

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

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 4, 2010

Library, School No. 1 – 250 Hoym St.

1. The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 8:08 PM by Mr. Carmello Luppino, Jr., President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mrs. Linda McCue 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. Arthur W. Levine, Mrs. Linda McCue, Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace and Mr. Carmello Luppino, Jr.

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

ABSENT: Mr. John Bang, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, and Mr. Yusang Park
5. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**
 - ◆ **Blue Ribbon Award for School #3 from the Borough**
 - ◆ **Advanced Placement Sheet showing improvement**
 - ◆ **Reporting of Fire and Security Drills conducted**
 - ◆ **Annual Violence and Vandalism Hearing showing a decrease of 47% in two years. The greatest decrease is at the High School with half the number from two years ago showing the results of what goes on in the schools.**
 - ◆ **The enrollment update which is 47% over the capacity at schools. Fifty-four votes show a loss out of 3,200.**
 - ◆ **It is our intent to go back with the Referendum on December 14th (set by statute). We will have a community meeting next week and develop other alternatives.**
 - ◆ **The board will review where to put the trailers in a couple of years. We have plans for administration to review split sessions.**
6. **REPORT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**
 - ◆ Sarah Moore is out sick. School opened smoothly. The Pep Rally was a blast.
7. **BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORTS**
 - ◆ For the month of August 2010.

	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the month of August 2010.	Seconded by Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, and Mr. Yusang Park were absent.	
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8. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION**

- ◆ For the month of August 2010.

	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue To approve the Monthly Budget Status Certification for the month of August 2010.	Seconded by Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, and Mr. Yusang Park were absent.	
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9. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

- ◆ Mr. Peter Suh asked if Resolution #15P had anyone paid if there is no detention.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto said no, only as needed.

10. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ◆ Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on September 13, 2010 and the Special Public Business Meeting on September 15, 2010.

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	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue To Approve Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on September 13, 2010 and the Special Public Business Meeting on September 15, 2010.	Seconded by Mr. Arthur W. Levine On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, and Mr. Yusang Park were absent.	
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11. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA**

- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked about Resolution #1CW and questioned what it pertained to and the cost.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that JV introduced this and the schools will become the school of choice. You can apply to go or stay in your home district and pay for transportation. We will not be of choice. We are a high achieving district.
- ◆ Ms. Paula Colbath asked what are the limits.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that it is important to keep our own kids in our own community.
- ◆ Ms. Paula Colbath stated that we should leave the class size open and not limit it just to our community.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson asked if 10% of a class can go and then this would reduce the number of aides.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson asked how do you select students for drug testing.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated only if a student is suspected under the influence. Not all students.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson asked if Resolutions #9P to #12P are new postings and why are we pulling Resolution #12P

- ◆ Ms. Paula Colbath asked why a sibling and not a straight lottery?
- ◆ Mr. Matthew J. Giacobbe stated that it is cheaper for siblings who are in district.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that they can carry over to the next year.
- ◆ Mr. George Porto asked what is the cost to transport and what is the cost per pupil to send them out of district.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated we don't need to become a choice school.
- ◆ Ms. Paula Colbath asked how many students are there.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that we can't say right now.

12. RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Committee of the Whole		
#1CW	Approval - District Of Residence Resolutions To Limit Student Participation	
	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue To Approve #1CW	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, and Mr. Yusang Park were absent.

Buildings and Grounds		
#1B&G	Approval - Donation Of Storage Shed	
#2B&G	Approval - Authorization Of Ssp Architectural Group	
#3B&G	Approval - Authorization To Develop A Plan For Double Sessions	
#4B&G	Approval - Approval To County To Advertise The Referendum	
	Motion by Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez To Approve #1B&G - #4B&G	Seconded by Mr. Arthur W. Levine On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, and Mr. Yusang Park were absent.

Curriculum Committee	
#1CUR	Approval of Class Trips
#2CUR	Proposal from Litlife for Professional Development for Teachers
#3CUR	Learning for Life Annual Memorandum of Understanding (High School)
#4CUR	Learning for Life for ESDP

	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1CUR - #4CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, and Mr. Yusang Park were absent.	
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Finance			
#1F	Approval - Current Bills List		
#2F	Approval of Cafeteria Claims for August 2010		
#3F	Approval - Extended School Day Program Payments – August 2010		
#4F	Approval - Line Item Transfers – August 2010		
#5F	Approval - Submission of 2010-2011 Idea Funding		
#6F	Approval - Acceptance of Education Jobs Act Funding		
#7F	Approval - Student Drug Testing Facility Service Agreement		
#8F	Approval - Shared Service Agreement		
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #8F	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, and Mr. Yusang Park were absent.	

Health-Welfare and Safety			
#1HWS	Approval - Payment of Home and Bedside Instruction Services		
#2HWS	Approval - Out-of-District Placement		
#3HWS	Approval - Additional Related Service Provider		
	Motion by Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez To Approve #1HWS - #3HWS	Seconded by Mr. Arthur W. Levine On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, and Mr. Yusang Park were absent.	

Personnel			
#1P	Approval - Approval - Staff Trips and Conferences		
#2P	Approval - Participation in Ticket Program with Bloomfield College		
#3P	Approval - Longevity Stipends		

#4P	Approval - Vacation Pay	
#5P	Approval - Salary Adjustments	
#6P	Approval - Amended Maternity Leave for Kathleen Horton Forma as Elementary Teacher at School No. 3	
#7P	Approval - Maternity Leave for Kristen Brown as Elementary Teacher at School No. 4	
#8P	Approval - Appointment of Rita Fermano as Leave Replacement at School No. 3	
#9P	Approval - Appointment of Shakira Valdez as Part-Time Education Aide at School No. 3	
#10P	Approval - Appointment of Elizabeth Bartel as Art Teacher at School No. 4 and High School	
#11P	Approval - Appointment of Jaritza Beato as Classroom Aide at FLECC	
#12P	Approval - Appointment of Stephanie Ardizzone as Elementary School Teacher at School No. 1	
	Motion by Mr. Arthur W. Levine To Approve #1P & #12P	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, and Mr. Yusang Park were absent.
#13P	[PULLED]	
#14P	Approval - Placement of Student Intern for 2010-2011 School Year	
#15P	Approval - Saturday Detention Monitors	
#16P	Approval - Appointment of Additional Substitutes for The 2010-2011 School Year	
#17P	Approval - Retirement of Joyce Hamilton as Home Economics Teacher at Fort Lee High School	
#18P	Approval - Extended School Day Program Staffing Changes	
#19P	Approval - After-School Tutors	
	Motion by Mr. Arthur W. Levine To Approve #14P - #19P	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, and Mr. Yusang Park were absent.

Policy	
#1POL	Approval - Policy/Regulation Updates

Motion by Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez	Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue
To Approve #1POL	On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. John Bang, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, and Mr. Yusang Park were absent.

13. **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY TOPIC OF CONCERN**

- ◆ Mona K asked about Resolution #19P and what are the tutors for in the after school program?
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that in the Middle School most tutors are needed who qualifies for the standardized test scores.
- ◆ Mona K asked how many times can you to vote on the referendum.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew J. Giacobbe stated that it need to go at least twice. There is a six month window to use money from the state.
- ◆ Mona asked if there are any additional costs.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated that it costs \$35,000. to \$40,000. for each election.
- ◆ Julie asked if there would be trailers if the referendum was not in place.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that we qualify as long as we have the plan.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that it is not a solution. Maybe the taxpayers need to see a trailer park. It is more expensive to build a classroom.
- ◆ Holly asked how much does each trailer cost.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine asked if it would be an exception for the 2% CAP.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that he doesn't think so.
- ◆ George asked if the referendum passed would you get trailers anyway.
- ◆ Ms. Paula Colbath thanked everyone for spending their time on the referendum. It is achievable. This is within reach. We have learned where we need to focus.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that we need to do the right thing. It is a five year project. We need information on other options and we have looked at the Board as a whole to get a message out better. We have to sit down with some no voters. We have had meetings with no voters. We need to do task lists.
- ◆ Oleg stated that he voted against the referendum and we have four levels of schools with not a good decision. We come back with the same voters who are still against the referendum.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that he looked at many alternatives and put on existing grade schools and we can't do it. School #1 is the largest site. The core sites already are crowded. There is no parking and a lot of traffic. We need a small addition at School #2 and it costs more money but it doesn't solve the problems. To add a fifth and sixth addition on the Middle School will cost a little less but we will loose the state aid for a new school. Even if we have trailers we will still need to have a new school.
- ◆ Alex Florates stated that we should come back with a good plan. The plan wasn't right to move the children to four different schools. We should just move the sixth grade to the Middle School.
- ◆ Christina stated that we can't build onto School #4.
- ◆ David Sarnoff stated that we want to thank Dr. Bandlow, Cheryl Balletto and the Board. We thank the people for questions. What is a disgrace is the anonymous letters with lies and we want to have an honest debate. Shame on you to the Bergen News to print Ann Campellano's letter. We hope to have an honest debate.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow thanked David Sarnoff for all he did.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated that a lot of votes were no and I know because of the new school. If you scale it down then we will vote yes. it was objected because it was enormous.
- ◆ Ellen McCoy stated that there was a controversy with three young children at School #2 over the Middle School. There are concerns over the fifth and sixth grade school location.
- ◆ Carmello Luppino stated that it has to be cost efficient. We have a communication issue.
- ◆ Fran stated that she had a concern to free up two to three classes is not a solution and we would love to see it the way it was.

- ◆ Paige Sultano stated that we should choose a day and offer tours and open it to the community.

14. At approximately 9:25 PM, Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez, 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,

MRS. CHERYL BALLETT
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

CB/mp
Att.
10-13-10