

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

MINUTES – PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Monday, April 15, 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 8:23 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Carmelo Luppino 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: 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.

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: Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr., Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Candace Romba (left 10:05 PM), Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Peter Suh, Mr. Joseph Surace
Ms. Helen Yoon (left at 9:05 PM and returned at 9:30 PM) and
Mr. Yusang Park

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

ABSENT: None

5. **PRIVATE WORK SESSION**

- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato asked for a moment of silence for the tragedy at Boston.

6. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato discussed the following:
- ◆ Five finalists were selected for Bergen county anti-bullying contest. Fort Lee is very proud of our students.
- ◆ Performance reports are on the Fort Lee website and has taken place of the school report cards.
- ◆ Changed the district factor groups to peer groups.
- ◆ Absenteeism is a variable to how many students take the PSAT test.
- ◆ Each principal wrote a short summary with the link to DOE on the school homepage.

7. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

- ◆ The Nepotism Policy was discussed. Dr. Sharon Amato will work with the Policy Committee. Mr. Yusang Park read a paragraph from the Policy book which does not reflect the district but is something to look at.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Special Public Work Session, and Special Private Work Session on Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh	
	The minutes from the Special Public Work Session, and Special Private Work Session on Wednesday, March 20, 2013.	On roll call, Motion carried. Abstentions – Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Mr. Peter Suh, and Mr. Joseph Surace Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.	

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

- ◆ The board discussed Nepotism and to update the policy through the Personnel and Policy Committee.
- ◆ Mrs. Esther Han Silver asked for a brief summary of the gym and auditorium projects.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that the Technology Committee stated that they received one proposal for computer equipment and are waiting for more proposals.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that the calendar is a good compromise.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park thanked Dr. Amato for balancing the calendar.
- ◆ Mr. Peter Suh asked about the Preschool and had questions about the calendar. He asked if the Professional Development workshops are starting September 9, 2013 again when other districts start a week before.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that they are required to provide Professional Development and have constraints with the contract. Eight hours a year are required and the reason for the start date is due to construction.
- ◆ A student stated that she graduated in 2005 and is representing minority students and is in support of Dr. Amato.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern had a question about the calendar.
- ◆ Mr. Peter Suh stated he would like to pull the calendar.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that we can change it later.
- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia stated that several years ago the district didn't have Columbus Day off. For security we paying for mapping and yet we are doing away with it. To her recollection the law enforcement did the numbering.
- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico asked about school progress reports and stated that there is no mention of the Early Childhood Center.

- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that the Early Childhood Center is considered a part of School #1.
- ◆ Mr. George Porto asked about the budget and capital reserve.
- ◆ A parent asked what is going on with getting a superintendent? Most money goes to the school from the taxpayers. Why is Dr. Amato still Acting Superintendent?
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever stated that the board will have a Board Retreat and a component will be a deliberation and a matter of personnel. The board is seriously reviewing this important decision.
- ◆ Ms. Jeanine Staso asked how many permanent superintendents came from the Fort Lee ranks and how many women had been superintendent in the last 100 years.
- ◆ Mrs. Holly Morell stated that Richardson and Taffarro were from Fort Lee.
- ◆ Ms. Jeanine Staso stated that we are in disarray and she has met with Dr. Amato this year and we can't say enough to give her a try.
- ◆ Mr. Sean Armore asked if there is a retreat.
- ◆ Mr. Dennis McKeever said yes it will be a part of the private session. It is a public meeting but no action will be taken.

10. **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

<u>Buildings and Grounds</u>		
#1B&G	APPROVAL - AUTHORIZING BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL GYM AND AUDITORIUM PROJECTS	
#2B&G	APPROVAL - CHA CONTRACT FOR AN ENERGY SAVINGS AUDIT	
	Motion by Mr. Carmelo Luppino To Approve #1B & #2B&G	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh On roll call, Motion carried. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.

<u>Curriculum Committee</u>		
#1CUR	APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS TOTALING \$648.00	
#2CUR	APPROVAL OF SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2013-2014	
#3CUR	APPROVAL OF TEAM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS TOTALING \$9,600	
	Motion by Mr. Peter Suh To Approve #1CUR - 3CUR	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.

<u>Personnel</u>		
#1P	APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$1,001.64	
#2P	APPROVAL - RETIREMENT OF LORI LECARL AS ELEMENTARY BSI TEACHER AT SCHOOL NOS. 1 AND 4	
#3P	APPROVAL - TERMINATION OF RUDY LUSTICA AS 1:1 AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 2	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell	Seconded by Mr. Peter Suh

	To Approve #1P - #3P	On roll call, Motion carried. Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Jr. abstained from Resolution #3P. Ms. Helen Yoon was absent.	
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11. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES-None**

- 12. At approximately 9:30 PM, Mr. Carmelo Luppino offered, Mr. Joseph Surace seconded by, to return to the Private Work Session for approximately one hour to discuss personnel.
- 13. At approximately 10:12 PM, Mr. Peter Suh offered, Mrs. Esther Han Silver seconded by, to adjourn the Public Work Session. 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.
5-3-13