



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTING MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2025

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

Public Session - 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 a Facebook livestream. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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, Parul Khemka, Inna Yelisevich and Abe Klein

Members Absent: Fang Gong

Also in Attendance: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Jessica Rapp, Lisa Capone-Steiger and Joann Goldberg

Mrs. Khemka 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, negotiations and personnel

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.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

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

Mr. Cohen asked for a moment of silence for Dr. Brad Draeger, who served as our Superintendent of Schools from 2006 to 2013.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Fishbein explained that over the summer months, the district has been busy hiring new staff, working on curriculum and getting our facilities ready for the start of school. Last month the administrators met for training on adaptive schools and will complete that work tomorrow. On August 18 and 21, we will host a new teacher orientation. On August 25 and 26, our staff return for professional development and to get their rooms ready to greet students on August 27.

Student Representative to the Board

Mrs. Rapp swore in Abe Klein as the new Student Representative to the Board of Education.

Board Reports

There were no board reports.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Khemka moved the minutes as amended at the table:

1. Voting Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2025

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

Vedant Khandelwal, asked the board and administration to consider bringing the Unified Champion School Program and Special Olympics to the district. Mr. Khandelwal competed in the program this past Spring and learned that over 300 New Jersey Schools participate in the program. The program aims to create school environments where all students feel accepted, respected and included.

Khyati Dutt, advocated for the implementation of the Unified Champion School Program and Special Olympics into the district. The program brings students with and without disabilities together through inclusive sports, youth leadership opportunities and whole school engagement. Special Olympics offers grant opportunities to help with the funding and resources to get started.

Cindy Goldstein, who has two students who graduated from the district, shared some of the negative experiences she experienced when her children attempted to advocate for themselves, with the appeal of extraordinary opportunities and with the inflexibility in course scheduling. Mrs. Goldstein will email her statement to the board members.

Amit Khandelwal, advocated for the implementation of the Unified Champion School Program and Special Olympics into the district. Mr. Khandelwal explained that the township offers inclusive sports for students with disabilities outside of the school day and would like to see this program as part of the district's extracurricular offerings. Mr. Khandelwal added that the program offers training, materials and support to help get schools started.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

Mrs. Khemka moved the following:

1.1 Student Teacher Classroom Observations

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

1.2 Professional Services Contract for Historian in Residence

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the "Historian in Residence" contract for the 2025-2026 school year with Professor G. Kurt Piehler of Florida State University at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

STUDENT SERVICES

Mrs. Khemka 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, and for Extended School Year 2025 (Summer Programs) for two (2) 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 B**.

2.2 Related Services

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:

BEHAVIORAL TRAINING & ASSISTANCE / APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS

123ABA, LLC \$125.00/hour

CHILD STUDY TEAM

Sunbelt Staffing \$150.00/hour

INTERPRETER

Natural Languages, LLC \$129.74/hour

ITINERANT TEACHER OF THE DEAF SERVICES

Summit Speech School \$225.00/hour

NURSING SERVICES

Starlight Homecare Agency, Inc RN \$64.00/hour
d/b/a Star Pediatric Home Care Agency LPN \$56.00/hour

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Kashanian, Jessica

\$92.32/hour
\$323.13/evaluation

VISION THERAPY

State of New Jersey, Commission of the Blind

\$2,541.00/Level-1 Service

2.3 US2 Consulting

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the contract with US2 Consulting to provide coaching and technical assistance in support of the learning and planning efforts around educational equity, anti-racism, diversity and inclusion initiated by the district for the 2025-2026 school year.

2.4 Optum Medical Care of New Jersey P.C. d/b/a Riverside Medical Group

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the agreement with Optum Medical Care of New Jersey P.C. d/b/a Riverside Medical Group to provide drug screenings to students and staff in the district from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 at the following rates:

Drug Screen Ten Panel	\$80.00
Physical - School	\$92.00
Drug and Alcohol Screen	\$100.00
Student Assessment Done with Drug Screens	\$100.00

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

BUSINESS

Mrs. Khemka 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.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10,11,12	Operating Budget (checks 112479-112824; adv 294-354)	\$5,225,548.77
20	Operating Budget (checks 112478; adv 294-354)	\$10,242.11
60	Cafeteria (checks 60114-60142)	\$98.85
	TOTAL	\$5,235,889.73

3.2 Transfers

Whereas, the Superintendent of Schools recommends certain transfers among accounts in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 budget for July 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 as shown on **Attachment C**.

3.3 Conferences and Overnight Trips

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

3.4 Donations

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education gratefully accepts the donation of four used violins, valued at a total of \$1,600, from Stephen Bagley, Jr. and Beth Bagley, on behalf of the estate of Nancy A. Bagley, to benefit the Visual and Performing Arts Department of the Livingston Public Schools.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the donation of 350 Big Ideas Math, Course 2, 2014 edition textbooks from the Mathematics Department to the Summit Board of Education.

3.5 Disposal of Textbooks

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the disposal of 100 copies of Big Ideas Math, Course 2, 2014 edition textbooks.

3.6 Settlement Agreement

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Settlement Agreement for Case #04-2025 which is on file at the Board of Education office.

3.7 Tuition Student (Receiving)

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the acceptance of the following tuition student for the 2025-2026 school year:

Student	School	Tuition
278681	Secondary	\$17,995

3.8 Annual Appointments

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following appointments for the 2025-2026 school year which are in effect until changed by resolution:

504 Compliance Officer
Affirmative Action Officers
Anti-Bullying Coordinator
Title IX Coordinator
Educational Stability Liaison

Dr. Maura Tuite
Dr. Maura Tuite and Charles Raphael
Dr. Maura Tuite
Dr. Maura Tuite
Dr. Maura Tuite

3.9 Acceptance: Nonpublic Auxiliary and Handicapped Aid (Chapter 192/193)

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the acceptance of funds from the New Jersey Department of Education for the Nonpublic Auxiliary and Handicapped Services Aid (Chapter 192/193) for the 2025/2026 school year as follows:

Chapter 192 – Compensatory Education	\$43,295.00
Chapter 193 – Initial Exam & Class	\$90,180.00
Chapter 193 – Annual Exam & Class	\$34,580.00
Chapter 193 – Corrective Speech	\$53,010.00
Chapter 193 – Supplemental Instruction	\$114,814.00
Chapter 192 – E.S.L	\$882.00

3.10 Application and Receipt of Funds for IDEA Grants

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the submission and acceptance of funds for the fiscal year 2025-2026 IDEA Grant Application for the following amounts for special education programs:

IDEA Basic	\$1,504,093.00
IDEA Preschool	\$62,206.00

The IDEA Basic amount includes \$266,403.00 of Non-Public Funds. The district’s spending amount for IDEA Basic is \$1,237,690.00.

3.11 Extraordinary Aid Award: FY2025

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education accepts the 2024-2025 Extraordinary Aid Award in the amount of \$1,932,009.00.

3.12 Licensing Agreement

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Licensing Agreement with Mr. Adam Brenner for the encroachment of a chain link fence and/or shrubs and/or trees upon the Board of Education's property.

3.13 Livingston Huaxia Chinese School

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education enters into a contract with the Livingston Huaxia Chinese School for the use of facilities at Mount Pleasant Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year.

3.14 Livingston Chinese School

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education enters into a contract with the Livingston Chinese School for the use of facilities at Heritage Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year.

3.15 Policies & Regulations

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

Policy #2360 - Use of Technology (with revisions)
 Policy #2361 - Acceptable Use of Computer Networks/Computers and Resources (M) (with revisions)
 Policy # 5460 - High School Graduation (M) (with revisions)
 Policy #5530 - Substance Abuse (M) (with revisions)
 Policy #7523 - School District Provided Technology Devices to Students (with revisions)

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education abolishes the following policy:

Policy 1648.15 - Record Keeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings - COVID 19 (M)

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Khemka moved the following:

4.1 Resignations & Retirements

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

Name	Position	Reason	Location	Last Day of Employment
<i>Amanda Cognetti</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Resignation	MPE	June 30, 2025
<i>Deanamarie Salvadore</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	Hillside	June 30, 2025
<i>Diana Terrana</i>	PRIDE Aide	Resignation	BHE	June 30, 2025
<i>Kelly-Ann Russo</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	Harrison	June 30, 2025
<i>Jennifer Ferris-Hoagland</i>	Life Skills TA	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2025
<i>Stefanie Spitz</i>	ABA Discrete Trial TA	Resignation	BHE	June 30, 2025
<i>Jeremy Golden</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	Hillside	June 30, 2025
<i>Yvette Archelus</i>	Playground Aide	Resignation	Riker Hill	June 30, 2025

**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
Jacqueline Gronek	BHE	Teacher of Health & PE	10/13/2025-1/1/2026	1/2/2026-4/10/2026**	NA	4/13/2026
Veronica Terrana*	LHS	Teacher of Italian	NA	8/25/2025-9/10/2025 & 9/11/2025-12/4/2025**	NA	12/5/2025
Michelle Golden	RHE	TOSD	12/1/2025-1/1/2026	1/2/2026-1/21/2026 & 1/22/2026-4/30/2026**	NA	5/1/2026
Breanne Mannes	HMS	TOSD	9/15/2025-10/13/2025	10/14/2025-12/8/2025 & 12/9/2025-3/13/2026**	NA	3/16/2026
Jamal Chavis	BHE	ABA TA	NA	8/25/2025-9/17/2025**	NA	9/18/2025

*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 E**.

4.4 Job Description

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

Executive Director of Special Education and Student Personnel Services

4.5 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
Dr. Maura Tuite	CO	Executive Director of SE & SPS	Tenure Track	NA	NA	NA	\$210,000 (prorated)	8/16/2025-11/30/2025
Orhan Ajeti	LHS	Campus Facility Supervisor	NA	D. Grimes	NA	NA	\$90,000 (prorated)	8/1/2025
Jessica Lukasiewicz*	RHE	Elementary School Teacher	First year Tenure Track	G. Finnegan	MA	3	\$66,568	8/25/2025
Abigail Gross	LHS	Teacher of Art	First Year Tenure Track	J. Ostroff	BA	4	\$59,568 (prorated)	Upon issuance of certification

<i>Caroline Godino</i>	BHE	TOSD	First Year Tenure Track	C. Haggerty (transfer)	MA	9	\$75,568	8/25/2025
<i>Ruth Finkelman*</i>	LHS	Teacher of Mathematics (.8)	First Year Tenure Track	E. Diaz	BA	1	\$45,254* (prorated)	Upon issuance of certification
<i>Donna Anello Feldman*</i>	MPMS	Acting Assistant Principal	NA	NA	LAA AP MPM/Elem	1	\$113,125 (prorated)	Upon issuance of certification
<i>Kathleen Burns</i>	Collins	Elementary School Teacher	One Year Leave Replacement	J. D'Annunzio /M. Bonanne	MA	1	\$64,568	8/25/2025
<i>Melandie Eliscat</i>	HMS	School Social Worker	Leave Replacement	E. DeStefano	MA	1	\$64,568 (prorated)	8/25/2025-2/6/2026
<i>Christen Stefanelli</i>	BHE	Occupational Therapist	First Year Tenure Track	B. Vasto	D	7	\$79,018	8/25/2025
<i>Laura Seaver</i>	MPE/RHE	TOSD	First Year Tenure Track	I Gardner/M Golden	BA	15	\$90,800	upon release from current district
<i>Victoria Santos</i>	Harrison	Custodian (Nights)	NA	J. Barbour	C	1	\$44,554 plus \$975 for nights	8/18/2025
<i>Arjanit Haxhiu</i>	LHS	Custodian (Nights/Weekends)	NA	S. Kellman	C	1	\$44,554 plus \$975 for nights & \$975 for weekend differential	8/18/2025
<i>Catherine Scappetto</i>	RHE	Playground Aide	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$18/hr	8/27/2025

**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 F**.

4.6 Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Personnel Services

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the contract between the LBOE and *Dr. Maura Tuite (Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Personnel Services)*. The contract will commence on December 1, 2025 and end on June 30, 2026. A copy of this contract is on file at the Board Office and has been approved by the Executive County Superintendent.

4.7 Substitutes

Resolved, the Livingston Board of Education approves *Alexandra Wynn* as a certified substitute. This individual is currently employed by the District. She will be compensated an additional \$50/day for this assignment.

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

- Kelly-Ann Russo*
- Ellen Goldstein (retired)*
- Elaine Ricciardi*
- Joshua Zacher*
- Samuel Tafel*
- Ruth Finkelman*

August 12, 2025

Abigail Gross
Alexandra Wynn

Custodial Summer Worker
Max Berkowitz (\$15.50/hr)

Custodial
Jaiden O'Neal (\$18.50/hr)

IT Support Substitute
Francis Sheehan

4.8 Extra Period Assignments

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

4.9 Contract Adjustments

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

4.10 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 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 athletic 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 M** for co-curricular stipends at Mt. Pleasant 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 N** for elementary stipends for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

4.11 Summer Work

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Carolyn Ross* to work an extra 2 days over the summer of 2025. She will be paid at her daily rate and these days will be non-pensionable.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Jean Oscar* to work up to 5 days over the summer of 2025 at his hourly rate.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Jasmine Antunez* to work over the summer of 2025 to take the "Tools of the Mind" curriculum training at no additional cost to the District.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the team leaders on **Attachment O** to work up to six hours over the summer of 2025. Individuals will be compensated at the hourly rate approved for curriculum writing.

4.12 Curriculum Writing

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment P** to participate in summer curriculum writing during the summer of 2025 at the approved rate.

4.13 Lateral Moves

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

4.14 IDEA Basic and IDEA Preschool Salary Allocations

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves and reallocates the salaries of the individuals listed on **Attachment R** to be funded through the IDEA Basic and IDEA preschool grants.

4.15 Memoranda of Understanding

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education enters into a Memorandum of Understanding between itself and the Livingston Administrator's Association (LAA) dated August 12, 2025 regarding summer vacation time.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education enters into a Memorandum of Understanding between itself and the Livingston Education Association (LEA) dated August 12, 2025 regarding stipends.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

Mr. Cohen and Mrs. Khemka congratulated and welcomed Dr. Tuite to her new position.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

There was no HIB report.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

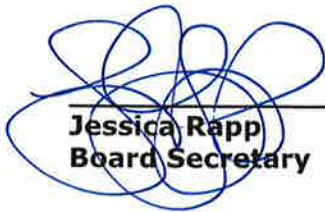
ADJOURNMENT

At 7:20 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