

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

MINUTES – REORGANIZATION MEETING

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM, by Mrs. Cheryl Balletto, Business Administrator/Board Secretary of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
2. Mrs. Cheryl Balletto led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Mrs. Cheryl Balletto 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: 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.
4. **ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO THREE ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**
 - ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto conducted the oaths of office.
5. **ROLL CALL**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Sharon Amato, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto

ABSENT: Mr. Steven Engravalle, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Mr. Peter Suh, and
Ms. Helen Yoon
6. **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. Joseph Surace nominated Mr. Yusang Park for the office of President of the Fort Lee Board of Education. There were no other nominations.

- ◆ Mrs. Balletto took a roll call vote for Mr. Yusang Park as Board President with the following outcome:

Board President	Vote
Mrs. Esther Han Silver	Yes
Mr. Carmello Luppino, Jr.	Absent
Mrs. Holly Morell	Yes
Mr. Yusang Park	Yes
Mrs. Candace Romba	Yes
Mr. David Sarnoff	Yes
Mr. Peter Suh	Absent
Mr. Joseph Surace	Yes
Ms. Helen Yoon	Absent

- ◆ As the newly-appointed President, Mr. Yusang Park took over the chairmanship of the meeting.

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

- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park nominated Mr. Joseph Surace for the office of Vice President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.
- ◆ Mrs. Balletto took a roll call vote for Mr. Joseph Surace of Vice President.

Board Member	Vote
Mrs. Esther Han Silver	Yes
Mr. Carmello Luppino, Jr.	Absent
Mrs. Holly Morell	Yes
Mr. Yusang Park	Yes
Mrs. Candace Romba	Yes
Mr. David Sarnoff	Yes
Mr. Peter Suh	Absent
Mr. Joseph Surace	Yes
Ms. Helen Yoon	Absent

- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace was appointed as Vice President.

8. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD ON ITEMS LISTED ON TODAY'S AGENDA-None**

9. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING MATTERS ON TODAY'S AGENDA AND ANY TOPIC OF CONCERN**

- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia stated that after the tragedy in Connecticut will Ft. Lee be seeking police presence at the schools and not just during the drop off of the students.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that we had an audit done and as a board member it needs to be considered. We can't be too cautious.
- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia asked what do we do for tomorrow.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that the process is to be discussed with the Police Chief and there are budgetary constraints.
- ◆ Mrs. Aida Garcia stated that there are other things to cut. There is no price on safety. There are threatening tweets. Our job is the safety of our children.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that we can call you a guardian of our children.
- ◆ Ms. Linda Casoria stated that she is glad to hear about the safety issue because there are members who are extremely nervous. Is it possible to have a meeting for suggestions?
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that everyone needs to be involved.

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- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl stated that he read that someone is so angry that they can't deal with life and he has concerns. It is horrible when a young person is tweeting things that are offensive. The freedom of speech comes with responsibility. The Board of Education has to be approached and hopes they do well for the future of Fort Lee.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that she endorses the board but had concerns with Mr. Keith Lockwood who said to kick some ass and you know who I mean. Here is a science experiment with giving a jar of honey to the board members. She stated that the board should look into televising the meetings like on the Beacon website. Mrs. Colbath wishes the board all the luck.
- ◆ Mr. Jeff Silver asked if the Security consultants are the same firm that came in or is there an emergency team.
- ◆ Mr. George Porto stated that he is not aware till now about the comments made and our concern is the children's safety. You have my support and will sit outside school.
- ◆ Mr. Sean Arnold stated that since Mr. Engravalle was on medical leave did he need to return with a medical note.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that he cannot comment.

10. **RESOLUTIONS TO BE VOTED UPON**

- A. Designating Official Newspapers for notices and legal advertisements and establishing the dates of the Regular Public Meetings (Public Work Sessions, Private Work Sessions, and Regular Business Meetings) for the 2013 calendar year. Motion by Mrs. Candace Romba, seconded by Mr. Joseph Surace to adopt Resolution "A". Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Mr. Peter Suh and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent. On roll call, motion carried unanimously.
 - B. Approving the schedule of Board meetings for the 2013 calendar year, January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace, seconded by Mrs. Esther Han Silver to adopt Resolution "B". Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Mr. Peter Suh and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent. On roll call, motion carried unanimously.
 - C. Naming depositories for Board funds and authorized signors for the 2013 calendar year, January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. Motion by Mr. Joseph Surace, seconded by Mr. David Sarnoff to adopt Resolution "C". Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Mr. Peter Suh and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent. On roll call, motion carried unanimously.
 - D. Adopt New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics. Motion by Mr. David Sarnoff, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell to adopt Resolution "Dx". Mr. Carmelo Luppino, Mr. Peter Suh and Ms. Helen Yoon were absent. On roll call, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Yusang Park read the Code of Ethics.
11. At 1:35 PM, Mr. David Sarnoff offered, seconded by Mrs. Holly Morell, to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting and enter into a Special Private Work Session. On roll call, motion carried unanimously.
12. Roll call and Resolutions are attached hereto.

Submitted by,

Mrs. Cheryl Balletto
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY