



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2025

Executive Session - Administration Building - 6:45 p.m.

Public Session - 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 a Facebook livestream. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Seth Cohen, 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 2, 2025 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: Pamela Chirls, Seth Cohen, Fang Gong, Parul Khemka, Inna Yelisevich and Abe Klein

Also in Attendance: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Jessica Rapp, Dr. Maura Tuite, 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:

- student and legal matters and personnel

Action may be taken upon return to the public session. The full length of the meeting is anticipated to be approximately 15 minutes; and be it

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

Mrs. Khemka seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

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

Superintendent's Report

Opening of School Report

Dr. Fishbein provided an enrollment update, explained the number and types of positions hired for the 2025-2026 school year, reviewed the number of students who attended our various summer programs, reviewed improvements to our facilities, technology and the new and revised curriculum for grades K-8 and at the high school.

Board Reports

Mrs. Khemka explained that the NJSBA Special Education Committee recommends that boards of education start including an element of special education training into their board training. Dr. Fishbein will ask our NJSBA representative to include this in the board's certification training that they are currently undergoing.

Student Representative's Report

Mr. Klein explained that at the high school, the school year began with senior sunrise, where the senior class arrived at school at 6 a.m. to socialize, take pictures, and take in their senior year. As students entered the building, they were introduced to a new Cell Phone and Wireless Device Policy, prohibiting phone usage during all class periods, while allowing it in between classes and during lunch and Lancer Time. Although many were critical of this new policy at first, Mr. Klein noticed that classmates quickly adjusted and that it has been very effective in making students focus in class. Additionally, a new Seat Time Recovery Program has been set in place to ensure that fewer students lose credit in classes by allowing them to make up instructional time on Saturdays. From a student's perspective, this seems like a very positive addition. Overall, the first two weeks of school have been very successful, with the hallways clear and the senior class setting a great example for their peers.

Public Comment

Daniel Cohen, parent of a fifth grade student in the district, asked where he can find information about our high school's overall progress. Dr. Fishbein directed Mr. Cohen to check the district's website to view prior board presentations on testing and curriculum and to check the State of New Jersey's school report card and high school profile.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

Mrs. Khemka moved the following:

1.1 Clinical Observations

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

1.2 Field Trips

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

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Gong, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Yelisevich, Mr. Cohen
Nays - None

STUDENT SERVICES

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

2.1 Out of District Placements

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves placement for the academic year 2025-2026 for four (4) Livingston students with disabilities, as classified and recommended by the Child Study Team, in facilities with tuition costs to be determined within the limits established by the New Jersey Board of Education as shown on **Attachment C**.

2.2 Related Services/Medical Consultants

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following consultants that will be utilized to provide related services for the 2025-2026 school year:

BILINGUAL CHILD STUDY TEAM EVALUATIONS

Learning Tree Multicultural Evaluation & Consulting, Inc. \$880.00/evaluation

CHILD STUDY TEAM SERVICES

J and B Therapy, LLC \$439.00/evaluation
\$99.50/hour

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Creative Speech Solutions \$400.00/evaluation

SPEECH THERAPIST

Creative Speech Solutions \$400.00/evaluation

Mrs. Khemka seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Gong, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Yelisevich, Mr. Cohen
Nays - None

BUSINESS

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

3.1 Settlement Agreement

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Settlement Agreement for Case #05-2025 which is on file at the Board of Education office.

3.2 Bylaws, Policies & Regulations

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

- Bylaw #0173 - Duties of Public School Accountant (with revisions)
- Bylaw #0174 - Legal Services (M) (with revisions)
- Bylaw #0177 - Professional Services (M) (with revision)
- Policy #1620 - Administrative Employment Contracts (M) (with revisions)

Policy #1636.01 - Notification of Promotion, New Job, and Transfer Opportunities (new to district)
 Policy #2422 - Statutory Curricular Requirements (M) (revised)
 Policy #5111 - Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Students (M) (with revisions)
 Policy #5339.01 - Student Sun Protection (M) (new to district)
 Policy #6111 - Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (M) (with revisions)
 Regulation #6111 - Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (M) (with revisions)
 Policy #6220 - Budget Preparation (M) (with revisions)
 Regulation #6220 - Budget Preparation (with revisions)

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP, abolishes the following policies:

Policy #2415.01 - Academic Standards, Academic Assessments and Accountability (M)
 Policy #2415.03 - Highly Qualified Teachers (M)

Mrs. Khemka seconded the motion.

Dr. Fishbein explained that the provisions in the two abolished policies are no longer applicable under NCLB.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Gong, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Yelisevich, Mr. Cohen
 Nays - None

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

4.1 Resignations, Recissions & Retirements

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

Name	Position	Reason	Location	Last Day of Employment
<i>Eileen Seltzer</i>	Playground Aide	Retirement	RHE	June 30, 2025
<i>Emily Verniero</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	MPE	June 30, 2025
<i>Nubia Amparo Garnica Bello</i>	Bus Driver	Resignation	Transportation	June 30, 2025
<i>Necole Gambino</i>	ABA Discrete Trial TA	Resignation	Hillside	NA
<i>Aviva Bertaccini</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	Collins	June 30, 2025
<i>Nicholas Doblovosky</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2025
<i>Gianna Napolitano</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	BHE	NA
<i>Karen Marucci</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	LHS	October 3, 2025

<i>Max Greenberg</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	Hillside	August 29, 2025
<i>Carly Foy</i>	Playground Aide	Resignation	Hillside	June 30, 2025
<i>Priya Krishnamurthy</i>	Playground Aide	Resignation	Hillside	June 30, 2025
<i>Tanya Lazzarini</i>	LPN	Resignation	BHE	September 19, 2025

**as amended from a previous agenda*

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education rescinds the appointment of Employee #8152 to position 0222-060-ADMIN-003 for failure to obtain the proper certification to hold said position.

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>Melanie Bonanne*</i>	Collins	Elementary School Teacher	8/25/2025-9/4/2025 & 9/5/2025-10/20/2025**	10/21/2025-12/1/2025**	12/2/2025-6/30/2026	9/1/2026
<i>James Merlo</i>	HMS	Teacher of Health & PE	9/12/2025-9/26/2025**	NA	NA	9/29/2025
<i>Marjorie Duffy</i>	LHS	School Counselor	12/1/2025-1/30/2026 & 2/2/2026-2/9/2026**	2/10/2026-5/8/2026**	NA	5/11/2026
<i>Jonathan Lee</i>	LHS	Teacher of Business Education	3/17/2026	3/18/2026-6/30/2026**	NA	8/26/2026

**as amended from a previous agenda*

***Designates time counted toward NJFLA/FMLA*

4.3 Transfers

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

4.4 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	Replacing	Guide	Step	Salary	Effective Date
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			or LT Replacement					
<i>Courtney Ferraro</i>	MPMS	Acting Assistant Principal	One Year Acting Position	NA	LAA MPM AP	5	\$120,399, plus \$2,840 longevity (pro-rated)	8/25/2025
<i>Rosemary Nakashian</i>	BHE	Speech Language Specialist	First Year Tenure Track	reallocation of KV SSW position for case management	MA	14	\$94,900 (prorated)	11/11/2025 or earlier if released
<i>Stephen Reyes</i>	HMS	Teacher of Spanish	First Year Tenure Track	I. Vila (transfer)	MA	13	\$91,000	8/25/2025
<i>Abigail Gross*</i>	LHS	Teacher of Art	First Year Tenure Track	J. Ostroff	BA	4	\$59,568	8/25/2025
<i>Laura Seaver*</i>	MPE/RHE	TOSD	First Year Tenure Track	I. Gardner/ M. Golden	BA	15	\$90,800 (prorated)	9/19/2025

**as amended from a previous agenda*

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the appointment of the ABA Discrete Trial TAs and Instructional Aides as listed on **Attachment E**.

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 2025-2026 school year:

Teachers

Aviva Bertaccini
Zoe LaSalandra
Rebecca Campbell

Custodial

Eucal Walker (\$18.50/hr)

Resolved, the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment F** 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.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approve the appointment of the individual(s) listed below to serve as long-term substitutes as reflected below:

Name	Location	Title	Leave Replacement or Long Term Sub	Replacing	Salary	Effective Date
<i>Jodi Shalom</i>	MPE	TOSD	Long Term Sub	L. Seaver	\$133/day	8/26/2025-9/22/2025
<i>Jodi Shalom</i>	Hillside	Intervention/Enrichment Specialist	Long Term Sub	A. King	\$351/day	9/25/2025-12/15/2025

4.6 Extra Period Assignments

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

4.7 Contract Adjustments

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the contract adjustments as listed on **Attachment H**.

4.8 Stipends

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment I** for athletic stipends at Livingston High School for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment J** for co-curricular stipends at Livingston High School for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education rescinds the appointment of *Tom Garzon* to the Mock Trial Advisor co-curricular stipend.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment K** for co-curricular stipends at Heritage Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment L** for District stipends for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment M** to be paid for the stipends as listed in the 2023-2028 LAA contract.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Steven Milano* as a Volunteer in the Television Production class at Livingston High School for the 2025-2026 school year.

4.9 Lateral Moves

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the lateral moves as listed on **Attachment N**.

4.10 Job Descriptions

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following job descriptions:

Registrar (to replace the Registrar/Facilities Coordinator job description)
Supervisor of Special Education (7-12) (with revisions)

Mrs. Khemka seconded the motion.

The board members welcomed and congratulated Mrs. Ferraro on her appointment.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Gong, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Yelisevich, Mr. Cohen
Nayes - None

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:14 p.m. Mrs. Khemka made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Rapp
Board Secretary