

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

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, December 20, 2010

Library, School No. 1 – 250 Hoym St.

1. The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 8:02 PM by Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr., 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, 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. John Bang, Mr. Arthur W. Levine, Mrs. Linda McCue, Mrs. Angela Napolitano, Mr. Yusang Park, Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace and Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr.

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

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

- ◆ Good News Report
- ◆ Congratulate the High School athletics

6. **REPORT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

- ◆ Peter Liapes stated that they had the Second Annual Pep Rally. He reviewed the Sports Calendar. the Spring Musical will be the King and I.

7. **BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORTS**

- ◆ For the month of November 2010.

	Motion by Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Report For the month of November 2010.	Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried.	
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8. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION**

- ◆ For the month of November 2010.

	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh	
	To approve the Monthly Budget Status Certification for the month November 2010.	On roll call, Motion carried.	

9. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

- ◆ The Board motioned that Resolution #1CW should be tabled.

	Motion by Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez	Seconded by Mr. Arthur W. Levine	
	The Board motioned to Table Resolution #1CW	On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino abstained.	

10. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ◆ Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on December 20, 2010.

	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh	
	To Approve Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on December 20, 2010.	On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Angela Napolitano abstained from the minutes.	

11. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA**

- ◆ Mildred Federico asked about the job description of Principal for the Early Elementary Childhood Center. Is it FLAG?
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow said yes.
- ◆ David Sarnoff asked what is FLAG.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow said FLAG stands for the Fort Lee Administrator Group.

12. **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace reported that we will have the Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 6 pm. Mrs. Balletto will send out an email.

<b><u>Curriculum Committee</u></b>			
#1CUR	<b>Approval of Class Trips</b>		
#2CUR	<b>Approval - Contract with The Center for Applied Linguistics (Cal)</b>		
	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue	Seconded by Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez	
	To Approve #1CUR & #2CUR	On roll call, Motion carried.	

<b>Finance</b>		
#1F	Approval – <b>Current Bills List</b>	
#2F	Approval of Cafeteria Claims for November 2010	
#3F	Approval – <b>Line Item Transfers – November 2010</b>	
#4F	Approval – <b>Donation of Automobile</b>	
#5F	Approval of Health Benefit Waiver Payment	
#6F	Approval – <b>Resolution for Improvement of Pers Pension Budgeting Information</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #6F	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried.

<b>Health-Welfare and Safety</b>		
#1HWS	Approval – <b>Payment of Home and Bedside Instruction Services</b>	
#2HWS	Approval – <b>Out-of-District Placements</b>	
#3HWS	Approval – <b>Additional Related Service Provider</b>	
#4HWS	Approval – <b>Approval of Nurses Services Plan</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Angela Napolitano To Approve #1HWS - #4HWS	Seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried.

<b>Personnel</b>		
#1P	Approval - <b>Staff Trips and Conferences</b>	
#2P	Approval - <b>Additional Horizontal Movement for 2010-2011 school year</b>	
#3P	Approval - <b>Reappointment of Diane Robertazza as Maternity Leave Replacement at School No. 4</b>	
#4P	Approval - <b>Appointment of Susanne Ngai as 1:1 Aide at School No. 2</b>	
#5P	Approval - <b>Addition to Home Instructors List</b>	
#6P	Approval - <b>Placement of Student Teacher</b>	
#7P	Approval - <b>Appointment of Additional Substitutes for the 2010-2011 school year</b>	
#8P	Approval - <b>Appointment of Luddy Serulle-Green for Extra Compensation for Parent Involvement</b>	

#9P	Approval - <b>Volunteers at School No. 4</b>	
#10P	<b>Approval of Job Descriptions</b>	
#11P	Approval - <b>Elimination of Test Coordinator Positions</b>	
#12P	Approval - <b>Appointment of Jay Berman as Principal of Early Elementary Childhood Center</b>	
#13P	Approval - <b>Appointment of Gregg Milgram as Middle School Geography/Computer Teacher</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Yusang Park To Approve #1P - #13P	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried.

<b>Policy</b>		
#1POL	Approval - <b>Second Reading and Adoption of New Policy: 8601</b>	
#2POL	Approval - <b>First Reading of Policy/Regulation Updates</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Yusang Park To Approve #1POL & #2POL	Seconded by Mrs. Angela Napolitano On roll call, Motion carried.

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

- ◆ David Sarnoff asked if we could speak about the laptops. We can create another universe for OPRA.
- ◆ Steve Engravalle stated that there are no electronic communications, only PDF of the agenda. We are trying to scale back paper.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that for the record, these are the computers for the library.
- ◆ Art Elmers thanked everyone for supporting the referendum to fail. The problem doesn't go away. In other communities they exceed the infrastructure and ask the board to consider asking the mayor and council to consider a stop to residential construction. This can stop the problem from getting worse. We can ask the council to consider that we cannot take any more children.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that we are over capacity. We are upset that the referendum didn't pass. We are fair and honest. I thought it should be bigger and the previous board tried and it didn't work back then. The board will try to take care of the children. The community needs to come together.
- ◆ Alyssa asked if we are going to take action against homeowners for sending illegal mailings.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated that we are not a non-profit organization.
- ◆ Mr. Matthew Giacobbe stated that he cannot speak about this topic.
- ◆ Howard Lipoff stated that he is concerned about adding another Administrative position. There are many layoffs now. Is this the right time? Will we be looking at more cutbacks?
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow said that we have a start-up of the Preschool this year. There are a small number of children with disabilities that require the presence of administration. We tried our Director of special Education and also eliminated administrative positions. We are providing better services and saving money. After the first year with savings, the Director is trying to do both which binds her to be there. This will free her up.

- ◆ David Sarnoff stated that more information is better. There was an article in the Record, about televised meetings and there was misinformation and we are not being informed. We should be able to watch the Board meetings. It takes away the ability to say no to information or misinformation.
  - ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated that the Homeowners are not nonprofit. I don't know where the information is from. At one time we considered it. We are lobbyists. Therefore not for profit and not for us.
  - ◆ Mr. Art Elmers commented on the web that it stated nonprofit.
  - ◆ Howard Pearl stated that a lot of companies use a tech online service at a minimum cost. If it's on the school district website, we can make a way to ask question on line and have someone answer within 48 hours. We would feel that we have more access. Instead of turning to the wrong sources, a new computer system would replace Genesis, and a new system would be used to try to get the public more involved.
  - ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that it is a great idea and we will look into it.
  - ◆ Howard Pearl stated that even volunteers could answer the questions.
  - ◆ Nancy Stern stated that we used to televise the Board meetings. You could televise if you're given notice. It is difficult to get used to but has been done.
  - ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that we will look into it.
  - ◆ Fran asked how to solve problems with the referendum and the overcrowding. The Science labs are outdated. Each school was getting something. A solution that we will accomplish what we need. America falls behind but we don't do anything. As a community we can work on a solution. Call Paul Shelly from Time Warner.
  - ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated that many people asked that two questions be done. It was denied. I'm pretty sure that one question is OK.
  - ◆ Tracey urged the board to do the referendum again. We need to get on the telephone since they didn't understand the referendum. Trailers aren't going to count. Fort Lee was the best and now it's overcrowded.
  - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that he agreed and thank her.
14. At approximately 8:36 PM, Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez, offered, Mr. Arthur W. Levine, 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.  
12-21-10