

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

MINUTES – REORGANIZATION MEETING

Monday, January 5, 2015

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, by Mr. David L. Rinderknecht, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mr. Yusang Park led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Mr. David Rinderknecht read the following statement:
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.

REPORT RESULTS OF THE ELECTION

- ◆ Mr. David Rinderknecht reported the following results of the election for the three members of the Fort Lee Board of Education as follows:

Nominations	# Votes Cast
Ammad U. Quraishi	1,274
Michael Osso	1,742
Joseph J. Surace	1,466
Personal Choice	245

5. **ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO THREE ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**
 - ◆ Mr. Ammad U. Quraishi, Mr. Michael Osso and Mr Joseph J. Surace, having received the most votes for three positions on the Fort Lee Board of Education were then administered the oaths of office by Mr. David Rinderknecht.

6. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. Michael Osso, Mr. Yusang Park Mr. Ammad Quraishi, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Joseph Surace and Mr. Jeff Weinberg

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

ABSENT: None

7. **NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AND ELECTION THERETO AS CONDUCTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD. UPON ELECTION THE PRESIDENT SHALL THEN ASSUME THE CHAIR**

- ◆ Mr. David Rinderknecht announced that the floor is open for nominations for President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park nominated Mr. David Sarnoff for the office of President of the Fort Lee Board of Education. Mrs. Candace Romba seconded the nomination.
- ◆ It was moved by Mr. Jeff Weinberg, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell and unanimously carried to close nominations for President of the Fort Lee Board of Education and to direct the Board Secretary to cast one ballot for Mr. David Sarnoff to be President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff assumed the role of Board President and called for nominations for the position of Vice President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.

8. **NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT AND ELECTION THERETO**

- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park nominated Mrs. Holly Morell for the office of Board Vice President of the Fort Lee Board of Education. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg.
- ◆ Mrs. Candace Romba nominated Mrs. Esther Han Silver for the position of Board Vice President. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg.
- ◆ It was moved by Mr. Jeff Weinberg, seconded by Mr. Yusang Park and unanimously carried to close nominations for Board Vice President and to direct the Board Secretary to cast one ballot for Mrs. Holly Morell as Vice President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
- ◆ Roll call vote: Mrs. Holly Morell for the office of Vice President of the Fort Lee Board of Education: Mrs. Holly Morell, Mr. Yusang Park, Mr. Ammad Quraishi, Mr. Joseph Surace and Mr. Jeff Weinberg. Mrs. Esther Han Silver for the office of Vice President of the Fort Lee Board of Education: Mrs. Esther Han Silver, Mr. Michael Osso, Mrs. Candace Romba and Mr. David Sarnoff.

Mr. Yusang Park offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, and unanimously carried to open the meeting for Questions and Comments from the public.

9. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TODAY'S AGENDA**

- ◆ A question was raised as to the purpose of the Private Meeting scheduled for approval and if there are any Board members who cannot participate in negotiation discussions.

It was moved by Mrs. Candace Romba, seconded by Mr. Yusang Park and unanimously carried to close the meeting to the public.

10. **RESOLUTIONS TO BE VOTED UPON FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING**

- A. Designating Official Newspapers/Online Media Outlet for notices and legal advertisements.
- B. Approving the schedule of Board meetings for the 2015 calendar year.
- C. Naming depositories for Board funds.
- D. Approving to adopt Curricula and Programs for the 2014-2015 school year.
- E. Approving to adopt the Curriculum Textbooks for use during the 2014-2015 school year.
- F. Approving the Bylaws and Policies of the Board of Education for the 2015 calendar year.
- G. Adopt New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics.
- H. Appointment of SSP Architectural Group as Architect of Record for the 2015 calendar year.
- I. Appointment of Board Attorney and Negotiations Attorney for the 2015 calendar year.
- J. Appointment of Construction Attorney for the 2015 calendar year.
- K. Appointment of Board Secretary.
- L. Approving the Chart of Accounts for the 2015 calendar year.
- N. Appointment of Auditor for the 2014-2015 school year.

Mrs. Esther Han Silver offered, seconded by Mr. Yusang Park, and unanimously carried to approve all resolutions A to L and N. On roll call, motion carried unanimously.

BOARD

#1B

RESOLUTION NO. 26775

OFFERED BY Mrs. Candace Romba

SECONDED BY Mr. Yusang Park

APPROVE PRIVATE EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act and the Fort Lee Board of Education reserve the right within the constraints of State Law to sit in Private Session; and

WHEREAS, there now exists a need for this Board of Education to meet in Private Session for the following purposes:

- a. FLEA Negotiations-Fact Finding
- b. Board Attorney – Status Report on Litigation
- c. Personnel matters related to staff assignment changes

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Lee Board of Education conduct a Private Executive Session immediately to discuss exempt matters listed above and any such matters that may come before the Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public will be informed regarding the topics discussed in private as follow:

- a. At conclusion of FLEA negotiations
- b. Upon conclusion of litigation issues
- c. Approval of assignment changes by the Board

DATED: January 5, 2015

On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

At approximately 7:25 PM, the Board recessed the public meeting to hold a Private Executive Meeting.

The Public Meeting was resumed at 8:07 PM.

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

- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton noted that the official vote count for the December 9, 2014 referendum is (YES-1,075) and (NO-583). He noted that this is a tremendous result.

12. **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 | |

- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff reported that Resolutions 4P, 5P and 6P are being added to the agenda.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Saxton reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met before the holiday recess to review the scope of the projects approved by the referendum. He said that there is a meeting scheduled on this Wednesday to develop a timeline for the project work.

Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba, to enter the Public Work Session portion of the meeting.

13. PUBLIC WORK SESSION – There were no items discussed.

Mr. Yusang Park, offered, seconded by Mr. Joe Surace, and unanimously carried to close the Public Work Session portion of the meeting.

Mr. Jeff Weinberg, offered, seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver, to open the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

14. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT’S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN

- ◆ Mr. George Porto thanked Mr. Yusang Park and Mr. Joseph Surace for their service as President and Vice President.
- ◆ A question was asked if anyone will be filling the personnel position vacated by Mr. Peter Emr. Mr. Paul Saxton said no. Mr. Emr will continue to serve some of the functions and others will be picking up some of the duties. There will be a savings of about \$70,000.

Mr. Yusang Park, offered, seconded by Mr. Jeff Weinberg, moved to close the meeting for Public Comments and Questions. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

15. RESOLUTIONS TO BE VOTED UPON

#M	APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER OF SCHOOL MONIES	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #M	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, Motion carried unanimously

<u>Board Committee</u>	
#2B	RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING
#3B	ATTENDANCE AND TRAVEL FOR BOARD MEMBERS MR. MICHAEL OSSO AND MR. AMMAD QURAISHI

(cont'd.) MINUTES – REORGANIZATION MEETING – January 5, 2015

	Motion by Mr. Yusang Park To Approve #2B & #3B	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, Motion carried unanimously except Mr. Michael Osso and Mr. Ammad Quraishi abstained from themselves on Resolution #3B.
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Buildings and Grounds

#1B&G	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1B&G	Seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell On roll call, Motion carried unanimously.

Finance

#1F	APPROVAL – CURRENT BILLS LIST TOTALING \$1,596,458.49 [As amended – deducted \$1,245 for Monica Palestis]	
#2F	RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE IN THE COUNTY OF (BERGEN, NEW JERSEY (i) APPROVING THE ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN; (ii) AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH AMERESCO AND (III) AUTHORIZING THE REQUEST FOR LEASE PURCHASE BIDS TO FINANCE ALL OF A PORTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS COMPRISING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT’S ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN	
#3F	APPROVAL OF OFFICE TEAM AGREEMENT	
	Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace To Approve #1F - #3F	Seconded by Mrs. Candace Romba On roll call, all voted unanimously, except Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name on Resolution #1F.

Health-Welfare and Safety

#1HWS	APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENT FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR	
	Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba To Approve #1HWS	Seconded by Mr. Yusang Park On roll call, all voted unanimously.

Personnel

#1P	APPROVAL - STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES AT NO COST TO THE DISTRICT	
#2P	RESIGNATION OF MARIA SORIA AS GIFTED AND TALENTED TEACHER AT SCHOOL NOS. 2 AND 4	

#3P	APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT COORDINATORS UNTIL JUNE 30, 2015	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #1P - #3P	Seconded by Mr. Yusang Park On roll call, all voted unanimously, except Mr. Joseph Surace abstained from one name on Resolutions #1P and #2P.
#4P	RESIGNATION OF DR. FRANK CALABRIA AS INTERIM PRINCIPAL AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL	
#5P	TRANSFER OF PETER EMR AS INTERIM PRINCIPAL AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL	
#6P	RETIREMENT OF PETER EMR AS DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL IN CENTRAL OFFICE	
	Motion by Mrs. Holly Morell To Approve #4P - #6P	Seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver On roll call, all voted unanimously.

16. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

17. **NEW BUSINESS**

- ◆ Mrs. Holly Morell thanked Mr. Joseph Surace for his service as Board Vice President as well as Mr. Yusang Park for his service as President.
- ◆ It was noted that the Fort Lee Online Store is open and that tomorrow night is the girl's recreation ceremonies at the Lewis F. Cole Middle School.

18. At approximately 8:38 PM, Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, Mr. Joseph Surace, seconded by, to adjourn the Public Meeting. On roll call, motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,



David L. Rinderknecht
INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

DLR:mp
Attachments