

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

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 12, 2012

Auditorium, High School, 3000 Lemoine Ave.

1. The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Mr. Arthur Levine, 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 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, 2175 Lemoine Avenue; 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. Peter Suh (8:02 and left at 9:07pm), Mr. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Arthur W. Levine

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Steven Engravalle, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto, and Mr. Yaacov Brisman, Esq.

ABSENT: Mr. Yusang Park

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

- ◆ The Fort Lee Early Childhood Center Principal, Mr. Jay Berman gave a report on The Early Childhood Center.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle gave a report on Mid-year Violence and Vandalism and various assembly programs for character education. He said that the training for bullying has been done.
- ◆ At approximately 8:05 PM, Mr. Carmelo Luppino offered, Mr. Peter Suh seconded by, to enter into the Violence and Vandalism and mid-year HIB Hearing. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico asked if the graffiti at the High School was reported.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that the graffiti that was on the lower section of the High School is included in the report.
- ◆ At approximately 8:15 PM, Mr. Carmelo Luppino offered, Mrs. Angela Napolitano seconded by, to close into the Violence and Vandalism and mid-year HIB Hearing. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle also apologized for the phone issues with Verizon. Visitors do have access to Central Office and the landlord is installing an intercom. Mr. Engravalle apologizes for the inconvenience and visitors can call extensions 4610 and 4612 from the

lobby. Mr. Engravalle congratulated the High School cheerleader’s team on winning a 3 ft. trophy, Banner and Spirit Award. He thanked the Fort Lee High School, Buildings and Grounds Committee and students for a terrific event that was taped. Positive feedback was received and three governors and Howard Dean were there.

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

- ◆ Ross Fasman stated that the Spring Musical will be on March 29th to March 31st at 7:30pm in the auditorium. The HSPA testing is on March 6th, 7th and 8th. He stated that he learned about bullying and the effects of drug abuse. The 1B official testing dates are May 1, 2012. The High School students will have a 911 Memorial in the senior courtyard and they will be selling bricks which can be co-sponsored.

7. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto gave a report on the Central Office renovation and the referendum.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that the Security audit is on March 26, 2012. The Board Office will be advertising for an Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. It is critical to have structure for the Administration on Curriculum and Student Achievement. We need to hire a 2:1 aide for IEP. A purchase order for thirty laptops is needed from Title III funds and for the same amount of money we can get 120 Google Chrome books. We can explore Google applications and expand our resources to the staff and students. He stated there was a fund raiser Friday evening and thanked everyone for the hard work in making this a terrific event.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ◆ Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on March 12, 2012.

	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve Minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on March 12, 2012.	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Yusang Park and Mr. Peter Suh were absent. Mrs. Angela Napolitano and Ms. Helen Yoon abstained.	
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9. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT’S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN**

- ◆ Mr. Yaacov Brisman board attorney reminded that pursuant to the board policy the public has been given three minutes to respond in giving all their questions upfront. Then at the end of the three minutes the board president can direct any answers.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Lipoff from the NJEA read a statement from the FLEA regarding the morning Joe Show.
- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia thanked the board members and Mrs. Balletto for attending and it would have been nice if Mr. Arthur Levine could have also.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that if she asked him he would have said that his wife underwent severe surgery.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked if the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum is a new position. She spoke of the new election law. She asked about the tuition resolutions. Mrs. Stern thanked Mr. Yusang Park for taking the Salary Guide Seminar and looked for a resolution and stated that it can’t be approved after they have gone to Atlantic City. She stated that the Charter Schools would be discussed at a future board meeting. Englewood had to put money aside. Mrs. Stern also stated that being on the board for 14 years that no point is necessary if the public is not allowed to speak. It should be reconsidered that amount of time the dialogue would be allotted between the public and the board.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated to pull the check to the School Boards off the agenda.

- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that the public speaking rule is too harsh. He read the article about Mr. Engravalle's Superman socks and he doesn't agree with him on the Charter Schools. He would like Mr. Engravalle to speak and clarify his position on the Charter Schools. Englewood is being dramatically affected and sometimes students test below the average. He would like a statement from the board which strongly advocates Public Schools. He didn't appreciate Mr. Engravalle calling someone a Bozo.
- ◆ Mr. Arthur Levine stated that the Charter Schools add nothing and only take away from our district. He is dead set against Charter Schools.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that he doesn't support Charter Schools. Money is not the issue and he believes that the tenure structure needs some reform. All classes have great teachers and we need to revisit the class time for students. Are we preparing the students for the 21st Century? We fall behind globally. We use the farmer's calendar. If you ask a corporation to close for two months would they be profitable? Most importantly the evaluation reform is for all teachers and he commends Mr. Jay Berman for using Teachscape which would work throughout the year. We need to do a better job to support our teachers. The assessment is for professional growth and the money will be used in the classroom.
- ◆ Ms. Paige Soltano asked if he plans on having the PTA meetings on Thursdays.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated yes he does agree that the communication is not as strong as it should be and the PTA needs to run with the Town Hall strategy. He would like the PTA to be more open and honest to bring in more people. The PTA should have coffee with the Superintendent and parents informally with them coming in the day and at night with an RSVP.
- ◆ Ms. Diane Sicari asked how many Fort Lee taxpayers and parents were invited to the show?
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that we are not in control of the invited people at the MSNBC show and over thirty students and teachers were there. As far as the fire drills we are finalizing the maps and we haven't signed the contract yet.
- ◆ Mr. Engravalle stated that he will be attending only one and it will be in Long Island.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that she will try to keep to the three minute rule if Mr. Engravalle has the time and flexibility to answer. Should she consider that Mr. Engravalle make a statement that he is representing himself? What is the status on the advertisement for a Superintendent Search? Is there a draft ad and could you describe the process. What has been done with the Curriculum stipend and what is the status of Alyson Karpman. She also added that she would like to discuss the settlement of JC and MV vs. the Fort Lee Board of Education. Is this a residency issue? Did the commissioner decline to approve the settlement and are we rejecting the settlement. On November 14, 2011 the district paid for this.
- ◆ Mr. Yaacov Brisman stated that the Commissioner and the Administration can't comment. The other litigation insurance has assigned a council and we can't comment publically.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto answered the superintendent advertisement will be in this weekend's paper. The board created the ad via email and working with the county regarding the stipend.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that he would be happy to meet with Mrs. Colbath about the Curriculum stipend and review the curriculum. The K-2 Math classes did a full audit and we have concerns. The curriculum was developed for K-2 Math and a draft was done for Science.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico questioned the \$10,000 stipend and the June security audit of \$28,000. She asked if we will be using the Security Mapping.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated absolutely.
- ◆ Ms. Christina Yoo asked if the students who take NJASK also take Science. At School #4 there are not enough Science books for the 3rd and 4th grades. She asked Mr. Engravalle where would he would spend money and he responded to her textbooks.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that this is an absurd situation and there is no reason for students to be sharing textbooks. Our main commitment of the new state aid is new books, resources, etc. for Math and Language Arts. There is no reason to share textbooks.

10. **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<u>Board Committee</u>		
#1B	Approval – Resolution Regarding School District Report of Incidents of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying	
#2B	Approval – Approval of Board Meeting Calendar for the Remainder of the 2012 Calendar Year	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B & #2B	Motion by Mrs. Linda McCue On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Yusang Park and Mr. Peter Suh were absent.

<u>Curriculum Committee</u>		
#1CUR	Approval of Class Trips at a Cost to the District of \$1,598.00	
#2CUR	Approval of Independent Study	
	Motion by Mr. Yusang Park To Approve #1CUR & #2CUR	Seconded by Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Yusang Park and Mr. Peter Suh were absent.

<u>Finance</u>		
#1F	Approval – Current Bills List Totaling \$6,317,568.72	
#2F	Approval – Academic Awards Dinner Contract	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F & #2F	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Yusang Park and Mr. Peter Suh were absent.

<u>Health-Welfare and Safety</u>		
#1HWS	Approval – Payment of Home and Bedside Instruction Services	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1HWS	Seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Yusang Park and Mr. Peter Suh were absent.

<u>Personnel</u>		
#1P	Approval – Staff Trips and Conferences Totaling \$1,835.31	
#2P	Approval – Retirement of Arlene Rifkin as Elementary Media Specialist at School No. 2	

#3P	Approval – Retirement of Donna Berkowitz as Middle School ESL Teacher	
#4P	Approval – Maternity Leave for Kristy Mcgoldrick as Special Education Teacher at Fort Lee High School	
#5P	Approval – Appointment of Stela Bastijancic as Leave Replacement for Special Education at Fort Lee High School	
#6P	Approval – Additional Substitutes for the 2011-2012 school year	
#7P	Approval – Resignation of Genna Kornweiser as Part-Time Aide at School No. 1	
#8P	Approval – Appointment of Genna Kornweiser as Leave Replacement for Middle School Math	
#9P	Approval – Appointment of Michael Ponce as Part-Time 2:1 Aide for Preschool at School No. 1	
#10P	Approval – Extra Compensation	
	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1P - #10P	Seconded by Mr. Carmelo Luppino On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino abstained from one name on #10P. Resolutions #2 & #3 were with regret. Mr. Yusang Park and Mr. Peter Suh were absent.

11. At approximately 9:30 PM, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, 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

CB/mp
Att.
3-21-12