

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

**MINUTES – PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Monday, February 10, 2014

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

1. The Public Work Session was called to order at 8:15 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Joseph Surace 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: 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. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Yusang Park

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Paul Saxton, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mrs. Ana M. Flores, Mr. Dennis McKeever, Esq., Mr. Michael Morell and Mr. Michael Zhadanovsky

**ABSENT:** Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Jeff Weinberg, and Mr. David L. Rinderknecht

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

- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton discussed the School Calendar and the different options available to make up snow days. The Board members should consider taking Spring vacation, extending the school year or adding half days on Saturday. A revised calendar may be voted on at the next board meeting, February 24, 2014.

At approximately 8:28 PM, Mr. David Sarnoff, offered, seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba, to open the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

- ◆ Parents expressed their objections to holding Saturday sessions. Many sports will be affected.
- ◆ Mr. Umrichin prefers Spring break.
- ◆ Mr. Pearl also prefers to reduce days from other weeks rather than adding Saturday mornings that will interfere with religious obligations and sports.
- ◆ Ms. Bruna Capalbo supports adding Saturday mornings due to given constraints.
- ◆ A student reminded the Board that students have already committed to competitions that take place on Saturday mornings.
- ◆ Mr. Saxton will give excused absences to those students with religious/clubs/activities.

At approximately 8:46 PM, Mrs. Candace Romba, offered, seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace, to close Public Comment. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

◆ Mr. Paul Saxton is looking forward to working with the Jewish Family Services. The contract with the YMCA terminates on February 28, 2014. A letter will be sent home with the students reminding everyone that orientation day will be on March 12, 2014 during which application will be available for Club ED.

- ◆ Student Representation, Michael Zhadanovsky updated the Board on: accomplishments by our athletic teams, Key Club food drive, College Plan night, and two FBLA students advancing to state competitions.
- ◆ Student Representation, Michael Morell updated the Board on: auditions that were just held for the Talent Show for February 28, 2014, the Senior Fashion Show will occur on March 10<sup>th</sup> and Latin Night took place on February 7, 2014 and was a great success—thanks to Chipolte.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Reported by Chairperson of respective committee**

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

- ◆ Negotiations Committee Report – Mrs. Holly Morell - Committee met with Mediators on February 6, 2014 and signed FLAG MOA on February 7, 2014.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton gave an overview of the agreement.
- ◆ School Security Committee Report - Mr. David Sarnoff stated that the committee is still working on revised plans, policy and procedures for implementation.
- ◆ Finance Committee Report – Mr. Joseph Surace stated that the committee will meet for a second time to review the 2014-2015 Budget on February 13, 2014.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Reorganization Meeting on January 6, 2014 and the Private Executive Session and Public Work Session on January 13, 2014.

	<b>Motion by Mr. David Sarnoff</b>	<b>Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver</b>
	The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Reorganization Meeting on January 6, 2014 and the Private Executive Session and Public Work Session on January 13, 2014.	On roll call, Motion carried. *Please note that Ms. Helen Yoon abstained from the January 13, 2014 meeting.

At approximately 8:57 PM, Mr. David Sarnoff, offered, seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver, to open the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

- ◆ Mr. Al Epstein expressed concern about the new locations referenced in the revised Long Range Facility Plan. How is this going to affect his teaching program? He has many ideas for new programs to implement and would like an opportunity to discuss them with administration.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton offered to meet with Mr. Al Epstein and Mr. Frank Calabria to discuss new programs.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl was disappointed with the tardiness of school closing at the last snow day.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton apologized and explained the revised process to avoid this miscommunication in the future.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Umrchin prefers to have extra days built into the calendar and then give them back at the end of the year.
- ◆ Mrs. Bruna Capalbo questioned the Merit pay clause in the FLAG MOA on page 3.
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever clarified that no merit pay will exist after January 1, 2014.
- ◆ Mrs. Bruna Capalbo was pleased with the additional classrooms mentioned in the Long Range Facility Plan Revisions and questioned how it was getting funded.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton replied through the Capital Reserve Fund.

At approximately 9:17 PM, Mr. David Sarnoff, offered, seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace, to close Public Comment. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

**9. ALL RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<b><u>Board Committee</u></b>		
<b>#1B</b>	<b>APPROVE PRIVATE EXECUTIVE SESSION</b>	
<b>#2B</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE AND TRAVEL FOR BOARD MEMBER MRS. ESTHER HAN SILVER</b>	
	<b>Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell</b>	<b>Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba</b>
	To Approve #1B & #2B	On roll call, Motion carried. *Please note that Mrs. Esther Han Silver abstained from her own name on Resolution #2B.

<b><u>Buildings and Grounds</u></b>		
<b>#1B&amp;G</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER</b>	
<b>#2B&amp;G</b>	<b>LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLAN (LRFP) AMENDMENT REQUEST</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1B&G & #2B&G	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried.

<b><u>Curriculum Committee</u></b>		
<b>#1CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS TOTALING \$123.00</b>	
<b>#2CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF EXTENDED SCHOOL DAY PROGRAM (ESDP) AGREEMENT WITH JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES (JFS) FOR 2013-2014</b>	
	Motion by Mr. David Sarnoff To Approve #1CUR & #2CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried.

<b><u>Finance</u></b>		
<b>#1F</b>	<b>APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$964,983.39</b>	
<b>#2F</b>	<b>ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F & #2F	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Sarnoff thanked all our donors.

<b><u>Health-Welfare and Safety</u></b>		
<b>#1HWS</b>	<b>PAYMENT OF HOME AND BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION SERVICES</b>	
<b>#2HWS</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL RELATED SERVICE PROVIDER FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
<b>#3HWS</b>	<b>RESOLUTION FOR WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2014-2015 SPECIAL EDUCATION MEDICAID INITIATIVE (SEMI) PROGRAM</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1HWS - #3HWS	Seconded by Mr. David Sarnoff On roll call, Motion carried.

<b><u>Personnel</u></b>		
<b>#1P</b>	<b>APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$1,234.41</b>	

#2P	RESIGNATION OF IVAN STIPANOV AS SCIENCE TEACHER AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
#3P	RESIGNATION OF JENNIFER PIASCIK AS 2/5 <sup>TH</sup> MATHEMATICS TEACHER AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
#4P	RESIGNATION OF STEPHAN LASTRA AS PART-TIME PHYSICAL EDUCATION AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 2
#5P	EXTENDED MATERNITY LEAVE FOR STACEY MARGOLIES AS ELEMENTARY TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 2
#6P	MATERNITY LEAVE FOR OLIVIA MATSOUKAS AS ELEMENTARY TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 3
#7P	ADJUSTMENT OF START DATE FOR LAUREN CARRUBBA AS SUPERVISOR OF DISTRICT GUIDANCE PROGRAMS K-12
#8P	MATERNITY LEAVE FOR MICHELE SABELLA AS SPECIAL EDUCATION SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
#9P	EXTENDED MEDICAL LEAVE FOR SUSAN GRGAS AS 1:1 AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 2
#10P	EXTENDED MATERNITY LEAVE FOR KATHLEEN FORMA AS ELEMENTARY TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 3
#11P	APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL LEAVE REPLACEMENTS DURING 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR
#12P Pulled	APPOINTMENT OF ROY HINCHMAN AS HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL
#13P	APPOINTMENT OF STEVEN CHOI AS 2/5 <sup>TH</sup> MATHEMATICS TEACHER AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
#14P	APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN MYERS AS PART-TIME MUSIC TEACHER AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
#15P	APPOINTMENT OF TAMAR ALBERT-EPHRAT AS PART-TIME SCIENCE TEACHER AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
#16P	APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL TUTORS FOR 2013-2014
#17P	APPOINTMENT OF TUTORS FOR AFTER-SCHOOL SPECIALIZED READING PROGRAM FOR 2013-2014
#18P	APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTES FOR 2013-2014
#19P	PLACEMENT OF STUDENT TEACHERS FOR SPRING 2014
#20P	UNUSED VACATION PAYOUT FOR RETIREE SALVATORE BORDONARO FOR 2013-2014
#21P	UNUSED SICK DAY PAYOUT FOR RETIREE BARBARA SIMCHICK FOR 2013-2014

#22P	APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER AT SCHOOL NO. 2 FOR 2013-2014	
#23P	APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE FOR ANTHONY GIAMBONO AS DISTRICT MAINTENANCE	
#24P	APPROVAL OF BRAILLE TRANSLATOR FOR 2013-2014	
#25P	APPROVAL OF IAN WAGNER AS HOME INSTRUCTOR FOR 2013-2014	
#26P	APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AND THE FORT LEE ADMINISTRATOR'S GROUP (FLAG)	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #26P Resolution #12P Pulled	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from two names on Resolution #1P and one name on Resolution #11P. Mrs. Holly Morell abstained from Resolution #13P and one name (Mr. Paul Umrichin) on Resolution #18P.

10. **OLD BUSINESS** – Mrs. Candace Romba asked about the outcome of the School Survey. Mr. Paul Saxton stated that there was much greater response after the second message was sent out. Data is being compiled and will be shared with the Board upon completion. Candace Romba complimented Mr. Faust for his appearance on TV. It was a great publicity for our school. Mr. David Sarnoff asked about the time frame of the scoreboard installation. Mr. Paul Saxton stated that he will look into it.

11. **NEW BUSINESS** - None

12. At approximately 9:20 PM, Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver, to adjourn the Public Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. ANA M. FLORES  
ASSISTANT BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY