

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

MINUTES – SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, April 23, 2012

Auditorium, High School, 3000 Lemoine Ave.

1. The Special Public Work Session was called to order at 8:00 PM by Mr. Arthur Levine, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Joseph Surace 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, 2175 Lemoine Avenue; 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,
Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Peter Suh,
Mr. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Arthur W. Levine

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Steven Engravalle, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto,
and Mr. Bruce Padula, Esq.

ABSENT: Mrs. Angela Napolitano
5. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION: PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING**
 - ◆ TO DISCUSS THE APPOINTMENT OF PERSONNEL
 - ◆ ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY ARISE

 - ◆ The Board President gave a report on the walk-ins.
6. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC**
 - ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if the number of resolutions are attached to the list and has the board seen the list. She asked if there is an extension of the contracts and is there competitive bidding. She thinks some are significant and would like to know if there is an update on the Superintendent Search.
 - ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine asked if once the board approves the agenda list when will it be made available to the public.
 - ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated that on May 7, 2012 we will meet with Leadership Advantage.
 - ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked about Resolution #1P and the list for current year should be released by April 30, 2012. She asked if in Resolution #1B the attorneys only report to the board. She asked if the District Coordinators such as the Treasurer of school monies paid. She also asked if there was a resolution for the online Charter Schools. It was started in Newark with a cost of \$13,000 per student. There is a bill S1418 that states the local authority approving Charter Schools.

- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that the board has been vocal about Charter Schools in stating that Fort Lee doesn't need any Charter Schools.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated the treasurer of school monies amount is on the renewal list.
- ◆ Mr. Bruce Padilla stated that he believes they are in compliant.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that in the Curriculum Meeting Dr. Sharon Amato was informative and excellent. There were five to seven teachers with no principals due to coverage issues and no board members. There is a three minute rule embarrassment not to have a dialogue. The board should take a stand on Charter Schools and at the last board meeting the President made a shameful comment. He asked if the president of the board could tell us what projection was that many people saw there was 50% over the bid. Dr. Amato should keep on doing what you are doing.
- ◆ Ms. Christina Yoo stated that the agenda is very informative and stated it is unfortunate that Resolution #3P has appointed two physicians. Is it necessary to have two? If two is necessary the payments should be looked into the annual contract. I have met one of the physicians when a child had an allergic reaction and there was no information on file from the doctors. The fourth grade Science Curriculum uses a workbook and not a textbook. Students need textbooks. They share with third graders to prepare for NJASK.
- ◆ Mr. Bruce Padula stated that the fees are comparable amounts. We are legally required to have both doctors.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that we will be revisiting the Science Curriculum. Look at STEM FOSS.
- ◆ Ms. Spina stated that she would like to find out why we are going through a superintendent search when we have someone here that most people would want. He stated that she finds it arrogant not to have three minutes more to speak. She should be able to give his three minutes.
- ◆ Ms. Diane Sicari stated that the three minute rule is shameful. We are chastised and we pay taxes and give ideas to the board. The council runs efficiently and they have a back and forth.
- ◆ Ms. Stephanie Stuart stated that here we have three minutes and hope Mrs. Balletto can keep up with the writing. The council can deal with the public and this is shameful.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico stated that she agreed with the previous comment. Three minutes is a disgrace. She respectfully requests the board to reconsider. In the past a list was always provided. Why was it changed?
- ◆ Mr. Bruce Padula stated that the Personnel list the board is voting and to reveal employees and would violate their rights the way I advised the board to do it.
- ◆ Ms. Stephanie Stuart stated that when will we see the meetings on You Tube, the website and Patch.com. The meeting is on late and should be on the following day. We should have software to transcribe them. We can do a system that will have minutes and the video all in one spot. I know what I would like to implement.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that three minutes is not enough time and she would like a copy of the list after the list is approved.
- ◆ Mr. Bruce Padula stated that you can't do that because there are changes to the list and the board does not want to give an inaccurate list.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that the list would be available tomorrow.
- ◆ Mr. Alex Chung asked if there will be a resolution soon for extracurricular.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that there is confusion as to who the advisors would be. It will happen in the summertime.

- ◆ Ms. Carol Tropea stated that the principals cannot be at the meeting because of coverage and there are teachers who had certifications. How come this was not done for the Curriculum Meeting?
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that this is not the first or the last meeting. He received attorney advice not to use someone who is a teacher. If in an emergency it is better to have a director.
- ◆ Ms. Carol Tropea asked if the board discussed this.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated it is the management's prerogative. Yes, it is Mr. Matt Giacobbe, the board attorney's directive. The board will discuss this further and it will be brought up at a later date.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that the principals should be a part of the curriculum. We taped the entire meeting and it will be available and on the website. We plan on giving a presentation with the principals.
- ◆ Ms. Carol Tropea stated that it would be helpful and an immediate interaction is most important on why we changed.

7. RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

<u>Board Committee</u>		
#1B	Approval - Resolution Regarding School District Report of Incidents of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying	
	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue To Approve #1B	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.

<u>Buildings and Grounds</u>		
#1B&G	Approval - Award of Asbestos Removal Contract	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B&G	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.

<u>Curriculum Committee</u>		
#1CUR	Approval of Advancement and Credit Recovery Academic Program Providers for 2012-2013 at no cost to the district	
#2CUR	Approval of Amended Summer 2012 Programs	
	Motion by Mr. Yusang Park To Approve #1CUR & #2CUR	Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.

Personnel			
#1P	Approval - Appointment of Staff Members for the 2012-2013 school year		
#2P	Approval - Extended School Day Program Staffing 2012-2013		
#3P	Approval - Appointment of District Physicians for the 2012-2013 school year		
#4P	Approval - Appointment of District Coordinators for the 2012-2013 school year		
#5P	Approval - Appointment of Substitutes for 2012-2013 school year		
#6P	Approval - Staff Trips and Conferences		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1P - #6P</td> <td> Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino On roll call, Motion carried. Please note that Mr. Joseph Surace, Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Carmelo Luppino abstained on certain names in which they perceived conflict. Please note that Ms. Helen Yoon abstained from the entire resolution. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent. </td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1P - #6P	Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino On roll call, Motion carried. Please note that Mr. Joseph Surace, Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Carmelo Luppino abstained on certain names in which they perceived conflict. Please note that Ms. Helen Yoon abstained from the entire resolution. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.
Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1P - #6P	Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino On roll call, Motion carried. Please note that Mr. Joseph Surace, Mrs. Linda McCue and Mr. Carmelo Luppino abstained on certain names in which they perceived conflict. Please note that Ms. Helen Yoon abstained from the entire resolution. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.		

8. At approximately 9:00 PM, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, offered, Mrs. Linda McCue, 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 BALLETO
 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

CB:mp
 5-3-12