

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

**MINUTES – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

Monday, December 15, 2014

Fort Lee High School Auditorium  
3000 Lemoine Avenue, Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

1. The Public Work Session was called to order at 8:00 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mrs. Holly Morell 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, Mr. Michael Osso, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Yusang Park

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

ABSENT: Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Ms. Arielle Vertsman

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

- ◆ Mr. David Rinderknecht introduced Mr. Steve Wielkotz, District Auditor, who presented the audit for the period ending June 30, 2014. He stated that there are no material findings. Audit recommendations were discussed.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton thanked everyone who participated in promoting the referendum. He stated that the community understood that there is a space problem.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park recognized Mr. Saxton for his leadership on the referendum project as well as the support of Mayor Sokolich and the hard work of Board members.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton reviewed problems with the current PowerSchool student information system and stated his recommendation to convert to the Genesis system. Jason Ruggerio and Lauren Carubba presented their views and experience with both systems and emphasized the positive features of Genesis, including the fact that it is a New Jersey system and includes reports needed in New Jersey. A discussion took place regarding system security, audit features, scheduling advantages and data conversion.

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

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| 1. Board Report (by President) | 8. Finance                                   |
| 2. Negotiations                | 9. Technology – District Technology Purchase |
| 3. School Security             | 10. Contracts and Legal                      |
| 4. Buildings & Grounds         | 11. Athletics and Community Involvement      |
| 5. Personnel                   | 12. Sick Day Bank                            |
| 6. Curriculum                  | 13. Superintendent Search                    |
| 7. Policy                      |  |

- ◆ Michael Zhadanovsky, student Board member, reported on FSA and the National Organization for Women Clubs.
- ◆ Finance Committee – Mr. Joseph Surace reported that a meeting is being held this Wednesday morning at 9AM to initiate plans for construction approved in the December 9, 2014 referendum. He also spoke about an 18 unit construction project near School #1 and that the Board will be represented at the Planning Board meeting to oppose the project.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace also suggested that RFP's be prepared for all professionals for 2015-2016 and thanked the public for supporting him for another three-year term on the Board. Mr. Surace will provide the Board with copies of a letter from the police and a letter to the Board of Adjustment approving the 18 unit building project.
- ◆ Policy Committee – Mrs. Esther Han Silver spoke about the Superintendent Search process and stated that the survey was open until December 19, 2014. R-pat met with various groups last week and will present recommendations to the Board on January 12, 2015. January 15<sup>th</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup> are scheduled for interviews.

7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on November 17, 2014.

	Motion by Ms. Helen Yoon	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell	
	The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on November 17, 2014.	On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg was absent.	

8. **BOARD SECRETARY REPORT AND TREASURER’S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2014**

- ◆ For the month of November 2014.

	Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Report for the month of November 2014.	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg was absent.	
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9. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION – NOVEMBER 2014**

- ◆ For the month of November 2014.

	Motion by Mr. David Sarnoff Monthly Budget Status Certification for the month of November 2014.	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg was absent.	
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10. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

At approximately 8:43 PM, Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Ms. Helen Yoon, to open the meeting for Public Work Session portion of the meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

- ◆ Mr. Sarnoff thanked Mr. Yusang Park for his work on the referendum.
- ◆ Mr. Sarnoff then reported on his attendance at the NJSBA Workshop. He attended numerous sessions and presentations and emphasized what he learned about Special Education.
- ◆ Mrs. Candace Romba reported that she also attended many sessions that included topics on the Fort Lee Referendum, Special Education, social media, Board Committee structures and computers.
- ◆ Mrs. Esther Han Silver reported on how the Hillsborough School District reduced Board committees to four and found it very effective.
- ◆ Mrs. Holly Morell also reported on her attendance at several sessions and spoke particularly about a session on Board do’s and don’ts. The session included a mock Board meeting and role playing. She also announced that she accepted the 2014 School Leader AOF award along with Nancy Stern.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park recognized Mr. Michael Osso for his help with the referendum.

Mr. David Sarnoff, offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, 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**

- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern explained that NJSBA recommends a Board Committee structure of three.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern referred to the language in the Superintendent Search ad that said building experience “required”. She urged the Board to change the wording to “preferred”. This will provide a larger pool of candidates and still give the board the final choice.

At approximately 9:05 PM Mrs. Esther Han Silver, offered, seconded by Ms. Helen Yoon, to close the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

<b><u>Board Committee</u></b>		
<b>#1B 7PM</b>	<b>MOTION TO APPROVE PRIVATE SESSION</b>	
<b>#1B 8PM</b>	<b>RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING</b>	
<b>#2B</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF REORGANIZATION MEETING</b>	
<b>#3B</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S REVISED MERIT GOAL #3 FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell 7PM - To Approve #1B 8PM - To Approve #1B - #3B	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg was absent.

<b><u>Buildings and Grounds</u></b>		
<b>#1B&amp;G</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDERS</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1B&G	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg was absent.

<b><u>Curriculum Committee</u></b>		
<b>#1CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT NO COST TO THE DISTRICT</b>	
<b>#2CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF COMPREHENSIVE CHANGE GUIDE FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
<b>#3CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS, INC. PROPOSAL</b>	
<b>#4CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF GENESIS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROPOSAL FOR 2015-2016</b>	
<b>#5CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOFTWARE (EDS) PROPOSAL FOR HIBSTER REPORTING SYSTEM FOR 2014-2015</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1CUR - #5CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg was absent.

<b>Finance</b>			
#1F	<b>APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$6,925,930.94</b>		
#2F	<b>ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2013-2014 AUDIT</b>		
#3F	<b>ACCEPTANCE OF CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN</b>		
#4F	<b>APPROVAL – CAFETERIA CLAIMS FOR NOVEMBER 2014 TOTALING \$38,369.06</b>		
#5F	<b>APPROVAL – LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR NOVEMBER 2014</b>		
#6F	<b>APPROVE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH PEPPM</b>		
#7F	<b>RENEWAL OF MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN A COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM, THE MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION FOR 2014-2015</b>		
#8F	<b>APPROVAL TO SUBMIT ENERGY SAVINGS PROJECTS TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>		
#9F	<b>ENGLEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOE JOINT TRANSPORTATION FOR 2014-2015</b>		
#10F	<b>APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL DATA SERVICES VENDORS FOR 2014-2015</b>		
#11F	<b>AGREEMENT WITH JK ENTERTAINMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL PROM</b>		
#12F	<b>ATHLETICS AWARD DINNER CONTRACT</b>		
#13F	<b>PERFORMING ARTS DINNER CONTRACT</b>		
#14F	<b>ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TOTALING \$500.00</b>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #14F</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Resolution #1F Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. David Sarnoff abstained from themselves. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name, Jack DeNichilo. Mr. Jeff Weinberg was absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #14F	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Resolution #1F Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. David Sarnoff abstained from themselves. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name, Jack DeNichilo. Mr. Jeff Weinberg was absent.
Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #14F	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Resolution #1F Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. David Sarnoff abstained from themselves. Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name, Jack DeNichilo. Mr. Jeff Weinberg was absent.		

<b>Health-Welfare and Safety</b>	
#1HWS	<b>PAYMENT OF HOME AND BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION</b>
#2HWS	<b>APPROVAL OF PUBLIC AND NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES PLANS</b>
#3HWS	<b>APPROVAL OF IEP DIRECT PROPOSAL</b>
#4HWS	<b>APPROVAL OF CAREPLUS AS RELATED SERVICE PROVIDER FOR 2014-2015</b>
#5HWS	<b>APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENT FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR</b>

	Motion by Ms. Helen Yoon To Approve #1HWS - #5HWS	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg was absent.
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<b>Personnel</b>		
<b>#1P</b>	<b>APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$380.38</b>	
<b>#2P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE FOR FAYEZ SALLOUM AS A CUSTODIAN AT SCHOOL NO. 3</b>	
<b>#3P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE FOR VITA ORTIZIO AS A 12-MONTH SECRETARY AT LEWIS F. COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>	
<b>#4P</b>	<b>TRANSFER OF AIDES FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
<b>#5P</b>	<b>TRANSFER OF SPEECH THERAPIST FROM SCHOOL NO. 1 TO SCHOOL NO. 2</b>	
<b>#6P</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF KATHLEEN PASTENA AS BUS AIDE FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
<b>#7P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF MISHELL KWON AS LEAVE REPLACEMENT AT SCHOOL NO. 3</b>	
<b>#8P</b>	<b>SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR AIDES FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
<b>#9P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL CO-CURRICULAR PERSONNEL FOR 2014-2015</b>	
<b>#10P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTES FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #10P	Seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jeff Weinberg was absent.

<b>Policy</b>		
<b>#1POL</b>	<b>SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF REVISED POLICIES</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver To Approve #1POL	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell <b>FIRST READING OF POLICY/REGULATION UPDATES [see Policy Alert 204 – Sept 2014] P1522 SCHOOL-LEVEL PLANNING (M) (ABOLISHED) P5305 HEALTH SERVICES PERSONNEL (REVISED) P&amp;R 5306 HEALTH SERVICES TO NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS (M) (REVISED) P&amp;R 5308 STUDENT HEALTH RECORDS (M) (REVISED) P&amp;R 5310 HEALTH SERVICES (M) (REVISED) P5339 SCREENING FOR DYSLEXIA</b>

		<p>(M) (NEW)  P&amp;R5530 SUBSTANCE ABUSE (M)  (REVISED)  P5756 TRANSGENDER STUDENTS  (NEW)  On roll call, Motion carried unanimously.  Mr. Jeff Weinberg was absent.</p>
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13. **OLD BUSINESS –**

- ◆ Mrs. Holly Morell spoke about the need to slow traffic on Stillwell and suggested the use of speed bumps. Mr. Scott Bendul stated that there are problems and dangers with speed bumps and that the State Department of Transportation is not in favor of their use.
- ◆ A discussion was held on the Superintendent Search ad change of wording from "required" to "preferred". The consensus was to use "preferred".
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park expressed the Board's appreciation to Ms. Helen Yoon and stated that she will be a loss to the district. He also said that this is the last year he will be serving as president.

14. **NEW BUSINESS** – Mr. Paul Saxton expressed appreciation to Ms. Helen Yoon since this is her last meeting. Helen thanked everyone.

15. At approximately 9:20 PM, Mr. David Sarnoff, offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID L. RINDERKNECHT  
INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

DLR/mp  
Att. 12-16-14