

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

MINUTES – SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, February 13, 2011

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

1. The Public Work Session was called to order at 6:38 PM by Mr. Arthur Levine, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Yusang Park led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Public Announcement by the President of the Fort Lee 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 (6:50), Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr., Mrs. Linda McCue, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon (6:48) and Mr. Arthur W. Levine

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Steven Engravalle, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto, and Mr. Mitch Jacobs, Esq.

ABSENT: None

5. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION: PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING – REFERENDUM AND ELECTION LAW**

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

- ◆ Mr. George Porto stated if we vote on whether to switch the election date and will we get 2% of what was last year. If the election is switched to November then there is no more politics.
- ◆ Mr. George Porto stated maybe we can project down the road. Mr. Porto asked if we ever called Neptune. If I were Mr. Carmelo Luppino after I had read it, everything is tilted in their favor.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated no.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated yes he would sign it. Bundle everything if it is a flat fee, if not option 1.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that this raised an issue with Mr. Matthew Giacobbe whether the board could vote. We need a full board to be present.
- ◆ Mr. Mitch Jacobs stated that we need a majority of the board attending after research was done.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked if in September the K-2 Math Curriculum passed a resolution.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle said yes the resolution was passed at the end of August.

- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked if the office furniture for 2175 Lemoine Avenue is on the Bills List.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto said yes it will be on the Bills List.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated that the resolution consensus last time had so many questions and will be if the voting is changed to November. The board should wait one year and then make up their minds. I think it is a good idea to let other districts experiment and hope how it comes out. The amount of money for SSP was a fixed set of money and an hourly rate for others. Can we get it cheaper? There is a lot of discussion on the proposal for the Search Company. There should be input from the public in the absence of the board members. When was a motion made and voted favorably to reintroduce the Search Firms?
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated that this resolution was passed on the February 6, 2012 board meeting. The date is February 29, 2012.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated if the Board moves the election will it impair the way we are trying to get a permanent Superintendent? The ESC would not be able to approve a contract due to the turnover.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that this move will have no bearing on the vacant position.
- ◆ Mrs. Tracy Mattei stated that Schedule B estimated the construction in Edgewater and the bid came in much lower. The election found reactive vs. proactive. There was a lot of wait and see till an emergency. This would cast a wider net of voters. The opportunity is to do this first. There will be new seats either time.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico asked if the attorney could comment on the ECS review.
- ◆ Mr. Mitch Jacobs stated that he hasn't heard one way or another.
- ◆ Mr. Keith Jensen stated hats off to Mr. Luppino representing Indianapolis. The redevelopment of Zone 5 stated a few things that would impact the cause on the education system. How is this tied in?
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that there are 81 additional students and then an additional 61. Either number would be a burden and to assess impact fees. The project will cost \$27 million and about ½ goes to the school board.
- ◆ Mr. Keith Jensen asked if there is any data on 100 Palisades. How many students?
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that he doesn't have the listing now.
- ◆ Mr. Keith Jensen stated that there are children everywhere. He asked for the board to go there.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that the board can speak to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Keith Jensen asked who are the liaisons?
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated Mr. Joe Cieveri and Mr. Mike Sargenti.
- ◆ Mr. Keith Jensen stated that the board needs to hard press the developer. For the board to be absent and if the liaisons are not there this is a serious concern.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that we have an active relationship and have expressed concerns. We can't answer for them.

7. RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Board Committee		
#1B	Approval – Establishing the Election of Members of the Fort Lee Board of Education as the First Tuesday after the First Monday in November	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Joseph Surace and Ms. Helen Yoon voted Nay.

- ◆ Mr. John Bang stated that leaders are involved in things that matter like a first responder map and let others begin and we'll get stuck over the next four years. We can do this next year or ask the mayor or public to vote on this.
- ◆ Mrs. Angela Napolitano said that the public should vote the best for the school district so we don't have the same issues. The vote should not be personal and what is best for the Fort Lee community.
- ◆ Mr. Peter Suh stated that he has given a lot of thought for what is best for the students if the CAP is at 2% and the budget fails. We should have faith in the voters to go the right way.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino recommended Schedule A be inserted. The board took a vote.

	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve the Vote to Insert Table A	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried.	
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Buildings and Grounds			
#1B&G	Approval – Award Contract to SSP Architectural Group		
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B&G	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried.	
#2B&G	Approval – Authorization for Bid Advertisement		
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #2B&G	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried.	

8. At approximately 7:18 PM, Mr. Yusang Park, offered, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, seconded by, to adjourn the Special Public Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Roll call and resolutions of this meeting are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

CHERYL BALLETT
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY