

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

MINUTES – SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, November 11, 2010

All Purpose Room of School No. 1 – 250 Hoym St.

1. The Public Work Session was called to order at 8:07 PM by Mr. Carmelo Luppino Jr., President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Joseph Surace led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Public Announcement by the President of the Fort Lee 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, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace and Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Raymond J. Bandlow, Mr. Steven Engravalle, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto, and Lisa Gorab, Attorney

ABSENT: Mrs. Michelle Stux-Ramirez
5. **SPECIAL PUBLIC WORK SESSION – TO DISCUSS THE SCHOOL BOND REFERENDUM**
6. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**
 - ◆ Nancy Stern asked about the purpose of private session?
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow that legal counsel was here and was ok.
 - ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson asked when do we pay the principal?
 - ◆ Ms. Lisa Gorab stated that the actual sale could be in January. The interest payment is in 2011 with ten months of interest around 4%.
 - ◆ Stanley Goldberg said the mayor stated the land deal is off. We no longer deal with Fort Lee. Where will you build?
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow said there is no written agreement. It is verbal contingent upon passing. The property is already used jointly to serve the community. One large parcel is the school football field. The verbal agreement is the exchange of the value of the property. I was surprised to hear this since the referendum failed and is no longer enforced.
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow said that there is nothing in writing. We have a verbal understanding in principle.
 - ◆ Stanley Goldberg stated that the Mayor led him to believe that there was no agreement verbal or otherwise.

- ◆ Mr. Doug Sugarman stated that he also attended the meeting and Mayor Sokolich stated no agreement. There is nothing in stone. There are no specifics. You are asking us to increase debt in Fort Lee. The Board and Municipality has different budgets but out of the same pocket. The mayor said it's dead when the referendum failed. Who am I to believe? A televised elected official or Superintendent. Are you asking us to approve without specifics? Do you want it passed?
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated if the agreement doesn't work we will build on the little league field.
- ◆ Mr. Doug Sugarman asked how much is spent on repairs, and what is the actual cost of the construction of the school?
- ◆ Mr. Glen Arbesfeld read the numbers for each project.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern said \$89 million and we will get \$18 million from state aid. She also asked Dr. Bandlow if he has a letter from the state.
- ◆ Ms. Lisa Gorab stated that there are two state agencies. One is DOE and SDA which is the controller of Grant money. The DOE took a look at the project applications. We have an email from the revised projects or email?
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked if she put in an OPRA form would she get a letter.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that she can get an OPRA request.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern said she will put in an OPRA request.
- ◆ Lorraine Melter asked what would we do if the cost overruns.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that it is included in the numbers. We are required to build in contingencies. It is required.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto answered we are not allowed the Bid Project three times and then negotiate.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that Glenrock passed 45 million. In the first phase 28 million came in and 3 million came in under budget. Another aspect is to send \$7 million of tax money to other towns helping their economics. We will bring back many Special Education students saving \$3 million a year. Let's talk about it. With 43 units to be built we will bring in more students. The Lewis F. Cole Middle School had the Fire Department come this week. Property values will go down. There are predictions that after one year the interest rates will be over 5%. This is a community issue. Hopefully people will come together. What will you say when rates are higher. This is a sad day.
- ◆ Mr. Doug Sugarman said yes, there is 43 condos and one bedroom apartments. 3 million dollars and what is the debt service.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated it's not for savings but for more schools that badly need to relieve overcrowding. There are more than \$20 million of repairs. This is tremendous and the cost is small vs a huge benefit. This satisfies our educational needs. We are buying a quality school for the future.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated that Lisa Gorab presented without numbers. I filled out an OPRA form and would like to make sure my figures match your figures.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern said not at a council meeting. What I don't understand is that it is contingent upon Fort Lee.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated that we can build on our own property. Do we need to build there? No.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern said that if the referendum passed and we go to the Mayor with a verbal agreement and can't be worked out, then build on the little league field.
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino stated correct.
- ◆ Alex Floratos asked for clarification of where the four tennis courts and basketball court will be located?
- ◆ SSP answered where the tennis courts would be placed.
- ◆ Dr. Nina Levinson stated where are the monies for the computers?
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow said yes, it includes the furniture equipment.
- ◆ Mrs. Millie Federico stated that we should have had a meeting on Monday, and why didn't we.
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that he needed more information and had a consultation with the state.
- ◆ Mildred Federico said that she was surprised it was rescheduled for Veteran's Day.

- ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that we had to follow the state timetables.
- ◆ Doug Sugarman asked if the referendum fails in December is there plans yet for January?
- ◆ Mr. Carmelo Luppino said no, not at this time. Has a decision been made?
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that we don't want anyone to say I am against it. I support and continue to support the referendum. My concern is the land swap. I am very concerned and do support the referendum.

7. RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

<u>Committee of the Whole</u>					
#1CW	Resolution of The Board of Education of the Borough of Fort Lee in the County of Bergen, New Jersey providing for the Submission of a Special Ballot Question to the Fort Lee Borough voters at a Special School District Election to be held Tuesday, December 14, 2010				
PULLED	Approval to County to Advertise the Referendum				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mr. Arthur W. Levine</td> <td>Seconded by Mr. Yusang Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To Approve #1CW #2CW PULLED</td> <td>On roll call, Motion carried.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mr. Arthur W. Levine	Seconded by Mr. Yusang Park	To Approve #1CW #2CW PULLED	On roll call, Motion carried.
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To Approve #1CW #2CW PULLED	On roll call, Motion carried.				

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

- ◆ Mrs. Millie Federico asked about the status on the High School Principal Mr. Jay Berman.
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that it is pending before the commissioner.
 - ◆ Mrs. Millie Federico asked if they have any appeal
 - ◆ Dr. Raymond Bandlow stated that there is no decision therefore no appeal. The commissioner must make the decision.
9. At 8:48 pm Mr. Arthur Levine, offered, seconded by Mrs. Linda McCue, to adjourn the Special Public Business Meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
10. Roll call of this meeting is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Balletto
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

CB/mp
Att.
11/12/10