



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Executive Session - Virtual Meeting via Zoom - 6:45 p.m.

Public Session - Virtual Meeting Via Zoom and Facebook Live – 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 Zoom and Facebook Live. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by the Board President, Samantha Messer, who announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by amendment to notice approved at the Board's reorganization meeting on January 4, 2021 and posted at the Board of Education office and communicated to *The Star Ledger*, *West Essex Tribune*, *TAPinto Livingston* and the Livingston Township Clerk.

Mrs. Konner 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

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

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khanna, Mrs. Konner, Ms. Messer
Nayes - None

At 7:15 p.m., Ms. Messer reconvened the public meeting.

Members Present: Pamela Chirls, Seth Cohen, Ronnie Konner and Samantha Messer

Members Absent: Vineeta Khanna and Aditya Desai

Also in Attendance: Dr. Matthew Block, Steven Robinson, Lisa Capone-Steiger, Mark Stern, Susan Burman and Joann Goldberg

There were approximately 70 members of the public and staff watching remotely through the webinar and a Facebook Live Stream.

Workshop Items

1. The "Do Happy" Program

Mrs. Bronawyn O'Leary, the principal of MPMS, explained they launched the "Do Happy" project with students in March and that the program allowed students to connect with each other outside of technology, supported writers and artists and built strong minds and bodies. Mrs. O'Leary introduced Barbara Warter, the President of Warter Strong Foundation and Melissa Giordano, a special education teacher in her building.

Mrs. Warter explained the "Do Happy" project grew from her foundation and that the goal was to create an action based program to help with social emotional learning. The program is built on the concept that "happy" is a verb and was created to get students to redefine happiness as something they can do, giving them a different idea of what "happy" could be.

Ms. Giordano explained students were encouraged to explore different ways to "do happy" such as spending time with a friend, family member or pet, overcoming an obstacle, trying something new, creating something and participating in a charity activity. Ms Giordano concluded that this simple but empowering action based message can help empower students to overcome obstacles and they hope that they continue to use this tool to "do happy."

Mrs. Warter thanked everyone for giving her the opportunity to bring this program in and hopes to bring it into multiple schools in the future.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Block announced elementary students were back in school for full days this week and are enjoying lunch and recess outside.

Dr. Block congratulated Aditya Desai and the rest of the team who received first place at the high school mathematics competition. We will be posting an article about our students that is featured in "Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics."

Dr. Block congratulated Hillside School for being named a 2021 National School of Character.

Dr. Block congratulated Sinead Crews and Natalie Topylko for being asked by the New Jersey School Boards Association to present information about our development and implementation of a "counselor check-in tool" through Qualtrics.

Dr. Block welcomed Tanya Lopez-Gonzalez, who will be appointed tonight in the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Professional Development position.

On behalf of the board, for Teacher Appreciation Week, Ms. Messer extended their thanks to all of the teachers for going well above and beyond anything we could have expected these past 16 months and for their heroic efforts on behalf of all our students.

Board Reports

Mr. Cohen attended the TREP\$ marketplace at Hillside School and congratulated everyone involved.

Mrs. Konner thanked Michelle Bent for publicizing all of the wonderful activities going on throughout the district.

Ms. Messer announced that the board has decided to hold a public forum on May 24 at 6 p.m. to hear from the public their thoughts on a five versus seven versus nine member board. The board will not engage in a discussion at the forum, it is just an opportunity to hear from the public.

Ms. Messer continued that the board members are conducting their own research by interviewing boards of other sizes in different districts, superintendents and former board members. Ms. Messer added they are also looking at the self-evaluation data of boards of different sizes. Ms. Messer stated all of this information plus public input will help them make a decision on whether or not to add the question of increasing the board size to the November ballot. A public discussion about their findings will be held at the June 14 meeting and a vote will be held at the June 21 meeting.

Mrs. Chirls added the board will be utilizing a document created by Mr. Cohen so that there is consistency in the questions being asked in all of their interviews.

Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes

Mike Ramer, 22 Mohawk Drive, asked if their discussions about board size will lead to a decision on whether or not it will go to a public vote.

Ms. Messer responded after a discussion, the board will vote whether or not to put it on the ballot. If it goes on the ballot, it is then up to the public.

Mr. Ramer suggested communication about the meeting and agendas be provided to the public earlier and requested the public forum on board size be changed to a time other than 6 p.m.

VOTING ITEMS

PERSONNEL

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

4.1 Resignations

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

Name	Position	Reason	Location	Last Day of Employment
<i>Kristy Mullen</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Retirement	Harrison	June 30, 2021
<i>Matthew Schinelli</i>	Teacher of Health & PE	Retirement	Hillside	June 30, 2021
<i>Nino-Thaddeus Acosta</i>	Teacher of Business Ed	Resignation	LHS	May 11, 2021
<i>Kathleen Custer</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Resignation	Collins	June 30, 2021
<i>Ning He</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	HMS	May 31, 2021

**as amended from a previous agenda*

Mrs. Konner seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Konner, Ms. Messer
Nays - None

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

4.2 Leaves of Absences

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the leaves of absences of:

Name	Position	Location	LOA w/pay and benefits	LOA w/o pay, but with benefits (if applicable)	Extended LOA w/o pay or benefits	Return Date
<i>Dina Ferraro</i>	Teacher of English	MPMS	9/22/2021-10/19/2021	10/20/2021-1/19/2022**	1/20/2022-2/11/2022	2/14/2022
<i>Diane Mondoro*</i>	Teacher of Business Ed	LHS	4/14/2021-5/11/21 (.5)	5/11/2021 (.5)-5/26/2021**	NA	5/27/2021
<i>Kristen Murray*</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Hillside	12/14/2020-3/5/2021	3/8/2021-6/4/2021**	6/7/2021-6/30/2022	8/30/2022
<i>Amy Morgan*</i>	Instructional Aide	MPE	9/9/2020-9/18/2020 & 9/21/2020-12/2/2020**	NA	12/3/2020-6/30/2021	TBD
<i>Stefanie Velardi*</i>	Elementary School Teacher	BHE	4/5/2021-6/11/2021 & 6/14/2021-6/24/2021** & 8/30/2021-9/9/2021**	9/10/2021-10/29/2021**	NA	11/1/2021

**as amended from a previous agenda*

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

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Konner, Ms. Messer
Nays - None

Ms. Messer asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for ten minutes to review Attachment A.

Mrs. Chirls made the motion.

Mrs. Konner seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Konner, Ms. Messer
Nays - None

At 8:47 p.m., the public meeting reconvened and Mrs. Khanna joined the meeting.

Mr. Cohen made a motion on 4.3, Employee #4029:

4.3 Transfers

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

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khanna, Ms. Messer
 Nays - Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Konner

Mrs. Khanna commented she voted in complete confidence in the leaders of the district and hopes all the reservations shared have been taken into account moving forward.

Mrs. Konner made a motion on 4.3, Employee #4373:

4.3 Transfers

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

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khanna, Mrs. Konner, Ms. Messer
 Nays - None

Mr. Cohen moved 4.4 through 4.12:

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 or LT Replacement	Replacing	Guide	Step	Salary	Effective Date
<i>Tanya Lopez-Gonzalez</i>	CO	Director of Curriculum, Instruction & PD	First Year Tenure Track	M. Kopacz	NA	NA	\$137,000	7/1/2021 or a date thereafter if not released
<i>Allison Winka</i>	RHE	Reading Specialist	First Year Tenure Track	G. Lacourtna	MA+32	14	\$101,708, plus \$2,340 longevity	8/30/2021
<i>Michael Gerst</i>	HMS	Teacher of Social Studies	First Year Tenure Track	C. Maccarella	BA	3	\$55,250	8/30/2021
<i>Dana Elphick</i>	HMS	Teacher of English	First Year Tenure Track	K. Carey	BA	1-2	\$54,550	8/30/2021
<i>Raymond Snyder</i>	LHS	Teacher of Business Education	First Year Tenure Track	T. Acosta	MA	11	\$80,553	8/30/2021

<i>Marissa Reynolds</i>	MPE	Elementary School Teacher	One Year Leave Replacement	A. Cognetti	BA+32	1	\$59,032	8/30/2021
<i>Eric Hazelcorn</i>	Hillside	Elementary School Teacher	First Year Tenure Track	C. Damante	MA	3	\$62,648	8/30/2021
<i>Jessica Reid</i>	Hillside	Elementary School Teacher	First Year Tenure Track	J. Kestler (transfer)	BA+16	3	\$57,250	8/30/2021
<i>Jennifer Gee</i>	LHS	Teacher of Math/ Computer Science	First Year Tenure Track	J. Page	BA	1-2	\$54,550	8/30/2021
<i>Jill DeBiase</i>	Elementary	Teacher of Music	First Year Tenure Track	B. Seltzer (transfer)	MA	10	\$76,558	8/30/2021
<i>Karissa Phillip</i>	Elementary	Teacher of Music	First Year Tenure Track	new position for change in elementary schedule	MA	8	\$68,665	8/30/2021
<i>Damien Woolridge</i>	LHS	PT Custodian	NA	R. Setalsingh (transfer)	C	2** *	\$20,913** (pro-rated)	5/10/2021
<i>Shawn Kellman</i>	LHS	Night/ Weekend Custodian	NA	M. Stewart (transfer)	C	2** *	\$41,260 (pro-rated) plus \$975 for nights & \$975 for weekends	5/10/2021

*as amended from a previous agenda

**(.5) of Step 2 of custodial guide

***will remain at the same step in 2021-2022 in accordance with Article X, Section II.C. of the LEA contract

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the appointment of the ABA Discrete Trial TA's and Instructional Aides as listed on **Attachment B**.

4.5 Substitutes

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment C** as 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 for that assignment.

Teachers

Luther Eason

Colin McBride

Name	Location	Title	Leave Replacement or Long Term Sub	Replacing	Salary	Effective Date
<i>Colin McBride</i>	HMS	Teacher of Social Studies	Long Term Sub	L. Friedman	\$266/day	upon issuance of certificate - June 24, 2021

4.6 Stipends

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment D** for athletic stipends at Livingston High School for the 2020-2021 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 co-curricular stipends at Mt. Pleasant Middle School for the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

4.7 2021-2022 Reappointments

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the reappointment of certificated staff for the 2021-2022 school year as shown on **Attachment F**.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the reappointment of security staff for the 2021-2022 school year as shown on **Attachment G**.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the reappointment of support staff for the 2021-2022 school year as shown on **Attachment G**.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the reappointment of Supervisors for the 2021-2022 school year as shown on **Attachment H**.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the reappointment of certificated Administrators for the 2021-2022 school year as shown on **Attachment H**.

4.8 Withholding of Increment

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the withholding of increment for Employee #6551 whose total salary will remain at the 2020-2021 rate of \$66,661 for the 2021-2022 school year.

4.9 Approval and Rates for Home Instruction Personnel

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education adopts the rate as specified in Article XX on page 107 of the LEA contract for all individuals providing home instruction for the 2021-2022 school year, whether currently or formerly employed by the district, regardless of the capacity in which the individual is/was employed, provided proper certification is held. Furthermore, with this resolution, the Board authorizes all appropriately certified current employees, retirees and approved substitutes of the district to serve as home instructors for the 2021-2022 school year, provided they have not had a break in service and have appropriate criminal history review authorization on file with the district.

4.10 Summer Work

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment I** to perform work over the summer of 2021 in accordance with Article VII, Section VII of the LEA contract. The number of days are listed and individuals shall be paid at their daily rate of pay.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Christie Giacobbe, Erin Field and Emily Petrillo*, SAC's at Livingston High School and Heritage Middle School, respectively, to work up to 5 days over the summer of 2021 at their per diem rate.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education authorizes all Child Study Team Members to work up to 10 days over the summer of 2021, with the prior approval of the Assistant Superintendent, at their hourly/per diem rate in accordance with the contract between the Livingston Board of Education and the Livingston Education Association. These days will become part of their pensionable salary. Any days worked in excess of the aforementioned 10 days,

must also be pre-approved by the Assistant Superintendent, and will be paid by green sheet at their hourly/per diem rate.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education authorizes all regular and special education teachers to participate in summer IEP meetings during the summer of 2021 at the request of the Assistant Superintendent. Individuals who participate will be compensated at their 2021-2022 hourly rate of pay.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves all Livingston Public Schools Related Service Providers to work over the summer of 2021 on an as needed basis, by request or with prior approval of the Assistant Superintendent, at their 2021-2022 hourly rates.

4.11 Extra Period Assignments

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment J** for extra period assignments during the 2020-2021 school year.

4.12 Extra Work Pay

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education authorizes *John Letich* to be paid in accordance with Article X, Section II.A. of the contract from January 20, 2021 through March 1, 2021 for assuming the role of Head Custodian at Riker Hill Elementary School.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education authorizes *Benjie Beriso* to be paid in accordance with Article X, Section II.A. of the contract from May 10, 2021 through June 2, 2021 for assuming the role of Head Custodian at Riker Hill Elementary School.

Mrs. Khanna seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khanna, Mrs. Konner, Ms. Messer
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.

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khanna, Mrs. Konner, Ms. Messer
Nayes - None

PREVIEW OF MAY 24, 2021 VOTING AGENDA

The board reviewed the items on the upcoming agenda.

Superintendent's Report

1. Conference with Livingston Education Association
2. District Goals

1. **PROGRAM/CURRICULUM**
 - 1.1 **Student Teacher**
3. **BUSINESS**
 - 3.1 **Payment of Bills**
 - 3.2 **Board Secretary Report – March 2021**
 - 3.3 **Transfers**
 - 3.4 **Safety Grant**
 - 3.5 **Sale of SRECs**
 - 3.6 **Virtual Conferences**
 - 3.7 **Capital Lease**
 - 3.8 **Annual Appointments**
 - 3.9 **Bylaws, Policies & Regulations**

Mr. Robinson explained he is asking the board to vote on a capital lease at the next meeting since we have not yet heard anything about the additional grant money we anticipate receiving. We will use these funds, minus what we received from the ESSER II grant, to purchase devices for three grade levels as well as the buses and vans that are due to be replaced and some maintenance items.

The board decided to keep the public listening forum at 6 p.m. on May 24. Mrs. Konner suggested we take written comments prior to meeting in case someone is unable to attend. Dr. Block agreed and will work it out with Michelle Bent.

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

There was no public comment.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m., Mr. Cohen made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mrs. Konner seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven K. Robinson
Board Secretary