



## **LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES**

March 17, 2026

Public Session - Administration Building - 5:30-6:30 p.m. (training)

Executive Session - Administration Building - 6:30 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. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 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, on the district's website, and communicated to 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

### **Workshop Item**

#### LBOE Training

Megan Fuciarelli of US<sup>2</sup> Consulting provided the board with training on Implicit Bias.

At 6:30 p.m., 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:

- personnel and student matters

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.

Vote all in favor.

March 17, 2026

At 7:12 p.m., Mrs. Khemka reconvened the public meeting.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### Student Safety Data System

Dr. Fishbein reviewed the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) for Report Period 1, which ran from September 1 through December 31, 2025.

### Budget Presentation

Dr. Fishbein explained the 2026-2027 tentative budget includes maintaining all programs that are currently in place for the upcoming school year, continued support for technology and curriculum and a 3.25% salary increase, as per agreements with our associations. It also includes a decrease in debt service due to refinancing bonds.

Dr. Fishbein added that we will use our health care waiver, increase our technology fee from \$30 to \$35 and use the refunding of school bonds to reduce our debt service to help balance the budget.

Dr. Tuite reviewed the Department of Student Services programming and support structure.

Mr. Stern reviewed the Department of Curriculum and Instruction K-6 Initiatives, new and revised high school courses and professional development.

Dr. Fishbein reviewed what is covered under Technology and Facilities in the budget.

Mrs. Rapp explained the tax levy history, where the money comes from, where it goes, and reviewed the non-mandated programs that the district continues to provide. Mrs. Rapp explained that a balanced, tentative 2026-2027 budget will include \$5,611,079 of a health care waiver adjustment, operating tax levy of 6.37% and a decrease in debt service tax levy of 21.61% which equates to a tax increase on the average Livingston home of \$478 a year. The tentative budget will be approved at our March 24, 2026 meeting.

Mrs. Rapp continues to work with our insurance broker on a regular basis as they continue to shop plans but our claims experience is not very good so other companies are not interested in providing us with a quote. Mrs. Rapp continued that HIFs are selective in who they provide a quote; however, we have one that is awaiting our claims experience for February before making that decision.

The public will have an opportunity to comment and/or ask questions about the budget during our March 24, April 7 and April 28 meetings or by attending one of two Public Budget Forums that will be held on April 23 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Comments and/or questions can also be emailed to [budgetquestions@livingston.org](mailto:budgetquestions@livingston.org).

The full presentation is available on our website.

## **Board Reports**

Mr. Cohen explained that he was a parent volunteer during senior games where he watched how students exemplified some of the traits of a Portrait of a Graduate. Students were inclusive and cheered one another on during the event.

Mrs. Yelisevich attended the Art Show that will be on display at the Town Hall this month. The show highlighted the talents of many of our students in both art and music.

Mrs. Chirls and Mrs. Khemka congratulated everyone who worked on the *Shrek The Musical* that they both attended this weekend. Mrs. Chirls expressed she continues to be amazed by our talented students and staff who produce these wonderful productions. Students act, work on the set design and perform the score in the orchestra pit.

### **Student Representative's Report**

Mr. Klein participated in senior games, where he agreed that the whole senior class came together. Mr. Klein also attended *Shrek The Musical* and is also amazed to see all of the great things from our talented students.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

1. Voting Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2026
2. Workshop/Voting Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2026
3. Workshop Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2026

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

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

### **Public Comment**

David Bernstein, West Orange, runs a project called PriceReflect, which benchmarks professional service contracts across NJ school districts using verified public records, so district leaders can understand how their rates compare. Mr. Bernstein shared the website information with Mrs. Rapp.

Neal Ashinsky, asked how many teachers are being RIFd through the budget cuts and how do we learn from our mistakes so that we don't repeat them? Mr. Ashinsky would like to see us push back as a collective unit by telling our State leaders in Trenton that they need to adjust the tax levy cap and hold special education tuition costs to the same cap standard as public schools.

Michelle Amin, asked why the high school multicultural night was scheduled to happen in the middle of Passover. Mrs. Amin asked when Livingston will have a discussion at the State level to create a better policy for excused absences.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL**

### **PROGRAM/CURRICULUM**

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

#### **1.1 Books/Novels**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the books and novels as shown on **Attachment A**.

#### **1.2 Student Teacher**

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

**1.3 Field Trip**

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

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

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

**STUDENT SERVICES**

Mr. Cohen 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 three (3) 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 D**.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

**BUSINESS**

Mrs. Chirls 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.

<b><u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
10,11,12	Operating Budget (checks 115125-115456)	\$16,907,230.02
20	Operating Budget (checks 115125-115456)	\$247,656.90
60	Cafeteria (checks 60184-60189)	\$217,854.74
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$17,372,741.66

**3.2 Board Secretary Report – January 2026**

**Whereas**, the Livingston Board of Education has received the Report of the Board Secretary for January 30, 2026, consisting of:

- 1) Interim Balance Sheets

- 2) Interim Statements Comparing Budgeted Revenue with Actual to Date and Appropriations with Expenditures and Encumbrances to Date
- 3) Schedule of Revenues - Actual Compared with Estimated
- 4) Statement of Appropriations Compared with Expenditures and encumbrances, and

**Whereas**, the Livingston Board of Education has received the report of the Treasurer for January 30, 2026, which report is in agreement with the Report of the Board Secretary, and

**Whereas**, these reports show the following balances on the date indicated:

	Cash Balance	Appropriation Balance	Fund Balance
(10) General Current Exp. Fund	\$8,009,763.28	\$74,760,151.78	\$5,689,254.58
(11) Current Expense			
(12) Capital Outlay			
(20) Special Revenue Fund	(\$106,881.80)	\$2,945,546.00	(\$.12)
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$328,054.81	\$2,270,800.00	\$1,899,226.81
(40) Debt Service Fund	(\$628,943.87)	\$276,588.33	\$174,139.80
Total:	\$7,601,992.42	\$80,253,086.11	\$7,762,621.07

**Whereas**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c3), the Board Secretary has certified that as of January 30, 2026, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments contractual orders which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8, 18A:22-8.1, now therefore be it

**Resolved**, the Livingston Board of Education accepts the above referenced reports and certification and directs that they be made part of this resolution by reference, and be it

**Further Resolved**, the Livingston Board of Education certifies that, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c4) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

### **3.3 Transfers**

**Whereas**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends certain transfers among accounts in the 2025-2026 budget for January 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 E**.

### **3.4 Conferences and Overnight Trips**

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

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Julianne Karpack, Ryan Karpack and Dave Richards* to chaperone approximately eight students attending the Shell Eco-Marathon Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana, from April 7 to 12, 2026.

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Brynn Smith* and *Issam(Sam) Helwani* to chaperone approximately 12 students attending the History Bowl National Tournament in Arlington, Virginia, from April 23 to 27, 2026.

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Dan Quackenbush*, *Katherine Collins* and *Michael Buonomo* to chaperone approximately 31 students attending the DECA International Competition in Atlanta, Georgia, from April 25 to 29, 2026.

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Doug Jay* and *Kelly Gallagher* to chaperone approximately five students attending the NJ Envirothon State Competition in Waretown, New Jersey from May 8 to 9, 2026.

### **3.5 Student Safety Data System**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education accepts the Student Safety Data System report as presented for Report Period 1 of the 2025-2026 school year.

### **3.6 Joint Transportation Agreement with Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education enters into a jointure with Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative for the coordination of transportation services for the 2026-2027 school year.

### **3.7 Joint Transportation Agreement with Educational Services Commission of Morris County**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education enters into a jointure with the Educational Services Commission of Morris County for the coordination of transportation services for the 2026-2027 school year.

### **3.8 Donation**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the \$3,204.51 donation from Home Depot for use in our Science and Technology Departments.

### **3.9 Bylaws, Policies and Regulations**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following Bylaws, Policies and Regulations for first reading:

- Policy #5535 - Passive Breath Alcohol Sensor Device (with revisions)
- Policy #6115.04 - Federal Funds - Duplication of Benefits (M) (new to district)
- Policy #9700 - Special Interest Groups (with revisions)
- Policy #9713 - Recruitment by Special Interest Groups (M) (with revisions)

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

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

**PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Chirls 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
Sara Osmer	Teacher of Math	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2026

*\*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
Antonio Matheus*	LHS/HMS	Supervisor of Math (7-12)	1/5/2026-3/18/2026 & 3/23/2026 - 3/27/2026(.5)**	NA	NA	3/25/2026
Cara Dlugo	LHS	Teacher of Health & PE	6/5/2026-6/30/2026 & 8/26/2026-9/16/2026**	9/17/2026-11/18/2026**	NA	11/19/2026
Michael Munley	LHS	Teacher of Health & PE	11/19/2026-1/1/2027**	1/4/2027-2/25/2027**	NA	2/26/2027

*\*as amended from a previous agenda*

*\*\*Designates time counted toward NJFLA/FMLA*

**4.3 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**

- Benjamin Shaffron-Davis*
- James Austin Bailey*
- Taylor Jones*
- Stacey Prince*
- Vaishali Sarje*

**Resolved**, the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment G** 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
Jodi Shalom	Hillside	TOSD	Long Term Sub	P. Price	\$351/day	4/16/2026-5/15/2026

#### 4.4 Termination

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the termination of employment of *Employee #9233* for abandonment of position effective March 9, 2026.

#### 4.5 Extra Period Assignments

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

#### 4.6 2025-2026 Daily/Hourly Rates

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education amends the Daily and Hourly Rates for the 2025-2026 school year as listed on **Attachment I**.

#### 4.7 Stipends

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment J** 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 K** 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.

#### 4.8 Mentor Fees

**Resolved**, the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment L** listed as assigned mentors to receive payment in accordance with the schedule listed.

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE** - Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Gong, Mrs. Yelisevich, Mrs. Khemka  
Nayes - 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 Suspension Report

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the suspension report for the months of December, January and February.

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

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

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

There was no new business.


**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:06 p.m., Mr. Cohen made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,**



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**Jessica Rapp**  
**Board Secretary**

March 17, 2026

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