



## **LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTING MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Executive Session - Hybrid Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

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

A **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 6:00 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.

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

### **Executive Session**

**Whereas**, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-11, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters; now, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- personnel, negotiations and a legal issue

Action may be taken upon return to public session. The full length of the meeting is anticipated to be approximately 60 minutes and be it

**Further Resolved**, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Mrs. Khanna seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE** - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Khanna, Mr. Cohen  
Nays - None

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Cohen reconvened the public meeting.

Members Present: Jenissa Arnette, Pamela Chirls, Seth Cohen, Vineeta Khanna, Samantha Messer (arrived at 7:22 pm) and Ethan Hirsch

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

There were approximately two members of the public and staff in person and approximately 100 members of the public and staff watching remotely through the webinar and a Facebook Live Stream.

Mr. Cohen asked for a moment of silence to honor Dr. Frank Whiting, former principal of Mount Pleasant Elementary School, who recently passed away.

Mr. Cohen reflected on MLK Jr. Day and thanked the Livingston Committee for Diversity and Inclusion for making a positive difference by coordinating a day on for all.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Block thanked the LPS educational team for keeping the doors open across the district while many others were forced to close for various reasons. Dr. Block added that we are moving in the right direction, with cases coming down and students and staff being back in the classroom.

Dr. Block explained that he reached out to the Department of Education to inquire about the use of remote snow days and they expressed to him that we are only able to use snow days for inclement weather. Dr. Block continued he is recommending we not use a snow day on February 1 but to have it be a half day session for students as well as a no homework or assessment day. Dr. Block has already informed the principals to look for ways to celebrate Lunar New Year.

Dr. Block announced that the Governor signed the AAPI curriculum bill today. This bill ensures that the contributions, history and heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are included in the New Jersey Learning Standards for Social Studies for students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. Dr. Block added he is proud of the members of the Livingston AAPI Youth Alliance at the high school for advocating for the bill and plans to congratulate them at a future board meeting.

On behalf of the board, Mr. Cohen thanked the staff for helping out with coverage across the district and congratulated our own students for showing the power of advocacy.

The board discussed their disappointment in the Department of Education for not allowing the use of a snow day for Lunar New Year or for giving us the ability to go remote in certain instances and requested Dr. Block draft a letter to them to advocate that we have the capacity to support virtual learning when necessary.

### **Board Reports**

Mr. Cohen and Mrs. Chirls attended the high school HSA meeting. Mr. Cohen encouraged parents to get involved and participate.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Khanna moved the following:

1. Voting Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2021
2. Reorganization Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2022

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

## **Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes**

Nora Vickerman, 189 Beaufort Avenue, asked the district to look at the five day back to school rule at the elementary schools.

Michele Cohen, 15 Woodland Terrace, asked if we can be more strict with the guidelines for students returning to school on the sixth day. Mrs. Cohen asked that the Covid dashboard be updated at least two to three times a week.

Shourya Bansal, 36 Bennington Road, questioned the quarantine policy.

Rachel Kemelman, 29 Norman Court, thanked the board for keeping schools open adding we should not live in fear when someone has a stuffy nose or cough since it is cold and flu season.

Anthony Rosamilia, President of LEA, thanked Dr. Block and the board for thanking the staff. Mr. Rosamilia wanted to publicly acknowledge and thank the staff, the parents who have expressed gratitude toward his members and the students for adjusting to the many different situations and rules.

Hua Li, 47 Crossbrook Road, expressed appreciation for the Livingston AAPI Youth Alliance and thanked the community for coming together to get through this pandemic.

Tugce Yalt, 8 Fieldstone Drive, asked when the bill signed by Governor Murphy on January 11 on anti-bullying will be incorporated into the curriculum.

Dr. Block responded he will check with our district physician about antigen testing for students before they return to school as well as students coming back to school with symptoms.

Dr. Block continued that we receive notifications on how to implement new laws the Governor signs and will wait for information from them on how to proceed.

Dr. Blocked concluded that we will try to update the Covid dashboard more than once a week.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL**

### **PROGRAM/CURRICULUM**

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

#### **1.1 DVD**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the DVD as shown on **Attachment A**.

#### **1.2 Student Teachers**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the student teachers as shown on **Attachment B**.

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

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

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

There was no motion.

## **BUSINESS**

Mrs. Khanna moved the following:

### **3.1 Payment of Bills**

**Whereas**, the Board Secretary has audited certain vendor claims as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2 and Board Policy 6470 and presented them to the Livingston Board of Education with the recommendation they be paid, now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the payment of the following bills in the amounts listed and attach a complete copy of these bills to the minutes of this meeting.

<b><u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
10&11	Regular	2,132,169.09
12	Regular	4,228.14
20	Regular	165,979.31
60	Cafeteria	264,021.73
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,566,398.27</b>

Regular Checks	94744-95257	2,302,376.54
Cafeteria	1359-1364	264,021.73
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,566,398.27</b>

### **3.2 Board Secretary Report – November 2021**

**Whereas**, the Livingston Board of Education has received the Report of the Board Secretary for November 30, 2021, consisting of:

- 1) Interim Balance Sheets
- 2) Interim Statements Comparing Budgeted Revenue with Actual to Date and Appropriations with Expenditures and Encumbrances to Date
- 3) Schedule of Revenues - Actual Compared with Estimated
- 4) Statement of Appropriations Compared with Expenditures and encumbrances, and

**Whereas**, the Livingston Board of Education has received the report of the Treasurer for November 30, 2021, which report is in agreement with the Report of the Board Secretary, and

**Whereas**, these reports show the following balances on the date indicated:

	Cash Balance	Appropriation Balance	Fund Balance
(10) General Current Exp. Fund	17,925,916	27,145,469	
(11) Current Expense			11,830,746
(12) Capital Outlay		592,064	4,389,775
(20) Special Revenue Fund	497,322		
(30) Capital Projects Fund	4,543,296		

(40) Debt Service Fund	1,497,241		
Total:	24,463,775	27,737,533	16,220,521

**Whereas**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-212(d), the Board Secretary has certified that as of November 30, 2021, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments contractual orders which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8, 18A:22-8.1, now therefore be it

**Resolved**, the Livingston Board of Education accepts the above referenced reports and certification and directs that they be made part of this resolution by reference, and be it

**Further Resolved**, the Livingston Board of Education certifies that, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6:20-2.13(d) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

### **3.3 Transfers**

**Whereas**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends certain transfers among accounts in the 2021-2022 budget for November pursuant to Board of Education Policy 6422, now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education ratify transfers pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A.10:

<u>Object</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
520	Insurance	5,850	
566	Tuition Private School Handicap	221,000	
260	Workers Comp		5,850
270	Health Benefits		221,000
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$226,850</b>	<b>\$226,850</b>

### **3.4 Engineering Services – Livingston Athletic Complex – Gianforcaro Architects**

**Whereas**, the Livingston Board of Education ("Board") has determined that it needs to retain the services of an engineering firm to provide professional engineering services ("Services") in connection with the synthetic turf field at Livingston High School ("Project"); and

**Whereas**, Gianforcaro Architects, Engineers & Planners ("Gianforcaro") has proposed to provide the Board with the Services for the Project pursuant to its proposal dated December 13, 2021 ("Proposal"); and

**Whereas**, the Board has determined that Gianforcaro possesses the required expertise to perform the Services; and

**Whereas**, the Board has determined that it is in its best interests to retain Gianforcaro to provide the Services for the Project; and

**Whereas**, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5, the Board may contract for the Services by resolution at a public meeting without public bidding, as such Services constitute Professional Services in accordance with the terms of the statute.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the above recitals are incorporated by reference as if set forth here at length; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Board hereby enters into an agreement for the Services for the Project to Gianforcaro as outlined in the Proposal for a fee of six percent (6%) of the Construction Cost Bid not to exceed One Hundred and Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000.00).

### **3.5 NJ Department of Education Submission - Synthetic Turf Field**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the architectural firm, Gianforcaro Architects, Engineers and Planners to submit the project application and all necessary documents for the new Synthetic Turf field at the Livingston High School to the New Jersey Department of Education for approval as an "Other Capital Project", where no state funding is being requested. The Board of Education also approves any changes that may be necessary to the Long Range Facility Plan in order to construct the project.

### **3.6 Academic Calendar Revision - 2021-2022**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education amends the 2021-2022 academic calendar to show February 1 as a partial day for students and staff as shown on **Attachment C**. The second part of the day will be used for staff professional development. The calendar is also amended to show January 3 as a day off for students and a professional development day for staff.

### **3.7 Conferences and Overnight Trips**

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

### **3.8 Field Trip**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the field trip as shown on **Attachment E**.

### **3.9 Policies and Regulations**

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

Policy #7450 - Property Inventory

Policy #9150.01 - School Visitors During COVID (with revisions)

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

Mr. Davison is recommending the board approve the professional services contract under Resolution 3.4. The scope of the contract includes construction design and administration. Once approved, we will continue to work with the engineer to obtain the proper approvals to move the project forward.

Mr. Davison continued that Resolution 3.5 authorizes the engineer to submit the required paperwork to the NJ Department of Education's facility department. The paperwork will be submitted in late February after Mr. Davison and Mr. Gianforcaro attend the local planning board meeting for a courtesy review of the proposed field.

Mr. Cohen reminded everyone that this is not an approval of the project; it is an approval to continue the process to explore its feasibility and cost.

Mrs. Khanna asked what property is covered under Policy #7450 and Mr. Davison responded it tracks the district's fixed assets that are over \$2,000.

Under Policy #9150.01, Mrs. Khanna and Mrs. Chirls asked why we don't require vendors to upload or show their vaccination cards and Mrs. Burman responded for those who come in for one time events, they sign a statement of assurance before entering the building. Dr. Block added that vendors are not generally in rooms with students during the school day.

Mrs. Chirls and Ms. Messer asked for clarity about the checking of vaccination cards at after school events and Dr. Block responded that universal masking is required at all indoor school events; however, we don't have the ability to check everyone's vaccination cards.

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

**PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

**4.1 Resignations**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education accepts the resignations of:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Last Day of Employment</b>
<i>Lisa Friedman*</i>	Teacher of Social Studies	Retirement	HMS	September 30, 2022
<i>Janice Reis</i>	Teacher of Art	Retirement	HMS	May 31, 2022
<i>Mitchell Wasserman</i>	Technology Coach	Retirement	District	June 30, 2022
<i>Gail Kelly</i>	Intervention/Enrichment Specialist	Retirement	RHE	February 28, 2022
<i>Denise Galluzzo</i>	School Counselor (LOA)	Resignation	MPE	January 31, 2022
<i>Corinne D'Anna</i>	School Psychologist	Resignation	HMS	February 28, 2022
<i>Tanya Lopez-Gonzalez*</i>	Director of C&I	Resignation	CO	December 10, 2021
<i>George Clark</i>	Teacher of Italian	Resignation	LHS	February 7, 2022 or earlier if a replacement can be found.
<i>Jeanne Ziobro</i>	Teacher of Technology Ed	Resignation	LHS	February 11, 2022 or earlier if a replacement can be found
<i>Devaneice Ward</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	MPMS	January 14, 2022
<i>Wilmick Ablard</i>	Bus Driver	Resignation	Transportation	December 23, 2021

*\*as amended from a previous agenda*

## 4.2 Leaves of Absences

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the leaves of absences of:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>LOA w/pay and benefits</b>	<b>LOA w/o pay, but with benefits (if applicable)</b>	<b>Extended LOA w/o pay or benefits</b>	<b>Return Date</b>
<i>Kimberly Egipciano</i>	HMS	Teacher of English	12/21/2021-12/23/2021**	12/15/2021-12/16/2021**	NA	1/3/2022
<i>Samantha Stoddard</i>	LHS	TOSD	5/18/2022-6/30/2022	8/30/2022-11/22/2022**	11/23/2022-4/30/2023	5/1/2023
<i>Gregory Peters</i>	HMS	Teacher of Science	2/14/2022-3/4/2022**	NA	NA	3/7/2022
<i>Shawna Byer</i>	MPMS	Teacher of English	3/21/2022-4/22/2022	4/25/2022-6/30/2022**	NA	8/30/2022
<i>Sinead Crews</i>	LHS	Director of School Counseling	4/11/2022-6/9/2022 & 6/10/2022-8/19/2022**	NA	NA	8/22/2022
<i>Stephen Schaible</i>	LHS	Teacher of Social Studies	1/31/2022-2/25/2022**	NA	NA	2/28/2022
<i>Helen Katalifos</i>	Hillside	Instructional Aide	NA	NA	1/3/2022-1/18/2022	1/19/2022
<i>Terri Ciecierski</i>	LHS	Instructional Aide	1/6/2022-1/19/2022**	1/20/2022-2/17/2022**	NA	TBD
<i>Kimberly Brenneck</i>	MPMS	Teacher of Math	3/28/2022-5/13/2022	5/16/2022-6/30/2022**	NA	8/30/2022
<i>Robert Brenneck</i>	CO	IT Support Specialist	4/1/2022-4/20/2022**	4/21/2022-5/13/2022**	NA	5/16/2022
<i>Kathryn Fierro</i>	HMS	TOSD	4/11/2022-5/30/2022	5/31/2022-6/30/2022 & 8/30/2022-9/30/2022**	NA	10/1/2022
<i>Lisa Garamella*</i>	Hillside	School Nurse	NA	9/23/2021-9/28/2021; 9/30/2021-10/5/2021; & 10/14/2021; 11/22/2021-12/3/2021**	NA	12/6/2021
<i>Niobel Torres*</i>	LHS	TOSD	1/3/2022-2/25/2022	2/28/2022-5/27/2022**	5/30/2022-6/30/2023	9/1/2023
<i>Jenna McCarthy*</i>	LHS	Teacher of Biology	3/21/2022-5/30/2022	5/31/2022-10/28/2022**	NA	10/31/2022
<i>Dr. Lauren Stern*</i>	MPMS	School Psych.	NA	9/24/2021-12/13/2021**	NA	12/14/2021
<i>Ann DeFazio*</i>	LHS	Teacher of Biology	11/11/2021-12/14/2021	12/15/2021-1/17/2022- & 1/18/2022-	4/27/2022-4/29/2022	5/2/2022

				4/26/2022**		
Jennifer Vernotica*	Collins	Elementary School Teacher	12/15/2021-1/7/2022	NA	1/8/2022-3/25/2022	3/28/2022

\*as amended from a previous agenda

\*\*Designates time counted toward NJFLA/FMLA

### 4.3 Appointments

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the applications indicated below (\*) for emergent hiring for the following appointments under the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1 et. seq., N.J.S.A. 18A:39.17 et. seq.; N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et. seq. All appointments are contingent upon reference checks in accordance with P.L. 2018, c.5.

Name	Location	Title	Tenure Track/LOA or LT Replacement	Replacing	Guide	Step	Salary	Effective Date
Renata Cirelli	LHS	Teacher of Italian	First Year Tenure Track	G. Clark	MA	13	\$88,644 (prorated)	3/14/2022
Viviana Mendez	Transportation	25-Hr Bus Driver	NA	NA	25 Hr BD	3	\$22,747 (prorated)	12/8/2021
Peter Gentile	RHE	Reading Specialist	Leave Replacement	A. Winka	MA+32	1	\$67,504 (prorated)	12/17/2021
Joanne O'Donnell	Transportation	Bus Driver	NA	W. Ablard	BD	5	\$24,558 (prorated)	1/18/2022

\*as amended from a previous agenda

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the appointment of the ABA Discrete Trial TA's and Instructional Aides as listed on **Attachment F**.

### 4.4 Transfers

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the transfers as listed on **Attachment G**.

### 4.5 Substitutes

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the appointment of the individuals listed below to serve as substitutes on an as-needed basis for the 2021-2022 school year:

#### Teachers

Samantha Da Silva

Tiffany Cannarozzi

Eryn Goldstein

Victoria Varghese

Ashley Zafarino

#### Nurses

Grace Bracci

#### Custodial

Matthew Stewart (\$15.50/hr)

Jamie Herzog (\$15.50/hr)

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment H** as certified substitutes. These individuals are currently employed by the District.

In the event these individuals are called upon to serve as a substitute, they will be compensated an additional \$50/day (\$10/period) for that assignment.

#### **4.6 Extra Work Pay**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following payments as listed on **Attachment I** for work performed.

#### **4.7 Stipends**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment J** for co-curricular stipends at Livingston High School for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education accepts the resignation of *Nicholas Brooks* from the stipend position of *Inner Circle Advisor* for Livingston High School for the 2021-2022 school year effective January 28, 2022.

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education rescinds the appointment of *Zachary Gurmankin* to the stipend position of *Assistant Fencing Coach* for Livingston High School for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment K** for co-curricular stipends at Heritage Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

#### **4.8 Mentor Fees**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment L** listed as assigned mentors to receive payment in accordance with the schedule listed.

#### **4.9 Longevity**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves Katherine Connolly for 15 years of longevity effective and retroactive to September 1, 2021.

#### **4.10 Memorandum of Understanding**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Understanding between itself and the Livingston Supervisor's Association for the 2021-2022 school year, effective and retroactive to September 1, 2021.

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

Under Resolution 4.10, Mrs. Chirls acknowledged and thanked the supervisors for the work they are doing this year which includes teaching to help out with staffing concerns. Mrs. Chirls added the MOU is for this year only.

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

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

### **5.1 HIB Report**

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

### **5.2 Suspension Report**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Suspension Report for the months of November and December.

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

Mrs. Khanna asked about the protocol for student accountability and how we address the behaviors for those listed on the suspension report.

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

### **Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes**

Nicholas Slotnick, 37 Lee Road, asked why students are not allowed to have spectators at sporting events when they are around each other all day in school.

Mary Pulver, 47 Winchester Road, asked what specific social emotional curriculum is used by our students and how we plan to follow the current bullying policy.

Dr. Block responded when we had a high case load of the virus two weeks ago, a decision was made to limit the number of fans in an effort to keep students in the safest environment possible during extra curricular activities. Dr. Block continued that we do plan to open it back up as things continue to improve.

Dr. Block continued with regard to social emotional learning and the bullying policy, we adhere to all the policies and laws and want to create the most accepting, welcoming and inclusive school environment as possible.

### **Old Business**

Mrs. Chirls asked for an update on the Mental Health Advisory Committee that is relative to the Strategic Plan and Dr. Block responded that invitations went out today for a meeting on Monday night. Dr. Block added that Ms. Arnette and Mrs. Chirls are participating on the Mental Health Committee and that Mrs. Khanna will participate on the Technology Committee.

### **New Business**

There is no new business.

At 8:10 p.m., Mrs. Chirls made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

Voter all in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Davison", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Michael Davison  
Board Secretary**

January 18, 2022