

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

**MINUTES – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

Monday, April 27, 2015

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

1. The Regular Business Meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Mr. David Sarnoff, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Jeff Weinberg 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, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Ammad Quraishi, Mr. Joseph Surace, Mr. Jeff Weinberg and Mr. David Sarnoff

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Paul Saxton, Dr. Sharon Amato, Mr. David Rinderknecht, and Mr. Paul Griggs, Esq.

**ABSENT:** Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Zhadanovsky and Ms. Arielle Vertsman

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

- ◆ Report of School Security Drills for the month of March 2015 was made available.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton announced that the Fort Leader achieved first place in the American Scholastic Press Association competition. The competition involved over 300 schools.
- ◆ Sophie Karobatsos, Fort Leader advisor was recognized. Mr. David Sarnoff then presented certificates to all students involved.
- ◆ Senior Bernadette Darcy was recognized for receiving Honorable Mention Award from Alliance for Young Artists and Writers for her essay and poem.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton introduced discussion of the proposed 2015-2016 budget. He identified various items that were eliminated from the budget that totaled approximately \$826,000.
- ◆ The cuts included several Central Office positions, teacher positions, a principal and Church of the Good Shepherd rental among other items.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton and Mr. David Rinderknecht then reviewed the budget using a PowerPoint presentation. It was noted that \$30,000 had been reallocated from supplies to fund AP exams and the Debt Service Budget was reduced because Bonds were sold and we now have an exact amount that is due for bond payment in 2015-2016.
- ◆ A question and answer period followed as part of the Public Hearing. A question was raised as to how much of the budget is the result of State mandated programs.

**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                      |  |

- ◆ Finance Committee Report – Mr. Joseph Surace reported that the payment to Palisades Charter School is being pulled from the bill’s list up for approval this evening.
- ◆ Negotiations Committee Report – Mrs. Holly Morell reported that the Negotiations Committee met and reviewed salary guides. They will be sent to FLEA tomorrow for their approval.
- ◆ Mr. Michael Osso reported that he attended a Special Education conference sponsored by the New Jersey School Boards Association. He said it was very enlightening and eye opening. He noted that Special Education should be considered an investment rather than a cost item.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on April 13, 2015.

	Motion by Mrs. Esther Han Silver The minutes from the Private Executive Session and the Regular Business Meeting on April 13, 2015.	Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Yusang Park abstained from the minutes. Mrs. Candace Romba was absent.	
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**8. BOARD SECRETARY REPORT AND TREASURER’S REPORT FOR MARCH 2015**

◆ For the month of March 2015.

	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace	Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg
	To Approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Report for the month of March 2015.	On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Candace Romba was absent.

**9. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION – MARCH 2015**

◆ For the month of March 2015.

	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace	Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg
	Monthly Budget Status Certification for the month of March 2015.	On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Candace Romba was absent.

**10. PUBLIC WORK SESSION-None**

At approximately 8:46 PM Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver, to open the Public Work Session portion of the meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

At approximately 8:47 PM Mr. Joseph Surace, offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, to close the Public Work Session portion of the meeting. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Holly Morell 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 - None**

Mrs. Holly Morell offered, seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg, to close the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

<b>Board Committee</b>		
<b>#2B</b>	<b>RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell	Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg
	To Approve #2B	On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Candace Romba was absent.

<b>Buildings and Grounds</b>		
<b>#1B&amp;G</b>	<b>ASBESTOS MONITORING PLAN</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell
	To Approve #1B&G	On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Candace Romba was absent.

<b>Curriculum Committee</b>		
<b>#1CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF CLASS TRIPS AT A COST TO THE DISTRICT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,450.00</b>	
<b>#2CUR</b>	<b>RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ACHIEVE NJ EQUIVALENCY WAIVER</b>	
<b>#3CUR</b>	<b>CONTINUANCE OF APPOINTMENT OF DR. JOHN CAMPION AS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
<b>#4CUR</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS, INC. PROPOSALS FOR MARSHALL TEACHER EVALUATION RUBRICS</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1CUR - #4CUR	Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Candace Romba was absent.

<b>Finance</b>		
<b>#1F</b>	<b>APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$4,910,740.95</b> [*Note: The bills list was amended to void the payment to Englewood on the Palisades Charter School in the amount of \$2,766.]	
<b>#2F</b>	<b>ADOPTION OF FINAL BUDGET FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
<b>#3F</b>	<b>APPROVAL – LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR MARCH 2015</b>	
<b>#4F</b>	<b>APPROVAL – CAFETERIA CLAIMS FOR MARCH 2015 TOTALING \$214,489.68</b>	
<b>#5F</b>	<b>ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS</b>	
<b>#6F</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF DESIGNATED DEPOSITORIES</b>	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #6F	Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Candace Romba was absent.

<b>Health-Welfare and Safety</b>		
<b>#1HWS</b>	<b>PAYMENT OF HOME INSTRUCTION SERVICES</b>	
<b>#2HWS</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES FOR NON-PUBLIC 192/193 SERVICE AGREEMENT</b>	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1HWS & #2HWS	Seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Candace Romba was absent.

<b>Personnel</b>			
<b>#1P</b>	<b>APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES TOTALING \$2,657.95</b>		
<b>#2P</b>	<b>ABOLISHMENT OF POSITIONS</b>		
<b>#3P</b>	<b>ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT OF DOROTHY DEY AS ELEMENTARY TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 1</b>		
<b>#4P</b>	<b>RESCIND APPOINTMENT OF ALYSSA CIOFFI AS LEAVE REPLACEMENT AT SCHOOL NO. 2</b>		
<b>#5P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF STAFF MEMBERS FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR</b>		
<b>#6P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF AMY MIRKOVIC AS HOME INSTRUCTOR FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR</b>		
<b>#7P</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTES FOR 2014-2015</b>		
<b>#8P</b>	<b>ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT OF JUDITH METCALFE AS SPANISH TEACHER AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL</b>		
<b>#9P</b>	<b>RESIGNATION OF ELVANE KELMENDI AS A PART-TIME CLASSROOM AIDE AT SCHOOL NO. 3</b>		
<b>#10P</b>	<b>RESIGNATION OF STEVEN LAURIANO AS ELEMENTARY TEACHER AT SCHOOL NO. 2</b>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #10P</td> <td>Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Resolution #4P - Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name. Mrs. Candace Romba was absent.</td> </tr> </table>	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #10P	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously. Resolution #4P - Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name. Mrs. Candace Romba was absent.
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- 13. **OLD BUSINESS** – None
- 14. **NEW BUSINESS** – None
- 15. At approximately 8:50 PM, Mr. Jeff Weinberg, 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