

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

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Library, School No. 1 – 250 Hoym St.

1. The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Mr. Arthur W. Levine, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mrs. Angela Napolitano, 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: 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,
Mrs. Angela Napolitano, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace,
Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Arthur W. Levine

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Steven Engravalle, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto, and Mr. Matthew Giacobbe, Esq.

ABSENT: None
5. **REPORT OF THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**
 - ◆ Mr. John Bang introduced Alex Chung a student from the Fort Lee High School who comes to the board meetings. Mrs. Joan Voss is here to present a certificate to Alex Chung from the New Jersey General Assembly.
 - ◆ Mr. Patrick Ambrosio honored the Cheerleaders from the Fort Lee High School who won the State Cheerleading Championship.
 - ◆ Mrs. Kristine Cecere, Principal of School #1 did a presentation on School #1.
6. **REPORT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**
 - ◆ Ross Fasman stated that due to the tragedy at the High School the response had a large support group who were very sincere and genuine. The High School had a play and pep rally.
 - ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that he received a three page email from Ross Fasman of all the things he said would help which shows his great character.
7. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**
 - ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that the Board of Education has a Recognition Program. The filming of the board meetings with the Board of Education and Time Warner Cable is in the process of finalizing the procedures so that it is properly aired.
 - ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that the Referendum will be launched on our website and on Patch.com hopefully tomorrow. There are frequently asked questions and we will update the community with our engagements and aggressive email campaigns. He thanked Mr. Lipoff for sending out voting forms.

- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that QSAC has procedures for purchase orders. The Curriculum has approval dates.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that the Security Audit hopefully will be discussed in the January 3, 2012 board meeting in private and in public.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that there are two new positions needed in the Special Education Program.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that he apologized that the Holiday Concert is scheduled for Hanukah. There will be an early dismissal on December 23, 2011.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that a letter was brought to him from the Middle School Principal regarding January 2, 2012.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ◆ Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on December 5, 2011.

	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh	
	To Approve Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on December 5, 2011.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino and Mr. Yusang Park abstained.	

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

- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico questioned page 3 and is the \$50,000 settlement for tuition.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that action was taken as per the settlement and IEP once the residency is changed.
- ◆ Mr. George Porto asked where funds will go if not spent for the referendum.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that the money goes back to pay off the debt and can't be used for anything that is not in the question.
- ◆ Mr. George Porto stated that he would like to support the referendum.
- ◆ Mr. Ross Fasman asked about the IB Program and recruiting other students for tuition and asked if this has been considered.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that if we choose to be choice schools the choice can't be discriminatory.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked if there were more details in Resolution #1B&G with the internet wiring services for the 2175 Lemoine Avenue office.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that all are T-1 and has cloud storage been considered. The issue is security.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that if we wire the floor we occupy the wiring on the inside and asked if it will remain there? Do we have a claim for the landlord to share?
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that this is a direct pipeline to the High School and is not inside the office.
- ◆ Mr. Gary Novosielski the President of FLEA stated this was never an issue. There is not a lot of support for the January 2, 2012 issue. He heard that some people said there is a change of leadership for the dialog and gets more accomplished the way I like to work. He contacted all AR's and asked to let me know what is going on. The statute says it's a state holiday and we are not required to go to our jobs. You can take off but it has to be made up. An option is to take a snow day but is not necessary. If teachers take off the day after New Year's Day then they will need to make it up.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that she is glad that Mrs. Joan Voss is here. There are pending laws in Trenton and many districts have done resolutions. The Fort Lee Board of Education has not done that. One law takes away the right of the Superintendent and the Board. All districts passed resolutions at the severity of the issue. She would like the board to discuss it. The Charter School issue has districts taking a stand. Every district would pay and there is a tremendous impact financially. Are they planning to adopt to move the election in November? The NJSBA and the NJEA has supported it and is under cap with no cost to the

schools. The legislation is under Lane Duck and thinks the board should take action. There is a direct financial impact and there has been no discussion or even the reading of laws.

- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that the board memo is to members by via email and passed a resolution for school funding.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that she is glad that he sends out emails.
- ◆ Mrs. Joan Voss stated that there are so many bills pending and Chris Cerf and the governor are behind the Charter Schools. Programs are folding by putting funding for the Charter Schools. There is an Opportunity Scholarship Fund, bipartisan bill only with thirteen towns failing schools. Corporations are putting into scholarship funds instead of paying taxes. \$8,000 is for Elementary Schools, and \$11,000 is for the Middle School which is a catastrophe for public schools.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that East Brunswick District argued six weeks ago about this and their district should have a 90% enrollment but only had 50% because they didn't follow rules.
- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia asked if we are searching for a Superintendent.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balleto stated that we have four responses that the Board is reviewing.
- ◆ Tracy Mattei asked what is QSAC and what is our future plans?
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that the monitoring system is by the State and we will start with a plan of action. We are revising the Language Arts Department for September 2012. We will include how we will staff the district and make a new Curriculum.
- ◆ Tracy Mattei asked about the IB Program and if there is an activity fee for students?
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated there is no fee.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that if the board meetings were televised they could be posted on the website for the public to observe.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that we are grossly understaffed and the referendum has taken a priority. We would like to see a televised program.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if there is a new law firm Keenan and Sons as stated on page 5.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balleto stated it is a bill for ethics charges.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if there is a hiring practice at School #1 and if this is something new. Ms. Cecere's presentation mentioned procedures.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that there is no change in policy.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff urged the board to take this up. The Charter is more of an immediate issue. A resolution should be passed supporting public schools.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that the next meeting.
- ◆ Mr. Gary Novosielski the President of FLEA stated that it will be money comes from the corporations who funnel money away from the public schools.
- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia asked about the funds for the Chess Club at School #4 and the PTA funding. Money is being spent that is not a necessity. She asked when does the rental money from the schools go to the students in the schools. I'm tired of schlepping.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle states that the issues are correct and well deserved. The Finance Committee will meet tomorrow night.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that he choose to stay. He taught his students chess. And choose to stay in Philadelphia.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that all four schools should have a Chess Club.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked if the High School is completely funded by fundraisers and are the academic trips done through fundraisers. A concert shouldn't be cancelled during the Holiday season.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Lipoff, Treasurer of the FLEA said this is a statement opportunity act that would take from our district. At the next board meeting we can do it.

10. **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<u>Board Committee</u>		
#1B	Approval – Resolution Regarding School District Report of Incidents of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B	Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried.

<u>Committee of the Whole</u>		
#1CW	Approval – New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) Statement of Assurance for the 2011-2012 school year	
	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1CW	Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino On roll call, Motion carried.

<u>Buildings and Grounds</u>		
#1B&G	Approval – CJ Communications Group Internet Wiring Services for 2175 Lemoine Avenue Totaling \$14,123	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B&G	Seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace On roll call, Motion carried.

<u>Curriculum Committee</u>		
#1CUR	Approval of Class Trips for a Total Cost to the District of \$800.00	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1CUR Resolution #2CUR was Pulled	Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried.

<u>Finance</u>		
#1F	Approval – Current Bills List as Amended	
#2F	Approval – Cafeteria Claims for November 2011 Totaling \$117,479.34	
#3F	Approval – Extended School Day Program Claims for November 2011 totaling \$7,108.00	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #3F	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried.

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

Personnel					
#1P	Approval – Staff Trips and Conferences Totaling \$2,054.76				
#2P	Approval – Transfer of Staff Members				
#3P	Approval – Appointment of Michael Truppe as 1:1 Aide at School No. 2				
#4P	Approval – Appointment of Jonathan Reinsdorf as 1:1 Aide at School No. 1				
#5P	Approval – Extended Medical Leave for Lori Tauscher as Elementary Teacher at School No. 2				
#6P	Approval – Amended Appointment of Samantha Goldstein as Leave Replacement at School No. 2				
#7P	Approval – Longevity Stipend for Jay Berman Totaling \$1,400 Per Annum				
#8P	Approval of Vacation Payment for Jamie Ciofalo Totaling \$14,814.42				
#9P	Approval – Placement of Student Teachers, Student Interns and Practicum Candidates for 2011-2012 school year				
#10P	Approval – Additional Tutors at School No. 2 for 2011-2012 school year				
#11P	Approval – Additional Substitutes for 2011-2012 school year				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue</td> <td>Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To Approve #1P - #11P</td> <td>On roll call, Motion carried.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue	Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino	To Approve #1P - #11P	On roll call, Motion carried.
Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue	Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino				
To Approve #1P - #11P	On roll call, Motion carried.				

- ◆ Mr. John Bang stated that Kim Jung Yeel is a part of the Korean teachable movement can update our students in current affairs and events of the Korean War Vets.

11. At approximately 9:35 PM, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, offered, Mrs. Linda McCue, 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 BALLETT
 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY