

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

MINUTES – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, May 19, 2014

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

1. The Public Work Session was called to order at 8:05 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Peter Suh 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. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace, Mr. Jeff Weinberg, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Yusang Park

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Paul Saxton, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mr. David L. Rinderknecht, and Mr. Dennis McKeever, Esq., Mr. Michael Morell and Mr. Michael Zhadanovsky

ABSENT: None

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

- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton reported on the parade plans, including district participation. Students are writing letters to veterans on "What Veteran's Day Means To Me." Fourth grade students will also be riding bicycles in the parade.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton reported that over \$300,000 has been received from the State for ROD Grants dating back to 2005. He thanked Mr. Rinderknecht for his efforts in getting the funds.

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

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

- ◆ Student Board members Mr. Morell and Mr. Zhadanovsky reported on various school activities and events involving Performing Arts, Senior Night, testing and a pancake breakfast.
- ◆ Mr. Peter Suh reported that former board member Mr. John Bang's father passed away.

7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Special Public Meeting on April 28, 2014 and the Private Executive Session and Public Work Session on May 5, 2014.

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| | Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Special Public Meeting on April 28, 2014 and the Private Executive Session and Public Work Session on May 5, 2014. | Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Candace Romba and Mr. Jeff Weinberg abstained from the April 28, 2014 minutes and Mr. Yusang Park abstained from the May 5, 2014 minutes. | |
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8. **BOARD SECRETARY REPORT AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR APRIL 2014**

- ◆ For the month of April 2014.

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| | Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2014. | Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. | |
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9. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION – APRIL 2014**

- ◆ For the month of April 2014.

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| | Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace Monthly Budget Status Certification for the month of April 2014. | Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. | |
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10. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff thanked the donors in Resolution #4F.

At 8:20PM, Mrs. Candace Romba, offered, seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver, to open the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

- ◆ Several members of the audience spoke about the good work done by Mrs. Ann Marie Bruder and her Child Study Team leadership as well as how she helped individual students. An inquiry was also made as to how the Board is preparing for hiring a Business Administrator, Superintendent, High School Principal as well as organizing for a referendum in the near future.

- ◆ In response to a question from Mrs. Capalbo regarding hiring of an instructional supervisor, it was stated that resolution #6P is being pulled.

- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern spoke about legislation to remove Superintendent salary caps and asked if the board is considering a similar resolution. She also spoke about the issue of funding Charter Schools and if the board will be addressing that issue. She reminded the Board that these are issues that should be discussed by the Board in public sessions. Mr. Yusang Park responded that the board would be addressing these issues.

- ◆ In response to a question if there is an executed contract and separation agreement with the former Business Administrator, it was stated that there are executed agreements.

- ◆ Closing School Election Day was also brought up and it was noted that schools were always closed up until last year. It was reported that the County has asked the school district to close on Election Day.

- ◆ A question was raised about a legal ad for financing temporary classrooms and the bid opening.

- ◆ Another person raised a question as to why Board members who attended a conference did not give a report.

- ◆ In response to a question as to why modular classrooms were not placed at the High School like Northern Valley did, Mr. Saxton explained that the pre-school program needs integration with the elementary program at School #2.

At 8:56PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba, to close Public Comment. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

| <u>Board Committee</u> | | |
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| #1B | APPROVE PRIVATE EXECUTIVE SESSION | |
| #2B | RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING | |
| | Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1B & #2B | Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. |

| Buildings and Grounds | | |
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| #1B&G | APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDERS | |
| | Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1B&G | Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. |

| Curriculum Committee | | |
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| #1CUR | APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT THE COST TO THE DISTRICT OF \$400 | |
| #2CUR | ATTENDANCE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR BOARD MEMBER MRS. ESTHER HAN SILVER, MRS. HOLLY MORELL AND MRS. CANDACE ROMBA AT NO COST TO THE DISTRICT | |
| #3CUR | APPROVAL OF CENGAGE LEARNING PILOT PROGRAM FOR ESL FOR 2014-2015 AT NO COST TO THE DISTRICT | |
| #4CUR | APPROVAL OF SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2014-2015 | |
| #5CUR | APPROVAL OF ADVANCEMENT AND CREDIT RECOVERY ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROVIDERS FOR 2014-2015 AT NO COST TO THE DISTRICT | |
| #6CUR | APPROVAL OF SUMMER 2014 PROGRAMS | |
| | Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1CUR - #6CUR | Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell and Mrs. Candace Romba abstained from their own name on Resolution #2CUR. |

| Finance | |
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| #1F | APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$5,015,180.27 |
| #2F | APPROVAL – LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR APRIL 2014 |
| #3F | RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT FOR CERTAIN FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES WITH PHOENIX ADVISORS, LLC |
| #4F | ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS |
| #5F | ACES PROGRAM FOR UTILITY PRICING |
| #6F | PARENT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT |

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| | Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #6F | Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. | |
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| <u>Health-Welfare and Safety</u> | | | |
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| #1HWS | PAYMENT OF HOME INSTRUCTION SERVICES | | |
| #2HWS | APPROVAL OF CATAPULT LEARNING AGREEMENT FOR SUBSTITUTE NURSING SERVICES FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR | | |
| #3HWS | APPROVAL OF BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES FOR NON-PUBLIC 192/193 SERVICE AGREEMENT | | |
| | Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1HWS - #3HWS | Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. | |

| <u>Personnel</u> | |
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| #1P | APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$8.00 |
| #2P | APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTION FOR K-12 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPERVISOR |
| #3P | APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE FOR ELIZABETH SOFIA AS ELEMENTARY TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 3 |
| #4P | APPOINTMENT OF NON-UNION STAFF MEMBERS FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR |
| #5P | RESIGNATION OF ANN MARIE BRUDER AS DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES |
| #6P Pulled | APPOINTMENT OF ALEX GUZMAN AS K-12 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPERVISOR FOR 2014-2015 |
| #7P | APPOINTMENT OF KACEY TERZINI AS LEAVE REPLACEMENT DURING 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR |
| #8P | APPOINTMENT OF ANGELA WAACK AS GUIDANCE COUNSELOR AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR |
| #9P | TRANSFER OF STAFF MEMBERS |
| #10P | APPOINTMENT OF FALL COACHES FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR – |
| #11P | APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES FOR THE 2013-2014 AND 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEARS |

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| | Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #11P *Please note that resolution #6P was pulled. | Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from two names on Resolution #4P. | |
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13. **OLD BUSINESS** – None

14. **NEW BUSINESS** – None

15. At approximately 9:02 PM, Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mr. Peter Suh, to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID L. RINDERKNECHT
ACTING BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

DLR/mp
Att. 5-27-14