

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

MINUTES – SPECIAL PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Thursday, April 11, 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 7:08 PM by Mr. Yusang Park, President of the Fort Lee Board of Education.

2. Mrs. Holly Morell 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.

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, Mr. David Sarnoff, Mr. Peter Suh (arrived 7:18), Mr. Joseph Surace, and Mr. Yusang Park

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Sharon Amato, Mrs. Cheryl Balletto and Mr. Paul Griggs, Esq.

ABSENT: Ms. Helen Yoon

5. **SPECIAL PUBLIC WORK SESSION: PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL PUBLIC WORK SESSION -
♦ TO ADJOURN IMMEDIATELY INTO PRIVATE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL
MATTERS**

6. At approximately 7:17 PM, Mr. Carmelo Luppino, offered, Mrs. Holly Morell seconded by, to adjourn the Public Work Session and go into the Private Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Dr. Sharon Amato and Mrs. Cheryl Balletto left the meeting approximately at 8:15 PM.
7. At approximately 8:48 PM, Mrs. Candace Romba, offered, Mrs. Holly Morell seconded by, to the Board of Education readjoined into the Special Public Work Session. There were no resolutions for vote.

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

- ◆ A parent read a letter supporting Dr. Sharon Amato to become a Superintendent.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath asked if the board is going back to Private Session and the topic.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Griggs, board attorney stated that the board doesn't have an obligation to say but you can send in an OPRA request to the Business Office.
- ◆ Ms. Julene Staso stated she is supporting Dr. Amato.
- ◆ Ms. Stephanie Gaslow stated that Dr. Amato is thoughtful, sincere and should be considered for the Superintendent position.
- ◆ Mr. Paul Griggs, board attorney stated by law you have to protect our employees.
- ◆ Ms. Evelyn Sigranas stated that she lived in Fort Lee all her life. Dr. Sugarman a past Superintendent who brought stability and Dr. Amato would also.
- ◆ Mr. Howard Pearl stated that the ice machine will be delivered this week. The students will be selling books to raise money to buy new uniforms for the band and the football team. The board has spent \$60,000 to \$90,000 on searches and we should utilize our own resources and promote within.
- ◆ Mrs. Paula Colbath stated that the board should recruit from outside and the qualifications should be met. There is a lot of competitive administration to work with Sharon while the Business Administrator is on leave.
- ◆ Ms. Gina Ma stated that she supports Dr. Amato along with the Korean community.

9. **RESOLUTIONS-NONE**

10. At approximately 9:10 PM, Mr. David Sarnoff, offered, Mrs. Esther Han Silver seconded by, to adjourn the Public Work Session and go into the Private Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
11. At approximately 9:20 PM, Mrs. Holly Morell, offered, Mrs. Candace Romba seconded by, to adjourn the Private Work Session and go into the Public Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
12. At approximately 9:22 PM, Mrs. Candace Romba, offered, Mrs. Esther Han Silver, seconded by, to adjourn the Special Public Work Session. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Roll calls and resolutions of this meeting are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

CHERYL BALLETTTO
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY