

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

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, August 27, 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 8:01 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, 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. John Bang, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr., Mrs. Linda McCue, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon  
  
ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Sharon Amato, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto, and Mr. Matthew Giacobbe, Esq.  
  
ABSENT: Mr. Steven Engravalle and Mrs. Angela Napolitano
5. **PUBLIC HEARING – MRS. CHERYL BALLETTA, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR**
  - ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked what is the status of the voting for the merit portion.
  - ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that the Department of Education has not approved anything at this time and would be discussed later at another public hearing. There cannot be a public hearing until the county approves the merit.
  - ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that his objection is when he is signing documents with an appendix he is not sure if he would be obligated.
  - ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked when would the contracts to be posted on the website.
  - ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto explained her merit pay clauses.
  
  - ◆ At approximately 8:30 PM, Mr. Peter Suh offered, Mrs. Linda McCue seconded by, to close the Public Hearing to discuss Mrs. Cheryl Balletto, Business Administrator/Board Secretary's Employment Contract for the 2012-2013 School Year. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
6. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**
  - ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato reported on the opening of schools and professional development.
  - ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto gave an update on the construction at the schools.
  - ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato reported on Fort Lee schools have dropped in ranking.

- ◆ Mr. Art Elmers stated that our SAT scores have dropped and our HSPA scores went up in Language and Math.
- ◆ A citizen stated that the High School is seen as a failure when there is no comparison to how many other schools were in the analysis and asked what steps we will take to raise our ratings.
- ◆ Mrs. Linda McCue asked if we care more about our SAT and HSPA scores or the education of our students.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that it is important to address this because the Fort Lee District offers only fifteen AP classes.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that there is a greater weight on the student testing to improve on the AP, HSPA, Math and the SAT's and should focus on our goal setting.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson asked how many students will get into top colleges and how many will attend two year colleges because of a financial situation.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl stated that the two or four year colleges were addressed as well as Fort Lee's Freshman Academy. The problem is with the parents being able to put the students in the AP classes. Colleges want students to take AP or honor classes.

**7. BOARD SECRETARY REPORT AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JULY 2012**

- ◆ For the month of July 2012.

	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh	
	To Approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2012.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.	

**8. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION - JULY 2012**

- ◆ For the month of July 2012.

	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh	
	Monthly Budget Status Certification for the month of July 2012.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.	

**9. PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto gave an update on the ballot question.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato gave an update on Computer Logic Group and the cost of Power School and which would be cheaper.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace asked about Resolutions #2P and #3P.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that when signing off on paperwork that was not submitted properly when the activities were conducted. After meeting with the Activity Coordinators it was decided that they would be compensated, but in the future they would not.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that it disturbs him that teachers didn't submit the paperwork and there were only two people in the class.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that she will review the directive given.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that Resolution #3P should have had a report on the activities and the student count so if the board wanted to make a decision they could.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated that she will prepare a report on the clubs for the board.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Steven Engravalle's wife who passed away.

**10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on Monday, August 13, 2012.

	<p>Motion by Mr. Peter Suh</p> <p>Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on August 13, 2012.</p>	<p>Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue</p> <p>On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Linda McCue abstained from the vote on August 13, 2012.</p>	
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**11. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN**

- ◆ Ms. Diane Sicheri asked about Resolution #1B&G, if the Fort Lee Board of Education owns the property that is not developed and would it be better to spend the money on parts of the failed referendum.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that a few years ago the Fort Lee Board of Education had the ability to purchase property but didn't have the approval.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked if Resolution #2B&G and if the fee \$5,700 includes all travel expenses and does Resolution #6F travel expenses hold to GSA rates? We should adopt a policy with a CAP.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe, board attorney stated that we should put in a bid with no travel reimbursement so that it is not above GSA rates and state OMB rates that excludes travel, lodging and meals.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl stated that there are many discussions subjective to public decision and can be capped. He heard that there was equipment not delivered to the High School and would like to discuss the ice machine for the football and soccer games for the fall season so that parents don't have to buy the ice for the games.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato said she would ask Mr. Ambrosio about the ice machine.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson asked if years ago the Fort Lee Board of Education bought property at School #1 and asked how that was done. She asked if the property became a private parking lot.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern questioned if the purchase of land would be a second question on the April ballot. She also asked if Mr. Robert Kravitz would be leaving on October 1, 2012.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that Mr. Robert Kravitz will serve the entire sixty days and we have a final candidate to be interviewed and approved.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked if the taxpayers are paying for the AP exams and is there an increase?
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato gave an update on the status of the board vacancy.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that there are two candidates and the board will set a date for the goal setting.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico asked about a special education financial analysis.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked about Resolution #7F, the security bid and if the Superintendent Evaluation will be completed before April 30, 2012.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that none has been done yet but the statutory deadline is April 30, 2012. The Interim Superintendent Evaluation's deadline is June 30, 2012. There is an Acting Superintendent and Interim Superintendent evaluation due. The Board should do one. This will cost us points on QSAC. You can speak to the County Executive Superintendent or have the Business Administrator call Mr. Gilmartin.

12. RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

<u>Buildings and Grounds</u>			
#1B&G	Purchase of Property/Ballot Question		
#2B&G	Approval – Seraph Phase II of Emergency Crisis Plan		
#3B&G	Approval of Change Order #2 – High School, Lewis F. Cole Middle School and School #1		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B&amp;G - #3B&amp;G</td> <td>Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B&G - #3B&G	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.
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<u>Curriculum Committee</u>			
#1CUR	BCSS Suspension Alternative Program (SAP) Memorandum F Agreement for 2012-2013		
#2CUR	Approval of Educere Online Personal Finance Program for Fort Lee High School for 2012-2013 not to exceed \$34,500		
#3CUR	Adjustment - Leadership and Learning Center Contract		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1CUR - #3CUR</td> <td>Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1CUR - #3CUR	Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.
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<u>Finance</u>	
#1F	Approval – Current Bills List Totaling \$3,918,085.32
#2F	Approval – Cafeteria Claims for July 2012 totaling \$4,218.90
#3F	Approval - Extended School Day Program Claims for July 2012 Totaling \$1,067.97
#4F	Approval – Line Item Transfers for July 2012
#5F	Salaries Charged to Grants
#6F	Approval of Dr. Keith Lockwood to Attend and Travel to the New Jersey School Boards Convention in October 2012
#7F	Award of Security Bid
#8F	Google Drive Storage not to Exceed \$300
#9F	Acceptance of Ironman Donation Totaling \$1,200

#10F	<b>Approval of Repairs to School No. 2 and School No. 4</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1F - #10F	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.

<b><u>Personnel</u></b>	
#1P	<b>Approval - Staff Trips and Conferences Totaling \$761.52</b>
#2P	<b>Additional Co-Curricular Personnel for 2011-2012</b>
#4P	<b>Resignation of Pamela Turowski as District Elementary Music Teacher</b>
#5P	<b>Rescinding the Appointment of Michael Ponce as Classroom Aide at School No. 1</b>
#6P	<b>Maternity Leave for Christine Galliano as 2:1 Aide at Lewis F. Cole Middle School</b>
#7P	<b>Allocation of 6<sup>th</sup> Period Stipends at Fort Lee High School</b>
#8P	<b>Saturday Detention Monitors</b>
#9P	<b>PSAT Proctors</b>
#10P	<b>Appointment of William Diaz II as K-8 Instructional Supervisor for the 2012-2013 school year</b>
#11P	<b>Appointment of Rachel Smith as Elementary Teacher at School No. 4</b>
#12P	<b>Appointment of Jack Sujovolsky as Middle School Science Teacher</b>
#13P	<b>Appointment of Klarissa Bruno as Special Education Inclusion Teacher at Fort Lee High School</b>
#14P	<b>Appointment of Jennifer Quesada as 1:1 Aide at Fort Lee Early Childhood Center</b>
#16P	<b>Appointment of Jaclyn Corcoran as 1:1 Aide at School No 2</b>
#18P	<b>Appointment of Claudia Perillo as Departmental Liaison – ESL</b>
#19P	<b>Appointment of Steven Rogers as High School History Teacher</b>
#20P	<b>Appointment of Ezio Montorio, Jr. as Part-Time Physical Education Aide at School No. 1</b>
#22P	<b>Appointment of Louis Pascale as 1:1 Aide at School No. 2</b>
#23P	<b>Appointment of Anthony Gioia as District Elementary Music Teacher</b>
#24P	<b>Extended School Day Program Staffing Changes for 2012-2013 school year</b>

#25P	Salary Adjustments and Transfer of Aides for 2012-2013 school year	
#26P	Placement of Student Teacher for 2012-2013 School Year	
#27P	Appointment of Natalie Villoslada as Student Intern for the 2012-2013 school year	
#29P	2012 Summer Employment of Chanon Mcduffie as 10-Month Head Secretary at Fort Lee High School	
#30P	Organization Chart for the 2012-2013 school year	
#31P	Approval of Business Administrator's/Board Secretary's Employment Contract for Mrs. Cheryl Balletto for the 2012-2013 school year	
#32P	Appointment of Tatianna Pasley-Smith as 10-Month Senior Secretary at Fort Lee High School	
#33P	Appointment of Robert Archer as Part-Time Two-Fifths Social Studies Teacher at Lewis F. Cole Middle School	
	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1P & #2P & #4P - #33P #3P, #15P, #17P & #28P was Pulled	Seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano was absent.

13. At approximately 10:30 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 BALLETTTO  
 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

CB/mp  
 Att.  
 8-7-12