



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Public Session - Hybrid Meeting at Administration Building – 7:00 p.m.

A **Workshop/Voting Meeting** of the Livingston Board of Education was held on this date in the large conference room in the Administration Building and via Zoom and Facebook Live. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board President, Seth Cohen, who announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by amendment to notice approved at the Board's reorganization meeting on January 4, 2022 and posted at the Board of Education office and communicated to *The Star Ledger*, *West Essex Tribune*, *TAPinto Livingston* and the Livingston Township Clerk.

Members Present: Jenissa Arnette, Pamela Chirls, Seth Cohen, Vineeta Khanna, Samantha Messer and Ethan Hirsch

Also in Attendance: Dr. Matthew Block, Michael Davison, Lisa Capone-Steiger, Mark Stern and Joann Goldberg

There were approximately five members of the public and staff in person and approximately 39 members of the public and staff watching remotely through the webinar.

Mr. Cohen acknowledged Lunar New Year and Black History Month.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Block wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year and acknowledged that February is Black History Month.

Dr. Block explained that COVID numbers have been decreasing over the past two weeks so we have expanded in-person attendance at school and athletic events. Dr. Block added that the COVID dashboard is being updated multiple times a week with information now being fed directly from our daily COVID form.

Dr. Block announced they completed filming the next episode of "Around the Block" which can be watched on our website. This episode features Ken Zushma, who recently received the International Award of Technology Teaching.

LHS Report on Graduates for Class of 2021 (as per Policy 2610)

Mrs. Sinead Crews, Director of School Counseling and Ms. Nicole Rothman, LHS College Counselor, provided the LHS Report on Graduates for the Class of 2021, explaining their goal is to find the right fit for each student, provide them with an individualized post-secondary search and application process and to use data received from graduates and current seniors to transform their work.

Ms. Rothman explained that the Class of 2021 submitted 4,975 applications to 413 colleges and universities. Ms. Rothman reviewed early application data and provided information over a five year period that highlighted the number of colleges applied to, where they are located, acceptances and student matriculation.

The presentation continued with data on college matriculation selectivity and ranking trends, the type of applications submitted by the Class of 2021 and graduate responses to a survey about their post-secondary search experience. The full presentation is available on our website.

The board members asked how the school counselors advise students with the changing landscape of testing requirements, to explain the upcoming alumni series, how they assist students in looking at different schools, the early decision process and the mental health aspect as they go through the post-secondary process.

Ms. Rothman explained they have provided SAT and ACT workshops to show students the differences in the tests and also sit down with them on an individual basis to break down their scores so they can advise which should be submitted or whether they should apply as test optional.

Mrs. Crews explained they are working on how best to partner with students at specific schools in an effort to connect others who are interested in those schools or majors and to formulate strong relationships with graduates through the upcoming alumni series.

Mrs. Crews also explained that counselors make college recommendations after speaking with students about their wants and needs. Mrs. Crews added they make an effort to recommend schools that may not always be as common.

Ms. Rothman explained the process for advising students who want to apply early decision.

With regard to the mental health counseling aspect of the process, Mrs. Crews responded that mental health is wrapped around every conversation they have with students throughout the process.

Mr. Hirsch asked what gives students the best chance to get into a college if they are deferred and suggested school counselors be more clear in explaining to students when they apply to a business school within the college and are rejected, they are rejected from that college overall.

Ms. Rothman responded students need to follow the directions the college provides in the deferral letter and should provide the college with any updates to their academic and achievement profile since their initial submission.

Board Reports

Mrs. Khanna and Ms. Arnette attended the Harrison PTA meeting and heard what they are planning for the rest of the year.

Ms. Arnette attended the Essex County School Board Meeting and after hearing the plight of other districts in our county and others, expressed appreciation to Dr. Block, the teachers and administrators who kept our schools up and running during this difficult time.

Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes

There was no public input on agenda items.

VOTING ITEMS

BUSINESS

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

3.1 Policies and Regulations

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following policies and regulations for second reading and adoption:

Policy #7450 - Property Inventory

Policy #9150.01 - School Visitors During COVID

3.2 Conferences and Overnight Trips

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the conferences and overnight trips as shown on **Attachment AA**.

Mrs. Khanna seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Khanna, Ms. Messer, Mr. Cohen
Nayes - None

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Khanna moved the following:

4.1 Memorandum of Understanding

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Understanding between itself and the Livingston Education Association, Livingston Administrator's Association and Livingston Supervisor's Association regarding the SEHBP February premium holiday.

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Khanna, Ms. Messer, Mr. Cohen
Nayes - None

MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Messer moved the following:

5.1 HIB Report

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education accepts the findings of HIB cases.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Khanna, Ms. Messer, Mr. Cohen
Nayes - None

PREVIEW OF FEBRUARY 8, 2022 VOTING MEETING AGENDA

The board reviewed the items to be discussed and voted upon at the February 8 meeting.

Superintendent's Report

1. AAPI Law Advocates
2. District Goals Update
3. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report - Wiss & Company

Approval of Minutes

1. Voting Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2022
2. Public Portion of Executive Session Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2022

PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

1.1 Textbooks/DVDs

1.2 Student Teacher

STUDENT SERVICES

2.1 Out of District Placements

2.2 Related Services/Medical Consultants

BUSINESS

3.1 Payment of Bills

3.2 Board Secretary Report – December 2021

3.3 Transfers

3.4 Committee Assignments

3.5 Approval of Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

3.6 Settlement Agreement

PERSONNEL

4.1 Resignations

4.2 Leaves of Absences

4.3 Appointments

4.4 Transfers

4.5 Substitutes

4.6 Extra Work Pay

4.7 Extra Period Assignments

4.8 Longevity

4.9 Stipends

4.10 Mentor Fees

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

James Calderon, 130 Hobart Gap Road, asked that we update the COVID dashboard and consider different forms of teaching and hybrid learning while COVID cases are on the increase.

Dr. Block responded he brought together health officials from the health department, our physicians and others to help with the decision on the safety of opening school while cases were rising and were told by them that while we would probably see an increase in illness, if we had the staff, schools were among the safest places for students.

Dr. Block reiterated that the COVID dashboard is being updated multiple times a week with information being fed directly from our daily COVID form.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Letter to DOE Regarding Remote Learning

The board discussed advocating for the use of a limited number of remote learning days on an emergency basis to offset snow days and other potential emergency needs.

After some discussion, it was decided the letter should strike a balance by requesting a specific number of days so as not to have a significant impact on the 180 in-person school day requirement.

Dr. Block and Mr. Cohen will incorporate the comments discussed and share a revised copy of the letter with the board.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m., Mrs. Khanna made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Davison
Board Secretary

February 1, 2022

