

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

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 16, 2011

All Purpose Rm., 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. Peter Suh 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. John Bang, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr., Mrs. Linda McCue, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Arthur W. Levine

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

ABSENT: None
5. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that in Resolution #4P, Mr. Jack DeNichilo was on the list but he declined the raise. Mr. DeNichilo will be removed from Resolution #4P.
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that Ross Fasman and Sarah Moore are the new Board Student Representatives.
6. **REPORT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**
 - ◆ Peter Liapes stated that the High School tennis team had only had one loss this season. Friday night was the prom and it went well. May 18, 2011 is the Academic Awards Dinner at 6PM.
 - ◆ Sarah Moore stated that the Circle of Arts will be on May 20, 2011. June 2, 2011 is the Annual Showcase Concert. The Academy of Performing Arts Dinner will be on May 26, 2011 at the Double Tree.

7. **BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORTS**

- ◆ For the month of April 2011.

	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Report For the month of April 2011.	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried.	
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8. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION**

- ◆ For the month of April 2011.

	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To approve the Monthly Budget Status Certification for the month April 2011.	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried.	
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9. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION – Mrs. Cheryl Balletto provided information regarding televising board meetings. The Technology Committee will meet too develop a policy.**10. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ◆ Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on May 16, 2011.

	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on May 16, 2011.	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried.	
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11. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN**

- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace said that he encouraged everyone to go to the Circle of Arts. It's the best event in the district and he is amazed at the talent of the students.
- ◆ Mr. Tom Myers stated that the Fort Lee Film Commissioner worked with students and was interning with the high school students. He would like to be given consideration to have a seat on the committee. Two cameras were donated and the students were learning to edit their films. It can grow if they could tape sports events.
- ◆ Ms. Paula Colbath stated that the Ft. Lee Board of Education had goals in 2009-2010. The board promised to improve communication. Now its three years later and she is asking that there should be a motion to put on the agenda to have the board meetings recorded by the public.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that there was a policy in the past to televise with Time Warner.
- ◆ Mrs. Linda McCue stated that her thought is to get students involved. The board's objective is to utilize our students.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that on April 20, 2010, Mr. Gibney sent out an email to the digital media Art's Program. She is feeling frustrated.
- ◆ Mr. Tom Meyers stated that he knows Mr. Jeff Shelley and he will help to assist students.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Umrichin stated that the equipment of the High School can be used and put on YouTube.

- ◆ Mrs. Ada Garcia stated that there are no TV's in the elementary school.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated that she does want the board meetings to be televised on Time Warner Cable. A large population doesn't have the internet.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked about Resolution #1B and when the security audit was done years ago and where the cameras should go. It is a very detailed report. Resolution #3CUR is what cost to the student.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that there are lots of online opportunities available. There is not a sufficient enrollment but we are trying to make it available.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked if Resolution #3F was funded by the town.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated yes.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked if the calendar is being posted. Can you say yes or no about the Charter School and have the question and answer reflected.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine said no.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that to take an opinion is not appropriate.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked if we can't give statements then why should board members be elected.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that this Board of Education doesn't form a Charter School. There is no application filed for Fort Lee.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked if at any point can I ask a board member?
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that you can ask anything but they don't have to answer.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated at the NJSB delegate, they had a conversation about Charter Schools.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that if there is any support for the principal we cannot discuss it.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl asked if someone has been given a Rice Notice.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that if there is any employee that is on the agenda, then by May 15, 2011 they will be given notice by letter for a statement of reasons. After that the Donaldson Hearing is to overturn the Superintendent's recommendation.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if she can get a list of employees who have been Riced.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that you can talk about it but the board can't answer it.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson asked about Resolution #3F and questioned what are the programs with the Municipal Alliance?
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow answered that the funding source is from the state to prevent substance abuse. The municipality and the schools are working together and are aiming at the Middle School students.
- ◆ Mrs. Rosemary Giacomelli stated that the mindfulness of teaching coping skills has a team at the Middle School with saying no to drug and alcohol. Parents at the university are learning how to deal with students.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that the grant is almost \$16,000 for facilities and equipment.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson asked about Resolution #6P and #7P. She also asked if she can get copies of school report cards.
- ◆ A student stated he felt that he was lied to. He was told they have certified teachers. He asked if anyone had called the county because he was told no one has. He also asked why the students aren't getting true information. He asked how can two periods be equivalent to one period and how can you take four periods into one period. Why is gym no longer an option and dance is an option. Every time the students ask questions about classes we get different information. Many of Academy classes want a real education with a smaller learning community program. Now we won't meet the standards. Why are the people who made the program with degrees in entertainment? We feel like they are just shoving it together and we have to do an audition and care about what we learn. Who is our teacher going to be?
- ◆ Ms. Elmers stated that the board should listen to the students because they are the future. You can't put us down so we can't move forward. A lot of students asked why they are treated this way. They are very intelligent and are treated like delinquents by security guards. We need a scanning system or should have ID's like students from other schools in the building.

- ◆ A student stated that there are two types of speaking out.
 - ◆ A student stated that he believed the school board is listening to us. This team worked hard and if Ms. Cutler goes you will be killing the dance curriculum and he doesn't think its right. Mrs. Cutler is extremely capable. Without Mrs. Cutler there is no art and we are the next generation that has learned so much. We are hungry to learn and this is one teacher that has affected us.
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that he is thanking all of you for well thought out comments. They have legitimate concerns. We see you at every performance. We are in a position and we had to let go of a half dozen teachers. This year we have further reductions plus teachers have an additional class, and with the limitations of the 2% budget cap it has an impact on us. The dance instructor has twenty seven students all day when other teachers see one hundred twenty a day. There are more parts to the curriculum that require more staff. How can we do this and still offer the program with restrictions. It's about the cost and efficiency instead of the double periods under Option 2. There is a certified and qualified teacher, and Ms. Church has met with you twice. We can put a teacher back part-time to reduce other areas but it's up to the individual. We made a good faith effort to meet your concerns. We have the two classes' gym and dance back to back. We can't make it a semester class but it doesn't work in the schedule.
 - ◆ A student asked why there is one period of dance and one period of gym instead of twice a week.
 - ◆ A student asked if we would have block scheduling.
 - ◆ A student stated that there is a lack of communication here and we feel deceived the way that Ms. Church handled the meeting. It's not respectful.
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that there is not one area that is singled out. The biggest area looked at is in the administration. The only way is reducing personnel.
 - ◆ A student stated that Mrs. Cutler isn't a reasonable option.
 - ◆ A student feels that they don't have a voice and want to be informed. They want to help not only the Academy of Performing Arts. Do the students get a say? They care.
 - ◆ Alex Dadon stated that Ms. Fox is the main staple of the Academy of the Performing Arts. If her position is eliminated then the Academy of the Performing Arts is taking a blow and we don't see how it can survive. Have you discussed it with the other staff?
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that there are other supervisors in other areas that were cut and we are not singling out the Academy of the Performing Arts.
 - ◆ A student asked where did the internship came in.
12. At approximately 9:40 PM, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, offered, Mr. Peter Suh seconded by, to recess the Regular Business meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
13. At approximately 9:50 PM, Mrs. Linda McCue, offered, Mr. Carmelo Luppino seconded by, to return to the Regular Business meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that the meeting on August 23, 2010 was approved and there was a new meeting last week. When did the meeting get changed?
 - ◆ A parent stated that there were separate public comments on the agenda and other items.
 - ◆ A parent stated that there was a group of students coming tonight that thought you were condescending. It takes a skill that goes into the Arts Program and explores emotions.
 - ◆ Mr. Paul Umrichin stated that you can cut from all departments. There is an abundance of math and eliminate a position and not a departmental liaison to put in this fluffy job. The students are fantastic.
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that it is like a department head. The largest reduction is eliminating five positions and creating two and liaisons for the High School that is filling some responsibilities at a lesser cost. It is a \$400,000 savings.

- ◆ Mr. Paul Umrichin asked how long have we not had department heads.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated five or six years ago.
- ◆ A parent asked if there were always decisive meetings. I leave the board meeting and bad conversations come up with a group to deal with it. They report on their day at school. The parents spend more time than you at School #4. A lot of decisions don't make sense.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that people will have to do more and share a secretary. We need money for lawsuits and other areas to focus on plus saving money. We are trying to settle the Jay Berman lawsuit. Judge Cohen wrote a decision arbitrary and capriciously.
- ◆ Ms. Emily Wang stated that School #1 parents and teachers want to know who will be principal in September. We are surprised that she is not renewed next year. Does it mean that you will cut the principal? Parents would like to know. We don't want her to move and would want her to stay in School #1.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that we can't comment right now. Every school will have certified principals and it's an ongoing process.
- ◆ A parent stated that everyone loves Ms. Cecere.
- ◆ Mrs. Rosemary Giacomelli stated that as FLAG president there are three ways to get a CE when you get a provisional certificate. It allows you to be in a position with a mentor. The case standard certificate was given in error. The standard certificate was sent instead of the CE. The correct certificate is now in the hand of the principal.
- ◆ A parent stated that the board should please reconsider Ms. Cecere because she supports our daughter and she is a great lady.
- ◆ A parent stated that we saw a change of three principals in School #1 over a three year period.
- ◆ Mrs. Ada Garcia asked if some aides will be retained or is it based on assignment. There are aides that have been cut.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that all of the aides were given RIF notices and we are studying assignments and taking into account some relationships.
- ◆ Mr. Tom Myers stated that he met with Mr. John Bang about the Circle of the Arts. Mr. John Barrymore raised \$1,000 for a fundraiser. He invited everyone on February 15, 2012 to the fundraiser and no one showed up.
- ◆ Ms. Stephanie Stuart stated that we are here to support Ms. Cecere.
- ◆ A student asked about the transitions with administrators and aides. There have been five different guidance counselors and four different principals at the High School. It is not easy to go from one to another. There are restrictions with opening up programs. The AP classes have free access and no entry process. Then anyone can be in the class.
- ◆ Mr. Peter Suh asked about Resolution #7F?
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto answered that we are terminating our Interlocal Agreement with Englewood Cliffs because they decided to retain another consultant.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park asked about Resolution #2CUR and asked if it is the same as the resolution for summer school that is one on the Bills List.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow answered no.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park asked that Resolution #2F be pulled and discuss it with the whole board.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that there should be a separation of cash and duties. When it comes to money we can't have the same person audit themselves.
- ◆ Mr. John Bang stated that he believes this is an oversight.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that he wanted to cut the pay but would like the independence.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park asked about the First Reading of the Policy/Budget Preparation and hesitated that he reviewed other school websites and saw a preliminary budget. Why didn't we have one?
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto answered that we did and you must by law. Every year in February we approve a preliminary budget. That is sent to the Executive County Superintendent for approval. Once approved then you have a public budget hearing in the last week of March. You must do this by law.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park wanted to know if we could get the detail earlier to the public?

- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto answered we would like to but two years ago we found out our state aid a few days before the budget was due. This year we were negotiating with unions and that must be confidential. Due to the economic time we are in it is hard to do.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that regarding the Academy of Performing Arts Program in Resolution #6CUR, he spoke to the committee individually and would like to have it pulled in order to have student leadership to be included. He didn't think it through enough and admitted it was his mistake.
- ◆ Mr. John Bang stated that he voted against firing the dance teacher and Dr. Bandlow tried to find a compromise in making an effort to keep her because they do care.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace commented about Resolution #1B and where it started to where it has gone. It didn't address what we discussed. It didn't go far enough. It needs to go further. We had an audit in a few years ago. The problems are also at the Middle School and at the Elementary School level.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that it has nothing to do with a person or program but has to do with the Finance Committee. We have gotten yelled at for building the dance floor. It needs to be sustainable for years. We have to make numbers work. The insurance and the governor are out of control and we want it to be the best in the world. He asked the group to see what they group can do, since we are lacking funds. We work hard.

14. **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<u>Board Committee</u>		
#1B	Approval - Acceptance of Recommendations from Ad Hoc Committee on High School Student Conduct	
	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue To Approve #1B	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried.

<u>Curriculum Committee</u>		
#1CUR	Approval of Class Trips	
#2CUR	Approval - Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission Online Program (At no cost to the District)	
#3CUR	Approval - Pamoja Online Program (At no cost to the District)	
#4CUR	Approval - Extended School Year Program for Students with Special Needs	
#5CUR	Approval - Project Jump Start Summer Program 2011 (Grant Funded)	
	Motion by Mr. Yusang Park To Approve #1CUR - #5CUR Resolution #6CUR was pulled	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried.

<u>Finance</u>	
#1F	Approval – Current Bills List
#2F	Approval - Appointment of Treasurer of School Monies

#3F	Approval - Submission of 2011 Application for Funding Municipal Alliances	
#4F	Approval - Approval of Local Tax Levy Schedule	
#5F	Approval - Approving the Results of the School Election	
#6F	Approval - Acceptance of Donation	
#7F	Approval - Termination of Interlocal Services with Englewood Cliffs	
#8F	Approval - Cafeteria Claims for April 2011	
#9F	Approval - Extended School Day Program Claims for April 2011	
#10F	Approval - Line Item Transfers – April 2011	
#11F	Approval - Request for Proposals (RFP) Insurance	
	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue To Approve #1F - #11F	Seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano abstained from Resolution #2F.

<u>Health-Welfare and Safety</u>		
#1HWS	Approval - Payment of Home and Bedside Instruction Services	
	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1HWS	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried.

<u>Personnel</u>		
#1P	Approval - Staff Trips and Conferences	
#2P	Approval - Retirement of Maureen Fitzsimmons as Middle School 12-Month Secretary	
#3P	Approval - Maternity Leave for Erin Powers as Middle School Science Teacher	
#4P	Approval - Revisions to Appointments of Staff Members for the 2011-2012 school year	
#5P	Approval - Appointment of Johanna Barrabee As Special Language Specialist at School No. 2	
#6P	Approval - Appointment of 2011 Extended School Year Summer Program Staff	
#7P	Approval - Appointment of 2011 Project Jump Start Summer Program Staff	
#8P	Approval - Appointment of Additional Substitutes	

#9P	Approval - Approval of Job Description – Departmental Liaison	
#10P	Approval - Appointment of ABA Home Service Providers	
#11P	Approval - Non-Renewal of Residency Officer	
	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue To Approve #1P - #11P	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from Resolution #11P.

Policy		
#1POL	Approval - First Reading of Policy/Regulation Updates	
	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1POL	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried.

15. At approximately 11:10 PM, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, 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,

CHERYL BALLETO
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

CB/mp
Att.
5-19-11