

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

MINUTES – SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, January 7, 2013

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

1. The Special Public Work Session was called to order at 8:00 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.

2. Mr. David Sarnoff 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.

4. **ROLL CALL**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Steven Engravalle, Dr. Sharon Amato and Mrs. Cheryl Balletto

ABSENT: Ms. Helen Yoon

5. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION: PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING**

◆ **TO AWARD VENDOR CONTRACTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS**

◆ Mr. Yusang Park apologizes and that at the next meeting they will have cake and coffee. The board will specifically examine RFP's and the board attorney positions since they didn't have enough time tonight to make the right decision in a timely manner. Our Board Secretary will be sending a notice tonight and we will be interviewing attorneys on Thursday, January 10, 2013. The public meeting will be at 8pm and hopefully we will appoint attorneys.

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

- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern asked about board policy and when will certain appointments be addressed such as school warrants, curriculum, bylaws and policies and accept election results.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that only dates of 8-23-10 are online. Are we getting an update on the policy?

- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that the dates of meetings are on the budget calendar and on the NJSB website. There will be adjusted dates because of previous dates that will be changed and readopted.
- ◆ Mrs. Nancy Stern stated that the resolution must be corrected because the 23rd is a half day. The meeting notice for tonight is confusing and different.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that he took office on July 1, 2012 and took off in the summer when he wanted to address policies which were put on his desk. There are three packages on his desk and he will address them.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto answered the changes will be made.
- ◆ Ms. Laurie Delta stated that it is hard to watch the Board of Education meetings and she cannot hear the questions or the responses.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that once we are back in the auditorium the sound will be better.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that a podium with a live microphone should be used.
- ◆ Ms. Laurie Delta stated that her child in the fourth grade music class missed out.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that the structures of instrumental lessons are scheduled per the teachers' contract.
- ◆ Ms. Laurie Delta stated that the computer lab is lost and the computers are in the classrooms. She doesn't think that Fort Lee is getting enough technology.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that it bothers him and his entire career to pull students out for music. He doesn't need computer teachers. Technology should be infused in the whole process. A \$200,000 lease purchase agreement will be needed to turn over every computer.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that different schools have different technology. Our district just went Google and 120 licenses were bought. We can put thirty in each school. We need Apple for CAD and the arts. WIFI is in our schools and you can bring your own device. We have a 1-1 student program at the High School and have carts at the elementary schools that are CIPA compliant.
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that we have a practical approach to school security. We had bomb threats and Mr. Kravitz stood up to a threat at school. We want a plan to make sure.
- ◆ A parent stated that this should have been addressed at the last meeting. We can't keep having meetings.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that we need to stay prioritized and focused to develop initiatives.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace asked if we can put ten cops at the school doors because security is an issue to everyone. The system fails by leaving the doors open.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that he agreed that security will be addressed at the Administration Council Meeting. He fought for a year for the Security Audit. He has reached out to the custodians to call him on the phone. We can contact the Ft. Lee Police Department to request officers.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Lipoff stated that he would like to meet with the board to get the process started. The contract ends April 30, 2013.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath welcomed Mr. Engravalle back and hopes everyone can work together. She brought honey and coffee for the Superintendent. She asked to reinstitute student representatives on the board and monthly PTA meetings with the Superintendent. Technology should be piloted in the classroom. Are committee meetings open to the public for them to observe. We have \$2 million dollars and would like to know how it is being used. Have you narrowed the attorney list down from the interviews?
- ◆ Mr. Yusang Park stated that the board has narrowed down the attorneys but can't disclose them at this time.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that the public should not wait for this venue and if there are concerns to tell him at the moment. His door is open.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto answered that two million dollars is the same that was talked about in the fall when the board wanted to purchase property. It is still capital reserve. The full board has their budget books and it will be addressed.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that he supported the PTA and they have the knowledge of issues.

- ◆ Mrs. Mildred Federico asked when the audit will be presented.
- ◆ Mrs. Cheryl Balletto stated on January 28 the audit presentation will take place that should have been on December 17, 2012.
- ◆ Ms. Stephanie Gaslow stated that her student will go to the Ft. Lee High School next year and our school district ranking has dropped from the top fifty to barely top one hundred. Other schools have STEM. Should she look at an Academy Program?
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that she is his new best friend and hates our website that he would like to change. Scores have gone up in the last three years and our population has changed. Our SAT scores show we have failed and we failed to provide an updated curriculum. I have restructured Dr. Amato just to do Curriculum. We should change our woods program to a Technology Program. I am here now and counting on support and will put pretty aside.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff asked if we are involved in internships and starting up businesses. This is why we ran for the board and to be a better school district.
- ◆ Mr. Joseph Surace stated that depending on what happens, we may need to redo the budget to include security.
- ◆ A parent asked what are the most important items on the agenda.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that since his arrival there are repeated attacks on staff that are political when they have tenure. He recommends that the board has one meeting a month.
- ◆ A citizen stated that we don't want back and forth and the board should come up with a plan and completion dates. We have the Security issue that should go beyond cops and guns.
- ◆ A parent stated that they had placement problems in the AP classes in the High School. What are the requirements?
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that an opponent in open enrollment needs to be reevaluated.
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Amato stated that during Dr. Bandlow and Dr. Frank Romano service they changed it.
- ◆ Mr. Steven Engravalle stated that it is a symptom of number ranking and that show students don't pass the AP tests. When you show data it affects our ratings.
- ◆ Mr. David Sarnoff stated that all new board members at the debate were in support to raising our standards to enter AP classes.
- ◆ Mr. Andrew Dimmick stated that there is no lighting at night when leaving.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if committees are making recommendations or does the superintendent.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked is it possible to tell who is on the committees and put it on the website.

7. **RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEES- None**

8. At approximately 9:37 PM, Mr. Peter Suh, offered, Mr. Joseph Surace, 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 BALLETTTO
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY