



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2025

Executive Session - Administration Building - 6:00 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 6:00 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 (via Zoom), 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:

- legal and student matter and personnel

Action may be taken upon return to the 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. Khemka seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

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

Superintendent's Report

Board Budget Goals

- Dr. Fishbein reviewed the five board budget goals for the 2026-2027 school year which include:
- Developing a facility improvement plan and scheduling a facility referendum to address enrollment increases and facilities constraints;
 - Support of our five-year curriculum writing cycle;
 - Continue to provide community-supported, research and evidence-based programs and activities to students and staff to enhance the school environment and to embrace what makes our community unique and special;
 - Continue to evaluate and implement district-wide security improvements; and
 - Continue to provide access to high-quality programs, services and resources to support LHS students in their high school planning, post-graduation planning and college application process.

The full presentation is available on our website.

NJSLA and DLM Scores

Mrs. Natalie Topylko first explained that this is the last time students will take the NJSLA. Next year the NJSLA-Adaptive and NJGPA-Adaptive tests are being rolled out with a field test this fall and will be operational in the Spring of 2026.

Mrs. Topylko then presented the NJSLA Spring 2025 results from the assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3-9 and for Science in grades 5, 8 and 11. Mrs. Topylko reviewed the participation levels and went through the data showing students' performance levels in all of the assessments. The cohort chart shows how students progress each year from grade 3 through 9.

Mrs. Topylko explained we use a collaborative process to analyze the data and to develop action plans that impact professional development, classroom instruction and curriculum development/materials selection.

Moving forward, we will continue to implement the universal screening tool from grades K-6 as a means of analyzing student needs for differentiated and small group instruction and skills tracing. There will also be an emphasis on differentiation through tiered instruction to ensure that small group instruction targets the needs identified by the assessments. Data Teams continue to examine the beginning of the year assessments to analyze and triangulate these with the NJSLA scores and classroom observations and assessments.

In Science, we are continuing to collaborate with NJDOE to pilot a new Open Sci Ed curriculum in the elementary grades. In ELA, we implemented a Structured Literacy Program in grades K-2 to support foundational skill development. In Math, we are continuing the implementation of Math in Focus in grade 7. Professional development emphasizing visual representation, mathematical discourse and modelling, visible learning and introducing Grade 8 to Math in Focus concepts is ongoing. K-6 is continuing professional development to support Singapore pedagogy.

The full presentation is available on our website.

Superintendent Search

Dr. Fishbein provided the results of the superintendent search survey, which is also available on our website.

Dr. Fishbein continued that we will be posting for the new superintendent tomorrow based on the input received from the survey and the board, and will share our progress along the way.

Mrs. Burman added the posting will be on multiple sites, including LinkedIn, NJ School Jobs, NJSBA, Google and our website, with applications due on November 26, 2025.

Board Reports

On behalf of the board, Mr. Cohen thanked Mr. Megaro for putting on the educational and spectacular fireworks and drone show last week.

Student Representative's Report

Mr. Klein explained that since the last meeting, the high school held a successful homecoming dance and had a good amount of participation for dressing up during Halloween. Mr. Klein added our football team won on Friday night and girls soccer and cross country are all doing well.

Public Comment

Michelle Amin, suggested eliminating the labs on half days and delayed openings to allow students to have a normal lunch break. Labs cut into lunch on these shortened days.

Amber McWha, on behalf of the cheerleaders at LHS, expressed concern about fair pay for the coaches. There is a fear amongst the cheerleaders that the coaches and assistant coaches will leave the program.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

BUSINESS

Mrs. Khemka moved the following:

3.1 Cheerleading Program

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Livingston Recreation Department Jr. Lancer Cheerleading unit to cheer as part of the Recreation Department program at the Heritage Middle School Winter sports home events.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Gong, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Yelisevich, Mr. Cohen
Nayes - 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>Eileen Saladino</i>	LDT-C	Resignation	MPMS	December 31, 2025

<i>Helana Mikhael</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	Harrison	November 14, 2025
<i>Lisa Haaker</i>	Job Coach	Resignation	LHS	November 28, 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
<i>Danielle Cohen*</i>	HMS	TOSD	1/2/2026-2/27/2026	3/2/2026-5/29/2026**	6/1/2026-6/30/2026	8/26/2026
<i>Laura Larrazabal*</i>	HMS	Teacher of Math	10/9/2025-11/21/2025	11/24/2025-2/20/2026**	NA	2/23/2026
<i>Alicia Ferrell*</i>	Collins/MPE	Teacher of Art	12/5/2025-1/30/2026	2/2/2026-2/20/2026 & 2/23/2026-5/25/2026**	5/26/2026-5/29/2026	6/1/2026

**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
<i>Sandra Lemos</i>	Transportation	35-Hr Bus Driver	NA	NA	BD-35	9	\$41,014 (prorated)	11/16/2025
<i>Aquilla Lassiter</i>	Transportation	35-Hr Bus Driver	NA	NA	BD-35	9	\$41,014 (prorated)	10/27/2025
<i>Lisney Saurith</i>	Transportation	35-Hr Bus Driver	NA	NA	BD-35	9	\$41,014 (prorated)	11/3/2025

**as amended from a previous agenda*

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 2025-2026 school year:

Teachers

Andrew Miller

Samantha Perillo

Playground Aide

Amber van de Beek (\$18/hr)

Custodial

Rushell Paul (\$18.50/hr)

Security

Maria Suarez (\$25/hr)

Freddie Ruth Jr. (\$25/hr)

Resolved, the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment A** 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
Elizabeth Rutan	MPMS	Instructional Aide	Long Term Sub	J. Rupert	\$283/day*	10/23/2025-12/17/2025
Gregory Goldston	LHS	Teacher of Theater Arts	Long Term Sub	S. Patteson	\$283/day	10/1/2025-12/12/2025

**to be paid the difference between her daily rate as an instructional aide and this rate*

4.5 Extra Period Assignments

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

4.6 Stipends

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment C** 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 D** 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 E** 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 F** 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.

4.7 ESEA Grant

Resolved, the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment G** to work at the ELL Family Nights on October 16, 2025, and Spring 2026 at the rate of \$54.23/hour, not to exceed 2 hours per person. These funds will be paid through the ESEA Title III Grant (Account number: 20-241-100-100-1033-12).

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Gong, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Yelisevich, 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 Bus Evacuation Drills

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the attached bus evacuation drill report. All schools completed at least one bus evacuation drill by October 23, 2025.

Mrs. Khemka seconded the motion.

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

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:54 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