

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

MINUTES – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, November 18, 2013

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

1. The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 8:06 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**

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 online media outlet/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. Please be advised that this meeting is being taped and will be broadcasted on local TV and the district's website at a future date.

During the course of the board meeting, the Fort Lee Board of Education offers members of the public an opportunity to address issues regarding the operation of the Fort Lee Public Schools. The Board reminds those individuals who take this opportunity to identify themselves by name and address and to limit their comments to items listed on the agenda and/or items directly related to the operation of the School District. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate. The Board asks all members of the public to be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged and will not be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey. The Board bears no responsibility nor will it be liable for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comment in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments and be aware that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

4. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Yusang Park

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Paul J. Saxton, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mr. David L. Rinderknecht and Dennis McKeever, Esq.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Michael Morell and Mr. Michael Zhadanovsky

ABSENT: Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr.

5. **REPORT OF THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

- ◆ Superintendent Paul Saxton stated that two student Board members would be seated at this meeting. He explained the obligations of being a student Board member. Mr. Saxton then introduced Mr. David L. Rinderknecht. Mr. Rinderknecht introduced the two students, Michael Morell and Michael Zhadanovsky. They were administered the Student Board Member Oath by Mr. Rinderknecht and were then seated on the Board.
- ◆ Mr. Saxton introduced staff members who in turn recognized student accomplishments involving the All National Honors Orchestra and Bergen County Chorus and the All National Choir. Students Sean Yoshida, Noelle Dadon Zane Fadul and Kyu Jin Jang were given certificates.
- ◆ Mr. Saxton recognized Jodi Etra for her outstanding job organizing the Field of Heroes and the Field of Heroes ceremony on November 10, 2013. He also recognized the two musical directors, Joseph Picone and Harry Welte, for their outstanding efforts. Ammad Quraishi, student Government President was also recognized for his poignant and sincere speech.
- ◆ Mr. Saxton explained that the documents and process for authorizing use of facilities is being revised, including a review by the attorney. A package of policy, regulations, forms and directions is being assembled so that everyone knows the process and it is consistent throughout the system.
- ◆ Mr. Peter Suh recognized Mr. Saxton and his wife for such a great program, Field of Heroes, that had brought the community together.

6. **BOARD SECRETARY REPORT AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2013**

- ◆ For the month of October 2013.

	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2013.	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.	
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7. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION – OCTOBER 2013**

- ◆ For the month of October 2013.

	Motion by Mr. David Sarnoff Monthly Budget Status Certification for the month of October 2013.	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.	
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8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS – Reported by Chairperson of respective committee**

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| 1. Board Report (by President) | 7. Policy |
| 2. Negotiations | 8. Finance |
| 3. School Security | 9. Technology |
| 4. Buildings & Grounds | 10. Contracts and Legal |
| 5. Personnel | 11. Athletics and Community Involvement |
| 6. Curriculum | |

- ◆ Board Report - Mr. Yusang Park thanked Mr. Saxton for a great program on November 10, 2013. He noted that this was a rare opportunity to get the community together. He also reported that the Band came in first place at the Bergen Festival.
- ◆ Negotiations Report – Mrs. Holly Morell said that another Negotiations Meeting is scheduled on December 2, 2013.
- ◆ Finance Report – Mr. Joseph Surace stated that many projects were finished over the summer and that we are now seeking reimbursement from Trenton on the SDA Grants. The 2014-2015 Budget Preparation is also under way.
- ◆ Athletics and Community Involvement Report – Mrs. Candace Romba reported that a pancake breakfast fund raiser was held on Saturday by the Booster Club.
- ◆ Technology Report – Mr. David Sarnoff reported on the WI-FI enhancement and the addition of computers.

9. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION** – No questions from the Board Members.

10. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Private Work Session and Public Work Session on November 4, 2013.

	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver	
	The minutes from the Private Work Session and Public Work Session on November 4, 2013.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Joseph Surace and Ms. Helen Yoon abstained. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.	

At approximately 8:43 PM, Mr. David Sarnoff, offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, to begin Public Comment. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

- ◆ Ms. Jodi Etra asked the Board Members to come and see the High School Play. She commented on the amazing chorus and band.
- ◆ Ms. Yvette Dadon spoke on behalf of the Band Boosters and thanked the Board for their support of the Band Program. Boosters raised funds for instruments and the Board bought Color Guard uniforms and will be buying band uniforms.
- ◆ Mr. Alex Boratos referenced Resolution 3F and asked if it should add up? He also asked about the High School Principal and how long will the Interim Principal be there.
- ◆ He also asked if a search would be conducted for a permanent Superintendent replacement.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park responded that they will be doing a search to replace Mr. Saxton after his two years are up.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton responded that the plan is to keep the current Interim Principal for two years and then hire a permanent replacement.
- ◆ A resident asked about teacher negotiations, school security, common core curriculum and charter schools. She asked if the Board passed a resolution against Charter Schools.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that he will look into the issues.
- ◆ A resident with her son stated her concern about the lack of implementation of her son’s reading program.

12. **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<u>Board Committee</u>		
#1B	RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1B	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.

<u>Committee of the Whole</u>		
#1CW	APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD	
	Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1CW	Seconded by Mr. David Sarnoff On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Holly Morell abstained. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.

<u>Curriculum Committee</u>		
#1CUR	APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS TOTALING \$265.00	
	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.

<u>Finance</u>		
#1F	APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$6,669,735.90	
#2F	ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS	
#3F	APPROVAL – CAFETERIA CLAIMS FOR OCTOBER 2013	
#4F	APPROVAL – LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR OCTOBER 2013	
#5F	AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH BANK ACCOUNT WITH TD BANK NORTH FOR THE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT PROGRAM	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #5F	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name, Jack DeNichilo on Resolution #1F. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.

Health-Welfare and Safety		
#1HWS	PAYMENT OF HOME INSTRUCTION SERVICES	
	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1HWS	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.

Personnel		
#1P	APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$159.85	
#2P	APPOINTMENT OF WINTER COACHES FOR 2013-2014	
#3P	APPOINTMENT OF SPRING COACHES FOR 2013-2014	
#4P	RETIREMENT OF DOLORES BICKFORD AS CLASSROOM AIDE AT FORT LEE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER	
#5P	APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE FOR ROBERT CICCONE AS PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 3	
#6P	APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE FOR WENDY GUMBERG AS BIOLOGY TEACHER AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL	
#7P	APPOINTMENT OF ALISHA STAILEY AS SPECIAL EDUCATION INCLUSION TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 4	
#8P	APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL ATHLETIC GAME WORKERS FOR 2013-2014	
#9P	APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL HOME INSTRUCTORS FOR 2013-2014	
#10P	APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL ANTI-BULLYING SPECIALISTS AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL FOR 2013-2014	
#11P	TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR 2012-2013 AS PER FLEA AGREEMENT	
#12P	PLACEMENT OF STUDENT TEACHERS AND PRACTICUM CANDIDATES FOR SPRING 2014	
#13P	APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL CO-CURRICULAR PERSONNEL FOR 2013-2014	
#14P	APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTES FOR 2013-2014	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #14P	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. David Sarnoff abstained from one name, Christina Zalokostas on Resolution #8P. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name, Joanie Palzer on Resolution #8P. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name, Michelle Hernandez on Resolution #11P. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.

13. **OLD BUSINESS** – Dr. Sharon Amato reported that the HIB Report shows a 17% reduction in incidents between November 2012 and December 2013.
14. **NEW BUSINESS** – Mrs. Holly Morell questioned the adequacy of the scoreboard in the High School Gym. She also pointed out the floor under the bleachers is not done. Mr. Paul Saxton added that he is disappointed with the outcome of painting on the gym floor. He is going to request that it be redone.
15. Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mr. Peter Suh, to close Public Comment. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
16. At approximately 9:02 PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, seconded by Mrs. Han Silver, to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Roll calls and resolutions of this meeting are attached.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID L. RINDERKNECHT
INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

DLR/mp
Att.
11-25-13