

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

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, July 9, 2012

Fort Lee High School Library/Media Center, 3000 Lemoine Ave.  
Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

1. The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 8:03 PM by Mr. Arthur 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, 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. Carmelo Luppino, Jr., Mrs. Linda McCue, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace, and Mr. Arthur W. Levine  
  
ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Steven Engravalle, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto, and Mr. Yaacov Brisman, Esq.  
  
ABSENT: Mr. John Bang and Ms. Helen Yoon
5. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**
  - ◆ Chartwells presented the new Child Nutrition Guidelines and Mrs. Cheryl Balletto presented an update on construction.
  - ◆ School Security Drills for the month of June 2012
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Minutes from the Special Private Work Session and Special Public Business Meeting on June 26, 2012.

	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino	Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue	
	To Approve Minutes from the Special Private Work Session and Special Public Business Meeting on June 26, 2012.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from the vote on June 26, 2012. Mr. John Bang and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.	

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

- ◆ Mr. Paul Umrichin stated that Dr. Sharon Amato is fantastic and her idea was great. He asked what ideas and other steps were in the plan.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that she would like to make sure that the students use the same textbooks. She would like to provide the same type of professional development in every school so that the students will have the same experience. They would follow the Common Core Standards and identify the lead teachers who have come in during the summer. Professional development will be delivered by the building principal.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that we have to inspect what we expect and need benchmark assessments.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Umrichin stated that it is really dark in front of the high school and we may want to look into it. What happens to the HIB law?
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that we should always do as we did and will continue to do so. We need to still provide training and do a better job.
- ◆ Ms. Lola Payton asked does it also include grades 9 through 12?
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato said no because a lot of things are going on and we are taking our time to do it right. We need to look at the data. Diane Baker has worked at the Kindergarten through eighth grade level.
- ◆ Ms. Lola Payton asked is there an interruption between grades eight and nine?
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated no.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated the High School is running well.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated what you have called a walk-in we were given in the middle of the meeting. We deserve better. Do you have on the agenda the first set of mistakes and the monthly budget certification as with all the roll call motioned? There should be a full list and we are entitled to know. Diane's name is Sicheri and you should ask the public to spell their name. Also, Mr. Arthur Levine did not sell the condo because he doesn't own it. The Superintendent goes to bed and these are legal minutes and I shouldn't have to point it out. I have tried to get documents on Friday but nobody is at the board office. I didn't know that the board office is closed on Fridays.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle said that it has been for years.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that the information has been released and this is the first issue up till this point that has been brought up at a board meeting. I apologize.
- ◆ Ms. Eva Rhode stated that not everyone received an agenda.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle read Resolution #14P and the attachment.
- ◆ Ms. Eva Rhode asked where are we in the process.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that it is up to the board to vote and if approved it starts tomorrow.
- ◆ Ms. Eva Rhode stated that if the public knew more specifics of why.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that he wished he could give more specifics but he can't.
- ◆ Mr. Yaacov Brisman stated that the decision to transfer is a managerial prerogative. It is educationally based and the Superintendent has the right to make recommendations. Individuals receive a notice and if they say yes then the situation could be discussed in public. Some did not choose to have their position discussed in public. Their strengths led to a transfer. The law doesn't allow comments to be discussed with the individuals. It is up to the board to act on recommendations.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that no matter what the decision is it is educationally based no matter what anyone says. Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that without speaking to any individuals there has been a focus for an achievement level which is a concern for parents in the district. The teacher's strengths will serve the parents and the children.
- ◆ Ms. Eva Rhode stated that when she met the current Middle School Principal three or four years ago, she thought she was fantastic and she pushes the students to a higher level.

- ◆ Mr. Howard Lipoff asked about the status of the current Director of Special Education and asked if the board will be hiring another?
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle said no definitely we are not doing that. The Principal of the FLECC is the Principal of School #1.
- ◆ Ms. Ana Madraro stated that she thinks many parents are relieved you are keeping the High School Principal in place. Priscilla Church has the confidence and support and is sailing the ship right. She is implementing a plan and has it right on this.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that he agreed with everything Ms. Madraro said. Don't jump to conclusions just ask questions. Email is available and I'm happy to talk with you.
- ◆ Mrs. Rosemary Giacomelli said thank you and the Middle School is my passion. Mr. Engravalle had a conversation with me and the transfer is involuntary. But don't worry, the staff embraced me. Many years have different characteristics and tests aren't everything. I hope the next person remembers that.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico said that she is happy to hear that we now have the same curriculum. Under the leadership of Mr. Bill Peppiat had the same curriculum. We have four elementary schools feeding into the Middle School. Leadership Advantage had the community forum and they took comments and compiled the information. Mrs. Federico asked if the board received the documentation. She did an OPRA request that had fourteen strengths and forty-six issues and concerns in which some concerns did not have any regards to the cancelling the PTA meetings.
- ◆ Ms. Diane Sicheri stated that she passed out copies of the OPRA request. She asked who authorized the Superintendent's contract to be sent out on Monday, June 20, 2012 and when was it sent to the Executive County Superintendent? Was the county advised that the board did not have a meeting to discuss the Superintendent's contract? Has the county approved it? Are we technically without a Superintendent?
- ◆ Mr. Yaacov Brisman stated that the board discussed the terms of the proposed in the Executive Session. Terms do not need to be approved. We don't have an approval because the current Executive County Superintendent is also in Passaic County. Mrs. Balletto can release the contract once approved by the Executive County Superintendent. The board won't take action unless the terms are first approved by the Bergen County Executive Superintendent. If hypothetical that one of the terms are unacceptable then the term and not the Superintendent will need to change.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated should we void it what do you want.
- ◆ Mrs. Diane Sicheri stated why don't you resign
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated I will leave when you leave

The board took a brief recess.

- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that NJSA: 18:25-1 transfers must have a separate resolution and roll call on each one.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that the timing for extending the term for an Interim Superintendent for 30-60 days, then no one is truly sitting in the seat. I asked a question about an evaluation on the April 30, 2012 meeting when he had a contract with an extension of time. I don't know why it wasn't done and there is no exception on a timely basis. The subject is to hire when all the contracts must be sent before the action on a Tuesday. It is not normally done. What is the status of the evaluation?
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that the board did not do the evaluation. The board members didn't do it and it was an error on our part.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked about Resolutions #14P and will there be a separate resolution for each one?
- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia stated that she handed out an article about BGIA based upon money and the board should get a stenographer because it is not fair for Mrs. Balletto to take notes and answer questions. She also asked why we need a Broker of Record when it is in the State

Plan. She stated that there are only two towns that use BGIA. Did they give any money to campaigns and are we going to bid?

- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that this article is from 2010 and no one to my knowledge received any money. They evaluated other plans. There is an RFP on the agenda. Not all carriers have what we need. Is there anyone getting a phone call?
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated no, not that I know of.
- ◆ Ms. Betsy Nomato stated that she teaches at School #3 and lives in Fort Lee. She is very grateful for the system and wants to express respect to the decision. She is sad and disappointed in losing Mr. Kravitz and is she is inspired to work hard and grow. School #3 is not just teachers, it is a family and we feel that we are breaking up.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath said that states a lot about stability. What your vision is must have not be seeing stability. What is the ultimate goal? Chartwell's resolution is a political contribution and I would like you to explain this. The explanation is in private session and is authorized by the lawyer. Mr. Peter Suh is narrowed selection on two candidates and would like clarification. Resolution #12P creates a new position when I look at qualifications when it mirrors what we have for our Director of Special Services. The Assistant Superintendent doesn't have Special Services in her background. Why make major changes before the DMC report. She asked if the attorney was seeking any ethics cases on conflict. The next day the paper had Garfield in a story about the relationship of a board members.
- ◆ Mr. Peter Suh stated that she is his cousin and the whole board was notified.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that the postings are on Applitrack for all open positions. We are looking and do go through the list and contact by phone. We have mini interviews and check their certifications.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked how many people have applied for the position.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated about 125 applicants and we are looking for someone who is an artist and a teacher who could demo a lesson. She is also bilingual.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that the Assistant Superintendent's answer is no and this does not take the place of our current person. We deal with BSI and Gifted and Talented students. Counseling was mainly in the High School. It is now global and she provides outstanding services in addition to Special Education and the Gifted and Talented.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that there is a broader vision and it is effective and an efferent education for the students.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that on June 22<sup>nd</sup> two candidates were announced and there was a merit bonus. She stated she met with Mr. Gilmartin and he had some concerns.
- ◆ Mrs. Linda McCue stated the county has not contacted us.
- ◆ Mr. Yaacov Brisman stated that at the meeting of June 18, 2012 the terms and conditions of a candidate may not be relevant information. The law cannot implement the contract.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated that the board can't approve the contract until the county superintendent approves the contract. My contract was sent to the county in March and still has not been approved. I am still the business administrator. The county approves the terms of the contract.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff congratulated Mr. Yusang Park and appreciated his service as a board member. He wished that other board members would take attendance as seriously as him. Mrs. Cheryl Balletto is the last person to take minutes and he finds it difficult that they are perfect. This should be addressed as soon as possible. We can lose points over an evaluation not being done. Ms. Ann Marie Bruder has her original position and it remains difficult to get coverage for her to leave that building which is a concern of mine. With respect to the new positions were they budgeted and where are the funds coming from? Thank God for Mr. Steven Engravalle and Mrs. Cheryl Balletto for the referendum update. I like seeing progress. He thanked Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto and Mrs. Linda McCue with the video and bonds. We will save on the interest rate. Is it a fixed rate? We will do something about the minutes.

- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated the budget issue was budgeted previously and we are not filling the Director of Guidance position. We will have another Assistant Superintendent position. We never had any difficulty in covering the High School.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that she thinks it was a misunderstanding.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that we could move the Vice Principal and the other Administration. Some helped the majority of the time.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff said to Mrs. Rosemary Giacomelli that we have dynamite parents and we are happy to work with you and get your support.
- ◆ Ms. Holly Morell asked about Resolution #1F and the Borough of Fort Lee, the Fort Lee Special Account, Lincoln Landscaping, NJSBA, Transtec, and would like a copy of the contract of Waste Management. In Resolution #2F and Chartwells, there was an episode that happened in the High School that put a provision on who does the security check for their employees. She questioned the movement of the principals and stated that Mrs. Giacomelli is now in School #1 and that she took care of her son's bullying immediately. It is sad to see her move to School #1 and she knows Mr. Kravitz will do well. She would like to make sure that the position for Ann Marie Bruder is not changing.
- ◆ Ms. Lola Peyton asked if there will be any additional tools given so they can succeed.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that once we present a strategic plan we will start with identical resources for all of the schools. There is money in the budget. There is more support and technology that can help education.
- ◆ Ms. Lola Peyton stated that the High School needs a Director of Guidance.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that he agreed that more of a global position is needed. Counseling is needed at all the schools. The duties vs. the title and the job will get done. The Assistant Superintendent will encompass guidance. We absorbed the Director of Guidance into two positions so we will get more with less.
- ◆ Ms. Lola Peyton said that we should make sure on the communication.

**8. RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<b>Board Committee</b>		
<b>#1B</b>	<b>Resolution Regarding School District Report Of Incidents Of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1B	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.

<b>Buildings and Grounds</b>		
<b>#1B&amp;G</b>	<b>Boswell Engineering Services Not To Exceed \$80,000 Plus Cost Of Expenses</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B&G	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.

<b>Curriculum Committee</b>	
<b>#1CUR</b>	<b>Approval of Class Trips Totaling \$4,550.00</b>
<b>#2CUR</b>	<b>Approval of English Language Arts Textbooks and Supplementary Materials and Professional Development for the 2012-2013 school year</b>

#3CUR	<b>Foss Kits for 2012-2013</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1CUR - #3CUR	Seconded by Mr. Yusang Park On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.

<b><u>Finance</u></b>		
#1F	<b>Approval – Current Bills List Totaling \$1,268,848.60</b>	
#2F	<b>Renewal of Chartwells Contract for 2012-2013</b>	
#3F	<b>Proposed Breakfast and Lunch Prices for 2012-2013</b>	
#4F	<b>Student Accident Insurance with Bollinger in the Annual Amount of \$52,207 for the 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years</b>	
#5F	<b>Approval of Amended 2011-2012 NCLB and Idea Grant</b>	
#6F	<b>Renewal of Member Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System, the Middlesex Regional Services Commission for 2012-2013</b>	
#7F	<b>Renewal of District Insurance</b>	
#8F	<b>Acceptance of Additional \$3,355 Education Jobs Act Funding for the 2011-2012 school year</b>	
#9F	<b>Funding to Support Implementation of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act Totaling \$624</b>	
#10F	<b>Referendum Payment</b>	
#11F	<b>South Bergen Jointure Professional Services Agreement for the 2012-2013 school year</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #11F	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Yusang Park voted Aye with an objection. Mr. John Bang and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.

<b><u>Health-Welfare and Safety</u></b>		
#1HWS	<b>Payment of Home and Bedside Instruction Services</b>	
#2HWS	<b>Addendum To 2011-2012 Nursing Services Plan</b>	
#3HWS	<b>Online Training Inservice Seminars (OTIS) through the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC) for 2012-2013</b>	

<b>#4HWS</b>	<b>Approval of Related Service Providers And Foreign Language Evaluators For 2012-2013</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1HWS - #4HWS	Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.

<b><u>Personnel</u></b>		
<b>#1P</b>	<b>Approval - Staff Trips and Conferences Totaling \$324.36</b>	
<b>#2P</b>	<b>Appointment of Francesca Suh as Elementary Art Teacher at School No. 1</b>	
<b>#3P</b>	<b>Appointment of Antonio Perrone as High School Custodian for 2012-2013</b>	
<b>#4P</b>	<b>District Translating Services</b>	
<b>#5P</b>	<b>Unused Vacation Payout for the 2011-2012 school year</b>	
<b>#6P</b>	<b>Sickday Payout for 2011-2012 Retirees</b>	
<b>#7P</b>	<b>Amended Bus Driver Salary for 2012-2013</b>	
<b>#8P</b>	<b>Transfer Encarnacion Vallejos from School No. 1,2,3,&amp; 4 to Middle School ESL Teacher</b>	
<b>#9P</b>	<b>Reappointment of Christy Kearney From 3/5th to 4/5th Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant for the Fort Lee Child Study Team</b>	
<b>#10P</b>	<b>Reappointment of Anmarie Corcione from a Part Time Preschool Teacher to a Full Time Special Education Collaborative Teacher</b>	
<b>#11P</b>	<b>Appointment of Elizabeth Christopher as Special Education Teacher at School Fort Lee High School for the 2012-2013 school year</b>	
<b>#12P</b>	<b>Approval of Job Descriptions: Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum &amp; Instruction and Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services</b>	
<b>#13P</b>	<b>Transfer Kristine Cecere</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1P - #13P	Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Peter Suh abstained from #2P and Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from #5P. Mr. John Bang and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.
<b>#14P</b>	<b>Administrative Staff Assignments for 2012-2013 school year</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #14P	Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent.

9. At approximately 11:00 PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, 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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CHERYL BALLETO  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

CB/mp  
Att.  
7-18-12