



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Executive Session - Administration Building - 6:30 p.m.

Public Session - Hybrid Meeting - 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 6:30 p.m. by Vineeta Khanna, Board President, who announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by amendment to notice approved at the Board's reorganization meeting on January 3, 2023 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, Parul Khemka and Jeffrey Xu

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

- Security Matter and Student Matter

Action may be taken upon return to the public session. The full length of the meeting is anticipated to be approximately 30 minutes and be it

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

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

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

At 7:06 p.m., Mrs. Khanna reconvened the public meeting.

There were approximately 47 members of the public and staff watching in person and remotely through the webinar and a Facebook Live Stream.

Superintendent's Report / Workshop Items

1. Violin Concerto

Students Kairis Wong, Valentina Zheng, Nicholas Wan, Andrew Yang, Jessica Shen and Laurenz Canent performed a song that they played during the Lunar New Year festivities sponsored by the Livingston Chinese Cultural Day (LCCD).

2. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Mr. Scott Clelland of PKF O'Connor Davies explained that the 2022 audit report came back with an unmodified opinion, which is a clean opinion and that no corrective action plan is required.

Mr. Clelland continued by reviewing highlights from the report, including the food service program, funding for everyday operations of the district, our fund balance, outstanding bond issues and debt.

Mr. Davison explained that the board will see a resolution on the February 28 meeting to cancel ~~authorized but unissued debt from the old high school referendum. These funds can no longer be used and the resolution will remove them from our books.~~

3. Equity Presentation

Mrs. Lisa Capone-Steiger, Assistant Superintendent for Equity, Intervention, Inclusion, Inspiration, shared the work we have been doing to create schools where each and every member knows they belong here, knows they are valued and feels they are in a safe environment to learn and grow each day.

Mrs. Steiger reviewed the ways we have focused on equity, inclusion and anti-racism over the past several school years and are building it through a structured system of four components which are: community and culture, curriculum, professional development and student engagement. Mrs. Steiger also reviewed data that helps to inform and determine their work as well as surveys that were provided to parents and students. Mrs. Steiger continued that she and Dr. Block are in the process of meeting with firms who can perform an equity audit of our district and plan to bring a recommendation to the board soon. The full equity presentation is available on our website.

Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes

Navana Taylor Porter, 288 North Livingston Avenue, asked how many different races are part of the equity teams and suggested having parents of different backgrounds be involved as well. Mrs. Porter suggested more training be provided to students in middle school because she isn't seeing the hands-on training we are talking about happening in the school.

Libby Barak, 51 Elmwood Drive, asked how many students from diverse backgrounds participate in clubs and after school activities and added that competitive clubs are exclusionary. Mrs. Barak stated it is difficult to find communication about what is happening around the district and suggested a calendar be created for parents to download at the beginning of the year.

Katy Quillen, staff member at MPMS, called in to the meeting last May in support of bringing back the Assistant Principal position at MPMS and once again is asking the board to reconsider the removal of this position.

Dr. Block responded that he agrees that middle school students can benefit from additional training and that is part of the continuing work of our equity teams. Dr. Block continued we will

continue with our focus groups and surveying of students and will also be expanding the survey to address neurodiversity.

In response to Mrs. Barak, Dr. Block stated we work to include all students in clubs and activities.

Dr. Block responded that they will look positions for next year as they begin to discuss the budget.

4. Mid-Year District Goals Update

Dr. Block provided a mid-year progress update on the district's goals for the 2022-2023 school year. The five district goals are Safety and Wellness, Teaching and Learning, Leadership and Governance, Community and Culture and Finance and Facilities. Dr. Block reviewed what is in process and what is in the planning stage for the items addressed in each goal. The full presentation is available on our website.

Board Reports

Some board members attended the Lunar New Year festivities sponsored by the Livingston Chinese Cultural Day (LCCD). Mr. Cohen attended an event the day after.

Mrs. Khemka attended the anti-semitism event that was held in town.

Mrs. Khanna attended the flag raising for Indian Republic Day on Sunday morning.

Mrs. Khanna acknowledged that it is Black History Month.

Student Representative's Report

Mr. Xu explained that last week the high school hosted a multicultural event where students shared different foods and aspects of their cultures.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

3.1 Change to Annual Public Meeting Calendar

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the addition of two Workshop Meetings, on Monday, February 13, 2023 and Monday, March 6, 2023.

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

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

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

4.1 Resignations and Retirements

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

Name	Position	Reason	Location	Last Day of Employment
<i>James Page*</i>	Teacher of Math	Retirement	LHS	January 31, 2024
<i>Philip Johnson, Jr.</i>	Maintenance Person	Retirement	District	March 31, 2023
<i>Desmond Kidd</i>	Custodian	Retirement	HMS	April 30, 2023
<i>Alan Farmer</i>	Custodian	Retirement	LHS	June 30, 2023
<i>Kathleen Berrios</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Retirement	Collins	June 30, 2023
<i>Jessica Taveras</i>	School Psychologist	Resignation	MPMS	March 24, 2023
<i>Emma Dandash</i>	Teacher of Art	Resignation	Harrison	June 30, 2023
<i>Kendall DeLisa</i>	ABA Discrete Trial TA	Resignation	BHE	February 17, 2023
<i>Brenden Bloom</i>	Systems Administrator	Resignation	CO	January 13, 2023
<i>Daisy Ramos</i>	ABA Discrete Trial TA	Resignation	BHE	January 31, 2023
<i>Vivianna Parco</i>	ABA Discrete Trial TA	Resignation	BHE	March 6, 2023
<i>Anna Sicurello</i>	Playground Aide	Resignation	BHE	January 26, 2023

**as revised from a previous agenda*

4.2 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
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<i>Hongkai Zhang*</i>	LHS	Teacher of Computer Science	First Year Tenure Track	M. Cheng	MA+32	8	\$75,900 (prorated)	1/27/2023
<i>Gehan Nadia Klele**</i>	BHE	PRIDE	First Year Tenure Track	new section	BA	4	\$56,300 (prorated)	3/28/2023
<i>Nubia Garnica</i>	Transportation	25-Hr Bus Driver	NA	NA	25-Hr BD	9	\$31,212 (prorated)	2/13/2023
<i>Diane Miranda</i>	HMS	School Nurse	NA	NA	BA	9	\$65,350 (prorated)	1/1/2023
<i>Tyler Staszak</i>	LHS	Night Custodian	Leave Replacement	D. Kidd	C	1	\$42,152 plus \$975 for nights	1/17/2023
<i>Marsel Samaan</i>	Transportation	Bus Aide	NA	C. Catanzarite	Bus Aide	1	\$12,700 (prorated)	2/6/2023
<i>Dana Fuschetti</i>	BHE	Playground Aide	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$18/hr	1/23/2023

**as amended from a previous agenda*

***will remain on the same step in 2023-2024*

4.2a 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
<i>Caitlyn Gleason</i>	Harrison	School Counselor	Leave Replacement	C. Siti	MA	1	\$62,455 (prorated)	4/10/2022

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Cohen 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. Khemka
Abstain - Mrs. Khanna
Nayes - None

PREVIEW OF FEBRUARY 28, 2023 VOTING AGENDA

The board reviewed upcoming items on the February 28 agenda.

Budget Presentation

Approval of Minutes

1. Voting Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2023
2. Public Portion of Executive Session Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2023

1. PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

1.1 Student Teachers

1.2 Field Trips

2. STUDENT SERVICES

2.1 Out of District Placements

2.2 Related Services/Medical Consultants

3. BUSINESS

3.1 Payment of Bills

3.2 Preliminary Board Secretary Report – December 2022

3.3 Transfers

3.4 Conferences and Overnight Trips

3.5 Gloucester County Special Services School District

3.6 Joint Transportation Agreement with Sussex County Regional Cooperative

3.7 Acceptance: Additional Funds for Nonpublic Auxiliary and Handicapped Aid (Chapter 192/193)

3.8 Bylaws, Policies & Regulations

4. PERSONNEL

4.1 Resignations & Retirements

4.2 Leaves of Absences

4.3 Appointments

4.4 Substitutes

4.5 Extra Work Pay

4.6 Stipends

4.7 Extra Period Assignments

4.8 ESSER Grant

4.9 NY Jets Grant

4.10 Transfers

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

There was no public comment.

Old Business

1. LBOE Agenda Planning Calendar

The board unanimously agreed to add the revised future planning calendar to the back of each agenda.

New Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:55 p.m., Mr. Cohen made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Davison", is written over a horizontal line.

**Michael Davison
Board Secretary**