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #6F	Seconded Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang and Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez were absent.

<b>Health-Welfare and Safety</b>			
<b>#1HWS</b>	Approval - <b>Payment of Home Instruction Services</b>		
<b>#2HWS</b>	Approval - <b>Additional Related Service Provider</b>		
<b>#3HWS</b>	Approval - <b>Out-of-District Placements</b>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mr. Arthur W. Levine To Approve #1HWS - #3HWS</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang and Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez were absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mr. Arthur W. Levine To Approve #1HWS - #3HWS	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang and Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez were absent.
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<b>Personnel</b>			
<b>#1P</b>	Approval - <b>Staff Trips and Conferences</b>		
<b>#2P</b>	Approval - <b>Retirement of Ibraim Salloum as Custodian at School No. 3</b>		
<b>#3P</b>	Approval - <b>Addition to Home Instructors List</b>		
<b>#4P</b>	Approval - <b>Additional Co-Curricular Personnel</b>		
<b>#5P</b>	Approval - <b>Appointment of Alida Bacich as Part-Time Classroom Aide at Preschool</b>		
<b>#6P</b>	Approval - <b>Volunteer at School No. 4</b>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mr. Arthur W. Levine To Approve #1P - #6P</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name on Resolution #1P. Mr. John Bang and Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez were absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mr. Arthur W. Levine To Approve #1P - #6P	Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name on Resolution #1P. Mr. John Bang and Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez were absent.
Motion by Mr. Arthur W. Levine To Approve #1P - #6P	Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name on Resolution #1P. Mr. John Bang and Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez were absent.		

<b>Policy</b>			
<b>#1POL</b>	Approval - <b>Second Reading and Adoption of Policy 0167 – Public Participation in Board Meetings</b>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1POL</td> <td>Seconded by Mr. Yusang Park On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang and Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez were absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1POL	Seconded by Mr. Yusang Park On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang and Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez were absent.
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11. At approximately 8:43 PM, Mr. Arthur W. Levine, offered, Mr. Peter Suh, 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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MRS. CHERYL BALLETT  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

CB/mp  
Att.  
2-9-11