



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTING/WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

January 22, 2026

Public Session - Administration Building - 6:00 p.m.

A **Voting/Workshop 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 Parul Khemka, 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 6, 2026 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 and Inna Yelisevich

Also in Attendance: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Jessica Rapp, Dr. Maura Tuite, Mark Stern and Joann Goldberg

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Fishbein explained that next year, the 2026-2027 budget will be extremely challenging; however, he wants to be clear that our current 2025-2026 year budget is in good shape, and we are not experiencing anything financially like what is happening in the news across New Jersey.

Mrs. Khemka added that moving the election is one item they have been exploring to assist with budgets going forward. They found out this is not an option for the 2026-2027 budget cycle so Resolution 3.1 is being tabled.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Mrs. Chirls made a motion to table Resolution 3.1:

BUSINESS

3.1 Establishing the Annual Election Date of the Livingston Board of Education as the Third Tuesday in April

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 (N.J.S.A. 19:60-1.1) authorizes a local board of education to change the annual school election date from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November to the third Tuesday in April; and

WHEREAS, such action requires the adoption of a resolution by a majority vote of a quorum of the local board of education; and

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WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 19:60-1.1(b)(1) stipulates that no such resolution may be adopted until at least four annual school elections have been held in November; and

WHEREAS, the Livingston Board of Education has held at least four such elections in November since moving its election date in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Livingston Board of Education believes it is in the best interest of the community to return the school election to April to restore the voters' right to a separate non-partisan election for board members and a direct vote on the school budget; and

WHEREAS, moving the election back to April will require the annual school election to include a vote on the district's general fund tax levy for the budget year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Livingston Board of Education hereby changes the annual school election from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November to the third Tuesday in April, beginning in [Insert Year, e.g., 2026]; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:60-1.1, the terms of office of the members of the Livingston Board of Education shall be adjusted (shortened) as necessary to coincide with the new April election and subsequent reorganization meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to provide timely notice of this change, in writing, to the Essex County Clerk no less than 85 days prior to the third Tuesday in April to take effect for the upcoming election cycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Essex County Board of Elections, the Essex County Superintendent of Elections, the New Jersey Secretary of State, the Commissioner of Education, and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion to table Resolution 3.1.

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

WORKSHOP ITEM

The workshop portion of tonight's meeting, the board's certification training with New Jersey School Boards Association, has been tabled.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Khemka asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. No action will be taken and the board will not be coming back into public session.

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

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 January 22, 2026 to discuss the matters stipulated, in conformance with the subsections of said act which are indicated.
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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 matters.
 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.

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Rapp
Board Secretary

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