

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

MINUTES – PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Monday, January 14, 2013

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 8:15 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 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 online media outlet/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. 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.

2. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace, Ms. Helen Yoon and Mr. Yusang Park

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Sharon Amato, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto and Dennis McKeever, Esq.

ABSENT: Mr. Steven Engravalle and Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr.

3. **PRIVATE WORK SESSION**

4. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

- ◆ Mr. Sean Furgeson from Ferraioli, Wielkotch, Cerullo & Cuva, P.A. gave the annual Audit Presentation. He said that he appreciated help from the staff regarding unqualified opinions. He stated that the compliance area in the minutes had two small issues. The categories and expenditures are miscategorized and miscoded. The transaction rate is .16% of all budget classifications. The Athletic Account deposits took longer to deposit which should have been done in a timely manner which is a 48 hour period.
- ◆ Ms. Denise Keener named the new Science teacher in the academy and will have one year professional development on her own time. The district is proud.

5. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park welcomed everyone to the public work session. The board will take questions about resolutions and then the board needs to take time to study them. He said he will like to change the Board Calendar dates on Resolution #4B and change 3-25-13 - 12-23-13. Resolution #3B Policies and Bylaws needs to be updated and looked at by the board.

- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that the Reorganization Policy needs to reflect the new election date.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that policy suggestions can be made by the board or public. He stated that policy alerts is inappropriate and the staff conduct, outside activities, pupil use of private owned technology, and the use of social websites should be looked at.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that there was a recent article of Passaic County posted on Facebook.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked if the conferences and trips in Resolution #1P are all contractual.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that some of the trips she had approved for the teaching areas. TeachScape is recommended by our association.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that he is concerned that two leaders are out of district on the same day and he understands the value of Professional Development but is this necessary? We have open security issues and need to ensure safety of the district.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that at the last meeting the board talked about technology for PARCC on speaking on behalf of herself. If the school board feels this way she will remove her request.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that Techspo is statewide promoted. I would want our administrators to attend. Don't object to Dr. Amato going.
- ◆ Mrs. Candace Romba asked why we don't have Dr. Amato go.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace asked what time is the conference and is there a substitute? What would the cost be?
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that we don't encourage some changes because of the budget cuts. They are only approved if necessary.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that if two administrators leave for the day who will run the district.
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever stated that if the board wants to table the trips they can put it on the next agenda. Techspo is in the contract for Mr. Engravalle and is entitled to go.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that he would like to table the trips and needs time to talk about it.
- ◆ Mrs. Candace Romba asked what are the qualifications for tutors and home instruction aides.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that we have aides that are teacher certified. They are paid on a different scale.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked if Resolution #6F can be done cheaper.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that Resolution #1B mandated training needs another board member to go. The minutes on November 26 and December 3rd do not have conversations in the Private Session. He recommends that they be reviewed before posting on the website.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that this was in place by previous board members.
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever stated that if you don't feel comfortable then don't approve them. The district could lose QSAC points.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that he would like to table the minutes from December 3, 2012 and to be reflected in the minutes. Only vote on the November 26, 2012 minutes.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on Monday November 26, 2012, and Special Public Work Session on Monday, December 3, 2012, were approved.

	<p>Motion by Mr. Peter Suh</p> <p>The minutes from the Executive Session and Regular Business Meeting on Monday, November 26, 2012, the Special Public Work Session on Monday, December 3, 2012 were approved. (The minutes from the Special Private Work Session on December 3, 2012</p>	<p>Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba</p> <p>On roll call, Motion carried. Mrs. Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, and Mr. David Sarnoff abstained from the November 26, 2012 and December 3, 2012 Minutes. Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr. was absent.</p>	
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	were pulled.)		
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7. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN**

- ◆ Ms. Carol Simon stated that she felt like Superman came back with a roar but is Fort Lee doing everything possible for the safety of our children. She heard that there were doors left open. The schools should have telephones in every room and she doesn't think Fort Lee has them.
- ◆ Mr. Sean Armore stated that we got cut off and wanted to thank Dr. Amato for her leadership. She was everywhere. Where was Mr. Engravalle on Thursday and Friday?
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever stated that Mr. Engravalle has been riced and the board has been informed that he has not been in the office. The board cannot discuss the matter.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico stated that the board publically discussed Mr. Engravalle's conferences.
- ◆ Mr. George Porto stated that we have a new board and they are trying to do the right thing because we all have the same concerns.
- ◆ A citizen stated that seminars have a fee and the public should know if Mr. Engravalle didn't go to a conference.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that any staff members who attend a workshop fills out a form and shows receipts. Some vendors take Purchase Orders and some don't. The vendor gives you a certificate of Professional Development hours.
- ◆ Mr. Alex Floratos wished everyone a Happy New Year and wanted to know about SAT prep courses.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated if board members go to seminars they should give a synopsis at the next board meeting.
- ◆ Mrs. Candace Romba stated that we did have a SAT prep program at a reduced rate and had a teacher at lunch time.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato said she just received the information today about SAT prep.
- ◆ Mr. George Makrolakis stated that we should consider retired police with qualified weapons in our schools as a safety issue. The rate is about \$50 per hour which shouldn't interfere with the Fort Lee Police Department. He went to School #3 and all their doors were locked and entered the school in the front door. Bars should be put on the windows. Costs need to be considered.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated he calculated \$400,000 a year with seven hours a day comes to half a million and that's with one person covering one door.
- ◆ Ms. Diane Sicheri asked about the election results and didn't see them at previous meetings.
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever said the election results are coming late from the county because of the shift in the elections.
- ◆ Mrs. Thee Jackson stated that School #3 used to have Kaplan. The secretaries would like to sit with someone to make our school safer for the staff and students.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern said great to the board members going to trainings. She stated that Mr. Engravalle should attend conferences on March 7th and May 9th as stated in Resolution #1P since he is the chairperson.
- ◆ Mr. Alex Floratos stated that he worked for a financial institution and used private firms and it's a lot cheaper than using uniformed officers.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that she felt like she is in the twilight zone. She said that the Superintendent should be at the board meeting even if he is chair of a committee. He has to show up to his day job and Professional Development is after or on weekends. He is signed up for the summit in New York but should come in and we will strategize since he was not here for six months.

- ◆ Dr. Amato did a great job but it is not fair. I have not received phone calls back and no emails returned. This is no way for a parent to be treated. When is goal setting? Mr. Engravalle’s former district had cameras to the police station which is better than a man at the front of the school. The private minutes should be detailed with discussions.
- ◆ Ms. Linda Corsia stated that she requested on January 1, 2013 there would be a meeting for good suggestions.
- ◆ Ms. Stephanie Stuart stated that Dr. Sharon Amato can represent the Superintendent at the conferences and Mr. Engravalle can stay and catch up. Can we get a list of board committees? We have reservations about armed guards in the schools.
- ◆ Mrs. Holly Morell stated that she is chairperson for the Personnel and Negotiations. Cheryl can post it on the website.
- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia stated that Seraph was here and would need to know what the Superintendent would like to do.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that the Security Committee met with the Superintendent about the concerns of the community, immediate action and long range plans with consulting with the police, Mayor and Council Members. He is looking for the administration to make recommendations.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that she had met with Principals and have shared their concerns with her.

8. **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<u>Board Committee</u>			
#1B	APPROVAL OF ATTENDANCE AND TRAVEL TO THE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS MANDATED TRAINING FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS (As Amended)		
#2B	ADOPT OF CURRICULUM FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 2013 TO JUNE 2013		
#3B	ADOPT BYLAWS AND POLICIES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2013		
#4B	APPROVING THE AMENDED SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2013 CALENDAR YEAR, JANUARY 1, 2013 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013 (As Amended)		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1B - #4B</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Peter Suh and Mrs. Candace Romba voted to amend Resolution #4. Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Candace Romba and Mr. David Sarnoff abstained from themselves on Resolution #1B. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1B - #4B	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Peter Suh and Mrs. Candace Romba voted to amend Resolution #4. Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Candace Romba and Mr. David Sarnoff abstained from themselves on Resolution #1B. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.
Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1B - #4B	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Peter Suh and Mrs. Candace Romba voted to amend Resolution #4. Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Candace Romba and Mr. David Sarnoff abstained from themselves on Resolution #1B. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.		

<u>Curriculum Committee</u>	
#1CUR	APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT NO COST TO THE DISTRICT

	Motion by Mr. David Sarnoff To Approve #1CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.	
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Finance			
#1F	ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2011-2012 AUDIT		
#2F	ACCEPTANCE OF CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN		
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #2F	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino was absent.	

Personnel			
#1P	APPROVAL – STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$773.36 (As Amended)		
#2P	APPOINTMENT OF THERESA KAVANAGH AS PRESCHOOL AUTISTIC TEACHER AT FORT LEE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER		
	Motion by Mr. David Sarnoff To Approve #1P - #2P	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino Jr. was absent.	

9. At approximately 10:17 PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, Mrs. Holly Morell, seconded by, to adjourn the Special Public Business meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Roll calls and resolutions of this meeting are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

CHERYL BALLETO
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

CB/mp
Att.
1-10-13