



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

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

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 6:03 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, Susan Burman, Mark Stern and Joann Goldberg

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:

- Legal Update and Personnel

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.

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

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

At 7:15 p.m. Mr. Cohen reconvened the public meeting.

There were approximately five members of the public and staff in person and approximately

47 members of the public and staff watching remotely through the webinar and a Facebook Live Stream.

Superintendent's Report

1. Student Recognitions

Dr. Block welcomed math supervisors, Angelina Rodriguez and Antonio Matheus and congratulated the students from Mount Pleasant Middle and Heritage Middle Schools for taking top honors in the state and county in the New Jersey Math League Competition.

The Mount Pleasant Middle School team that includes Hadrian Zhang, Hubert Zheng, Connor Li, Devin Sunderam and Andrew Zhou took first place in the State and County.

The Heritage Middle School seventh grade team that includes Ethan Chan, Derek Peng, Benjamin Sun, Aiden Lee, Daniel Liang and Claire Cheng took third place in the State and second place in the County.

The Heritage Middle School eighth grade math team that includes Fiona Chen, Chenhao Luo, Lev Koganov, Akshay Gupta, Jeffrey Yang and Arav Kaushik took second place in the State and County.

The board offered their congratulations to all of the students for their hard work and achievements.

Dr. Block continued that Owen Abeles, an LHS senior, has been nominated for the Unsung Hero Award this year by his school counselor Kathleen Guzman. This award recognizes students "who make outstanding contributions to their schools and communities, but who may be overlooked under traditional student recognition guidelines. Honorees may have overcome academic or personal challenges, modeled good citizenship, or shown a spirit or quiet strength that inspires others." Dr. Block shared a video about Owen.

Dr. Block and the board expressed how proud they are of Owen's giving back to the community through volunteering at the vaccination center and offered their congratulations on this nomination.

2. Budget Status Report

Dr. Block began by explaining the tentative budget was approved and submitted to the county to review and that there are two board of education meetings and a public forum scheduled for further discussion about the budget prior to a final vote on April 26. Dr. Block reiterated that the budget can be modified up until the April 26 vote.

Dr. Block continued by providing a review of responses to the board's questions at the last meeting. These included the likely expenses and proposed appropriations within our mental health budget, a history and projection of our Humanities staffing needs and schedules and responsibilities for our tech coaches.

Mr. Davison followed by reiterating we have received an additional \$1.3 million in State Aid, which is up almost 22% from last year. Mr. Davison continued that the tax levy inclusive of debt service is 1.12% which equals \$120,097,687 and the tax impact on a home assessed at \$700,000 would be approximately \$171. Mr. Davison continued with an updated budget timeline, showing that the public forum will be held on April 14 from 7 to 8 p.m. via Zoom and explained that changes to the budget can be made up until the board votes for the budget at the

Public Hearing that is scheduled for April 26. Mr. Davison added the community can also email any questions they may have to budgetquestions@livingston.org.

Mrs. Chirls expressed concern about parity across the specials and how we would be using tech coaches in terms of prep, professional development, research, common planning and tech support. Mrs. Chirls added she is concerned that they won't have time to be student facing.

Dr. Block explained he can't speak to parity because tech coaches and specials teachers are different positions and that tech coaches' responsibilities are much broader than teaching.

Mrs. Chirls continued she is concerned about doubling the number of tech coaches without looking at the program for a full year to assess completely what we need.

Ms. Arnette asked if tech coaches are on an on-call basis or assigned to certain buildings and Dr. Block responded they are assigned to two buildings for 2.5 days each. Ms. Arnette then asked if it would be more efficient if they were used on an on-call basis rather than adding additional staff. Dr. Block responded they would be utilized differently if they were in their own building by being able to establish relationships with the teachers in that building and to allow for more opportunities to teach or assist in a lesson by being in a classroom multiple days in a row.

Mr. Stern added they currently are able to set up appointments between buildings.

Mrs. Khanna asked if we have a plan to evaluate whether the tech coaches are being optimally utilized and Mrs. Rehman responded we can track them through their booked appointments as well as through teacher and student feedback.

In an effort to have some of these conversations and issues from the last few meetings addressed before coming to the table in the future, Mr. Cohen is requesting that we add the Board Committees policy to the April 26 meeting under New Business. Mr. Cohen will propose an amendment to the policy to include a review of proposed student facing headcount during the budget cycle be provided to the Curriculum Committee and a review of proposed non-student facing positions be provided to the Finance and Facilities Committee. Mr. Cohen added doing this will provide them with a more detailed rationale as to why positions should be added and help keep our public meetings progressing in a more efficient and effective manner.

Mrs. Chirls added after the committee meeting, a committee report should be shared at a regular public meeting that includes any concerns about new positions so that all board members have the same information. Mrs. Chirls suggested we schedule meetings leading up to the concept phase of the budget so that any new programs or new positions can be discussed in those committee meetings and then reported to the rest of the board in public.

Mrs. Chirls asked if the teen mental health first aid program that is also part of the LMAC grant and approved by the State is something we can explore. Mrs. Steiger responded she met with them today and yes, it is an opportunity we can explore.

Mrs. Chirls continued she is again raising the idea to explore if there are other consultants we can engage with to evaluate our existing programs aside from The JED Foundation, which was raised as a possible organization, through the Mental Health Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Chirls added she appreciates the outline of the mental health funding but believes it would be helpful to better understand existing programs and where we will be going if the categories could be listed.

Mr. Cohen suggested providing the board with a periodic check-in to show where these resources are going and how the money is being spent.

Board Reports

Mr. Cohen reminded everyone that on Monday, April 11 at 7 p.m. the board will be having a 5:5 meeting with the Township Council. The meeting will be held both in person in the Heritage Middle School cafeteria and on Zoom.

Ms. Arnette and Mrs. Khanna attended the award ceremony for phenomenal women of Livingston that was hosted by the Livingston Committee For Diversity and Inclusion. The ceremony honored and recognized women who have contributed positively to the community.

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 & Regulations

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

Regulation #0155 - Board Committees (with revisions)
Policy #5541 - Anti-Hazing (M) (new to district)

3.2 Committee Assignments

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the president's designation of *Seth Cohen* and *Pamela Chirls* as the board's representatives to the newly formed Policy Committee as shown on **Attachment AA**.

3.3 Settlement Agreement

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Settlement Agreement for Case #02-2022 which is on file at the Board of Education office.

3.4 Conferences and Overnight Trips

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

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Guy Rabner* and *Michelle Hajjar* to chaperone approximately six students participating in the Quiz Bowl Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia from May 27 to 29, 2022 at no cost to the district.

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

The board is approving Policy 5541 with the revisions walked in by Mrs. Burman.

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

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Khanna moved the following:

4.1 Resignations

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

Name	Position	Reason	Location	Last Day of Employment
<i>Lenore Piccoli</i>	Library Media Specialist	Retirement	MPE	June 30, 2022
<i>Diane Mondoro</i>	Teacher of Business Education	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2022
<i>Robert Brenneck</i>	IT Support Specialist	Resignation	District	May 27, 2022
<i>Alecia Ellis</i>	School Nurse (non-certified)	Resignation	District	May 26, 2022
<i>Dulce Binsol</i>	ABA TA	Resignation	BHE	March 31, 2022

**as amended from a previous agenda*

4.2 Leaves of Absences

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

Name	Location	Position	LOA w/pay and benefits	LOA w/o pay, but with benefits (if applicable)	Extended LOA w/o pay or benefits	Return Date
<i>Beth Alterman</i>	MPE	Kindergarten Teacher	4/6/2022-4/22/2022**	NA	NA	4/25/2022
<i>Daniel Paris</i>	Maintenance	Maintenance	7/1/2022-9/7/2022	9/8/2022-12/1/2022**	NA	TBD
<i>Jade Eden*</i>	Hillside	Elementary School Teacher	5/3/2022-6/30/2022	8/30/2022-11/19/2022**	11/22/2022-6/30/2023	9/1/2023
<i>Daniel Brill*</i>	LHS	Teacher of Math	3/21/2022-4/22/2022**	NA	NA	4/25/2022
<i>Nicole Edelson</i>	Harrison	Elementary School Teacher	3/25/2022-4/1/2022	4/4/2022-6/30/2022**	NA	TBD
<i>Carly Haggerty*</i>	BHE	TOSD	4/4/2022-5/13/2022 & 5/16/2022-5/24/2022**	5/25/2022-10/11/2022**	NA	10/12/2022

**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
Ana DaSilva	BHE	School Psychologist	First Year Tenure Track	C. D'Anna	MA+32	1	\$68,500	8/30/2022
Erin Vaccaro	BHE	TOSD	First Year Tenure Track	A. Tighe	MA	4**	\$63,416 (prorated)	4/25/2022
Amy Connolly	CO	Payroll Manager	NA	D. Romberger	NA	NA	\$95,000** (prorated)	5/6/2022
Meredith Franco	BHE	SSW	First Year Tenure Track	W. Dendy	MA	4	\$63,855	8/30/2022

*will remain on the same step in the 2022-2023 school year

**salary will remain the same for the 2022-2023 school year

4.4 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:

Secretarial

Daniela Iannelli (\$15.50/hr)

Custodial

Roxanne Reynolds (\$18.50/hr)

Nurses

Thalia Ramirez

4.5 Extra Period Assignments

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment CC** for extra period assignments during the 2021-2022 school year.

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khanna, Ms. Messer
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.

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

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

PREVIEW OF APRIL 26, 2022 VOTING MEETING AGENDA

The board reviewed the items that will be included on the April 26 agenda.

Public Hearing on Budget

1. Presentation
2. Discussion
3. Questions and Comments from Public
 - Speakers are asked to stand and state name and address for the board and public
 - Each person may speak once with a three (3) minute time limit until all who wish to be heard have had an opportunity to speak

Adoption of 2022-2023 Budget

Approval of Minutes

Voting Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2022

1. **PROGRAM/CURRICULUM**
 - 1.1 **Student Teachers**
 - 1.2 **Field Trips**
2. **STUDENT SERVICES**
 - 2.1 **Related Services/Medical Consultants**
3. **BUSINESS**
 - 3.1 **Payment of Bills**
 - 3.2 **Board Secretary Report – February 2022**
 - 3.3 **Transfers**
 - 3.4 **Conferences and Overnight Trips**
 - 3.5 **Subscription Bus Pricing**
 - 3.6 **Safety Grant**
 - 3.7 **Policies & Regulations**

Mr. Davison confirmed there is no increase in the cost of subscription bussing pricing for the coming year.

Mrs. Burman announced the newly formed policy committee is meeting on Monday to review the policies in advance of the meeting on April 26 and if anyone has any question or suggestions, to get them to Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen or her prior to the meeting.

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

There was no public comment.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Bill A-3196

Mr. Cohen asked the board if they wanted to utilize their voice to send a letter to the Department of Education in support of this bill. Bill A-3196 requires the State Board of Education to administer the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment as field test for class of 2023. The board unanimously agreed to support the bill and Dr. Block will draft a letter on their behalf.

Mrs. Khanna moved the following to discuss a personnel matter:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq., also known as the "Sunshine Law," authorizes a public body to meet in executive or private session under certain limited circumstances, and

Whereas, said law requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public hearing before it can meet in such an executive or private session, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Livingston Board of Education that:

- (A) It does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in executive session on April 5, 2022 to discuss the matters stipulated, in conformance with the subsections of said act which are indicated.
1. Matter rendered confidential by federal law, state statute or rule of court.
 2. Matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive federal funds.
 3. Matter, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy unless the individual concerned shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.
 4. Collective bargaining matter.
 5. Matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates, etc. where it would adversely affect the public interest if discussion were disclosed.
 6. Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting public property where disclosure could impair protection.
 7. Investigation of violations or possible violations of law.
 8. Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than collective bargaining agreement.
 9. Personnel matters unless the individual employees or appointees affected requested that such matter be discussed at a public meeting.
 10. Deliberations occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty.
- (B) The matters discussed will be made public when confidentiality is no longer required and formal action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a meeting to which the public has been invited.
- (C) No action will be taken.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor

The public meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Davison
Board Secretary