



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 15, 2023

Public Session - Hybrid Meeting - Livingston High School Auditorium - 7:00 p.m.

A **Workshop/Voting Meeting** of the Livingston Board of Education was held on this date in the Livingston High School Auditorium and via Zoom and Facebook Live. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Vineeta Khanna, 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 3, 2023 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: Jenissa Arnette, Pamela Chirls, Seth Cohen, Vineeta Khanna, Parul Khemka and Jeffrey Xu

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

Superintendent's Report

1. Governor's Educator of the Year Ceremony

This year's Teachers of the Year were celebrated.

Mrs. Baretto acknowledged Stephanie Chinni from Burnet Hill Elementary School, Mrs. Cebula acknowledged Katherine Miller from Collins Elementary School, Mr. Garcia acknowledged Jodi Frohnepfel from Harrison Elementary School, Mr. Gramata acknowledged Marisa Gengaro from Hillside Elementary School, Ms. Dolan acknowledged Dana Triana from Mt. Pleasant Elementary School, Mr. Bickel acknowledged Anna Maria Corino from Riker Hill Elementary School, Mrs. O'Leary acknowledged Alexandra Fiore from Mt. Pleasant Middle School, Mr. Kelly acknowledged Susan Tannler from Heritage Middle School and Ms. Rosenzweig acknowledged David Mead from Livingston High School. Mrs. Steiger and Mrs. Cebula acknowledged Amanda Clayton as the Educational Services Professional of the Year.

2. Equity Audit

Dr. Block provided an overview of the equity audit, which explained that we have entered into an agreement with an external organization to identify areas of success and areas of focus. The organization will review existing data, collect new data and provide us with recommendations. Dr. Block encouraged community members to participate, adding that those who want to learn more or see how to get involved, should visit our equity webpage. In addition, tonight's presentation will be posted on our website.

Dr. Block also explained that the organization will provide us with periodic updates throughout the process and that the first one is scheduled for our June 12 board meeting.

When asked how the focus groups will be put together, Dr. Block and Mrs. Steiger explained that the auditors will be putting together some groups that will be specifically chosen by them and that some groups will be more global. Invitations to join the groups will be advertised through our regular communication measures in order to get maximum participation. Parent and student feedback will also be solicited in this process.

Board Reports

Mr. Cohen congratulated the high school on adding the National Art Signing Day, which is similar to what we do for our athletes, and hopes it becomes a tradition.

Mrs. Khanna commended the students at Riker Hill for their social skills and relational intelligence after receiving a thank you card for reading to their class.

Student Representative's Report

Mr. Xu congratulated the students at the high school for their hard work in completing their AP exams and to the teachers for preparing them to take them. Mr. Xu congratulated all of the seniors who made their college decisions and to the volleyball team for winning the Essex County Finals.

Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes

Hannah Kim, 26 Mayhew Drive, thanked the administration and board for their efforts in the equity and inclusion field. Ms. Kim asked where the district stands with our curriculum for the unfunded mandate to the AAPI law that Governor Murphy signed last year.

Ms. Rosenzweig, Principal of LHS, congratulated all of the teachers who were recognized tonight and wished all the best to Ruth Rosenman, who is retiring from the high school and the Monmouth Court Campus after 22 years of service.

Natalie Tsur, West Essex Tribune, asked how the focus groups will be determined.

Sara Goldstein, asked if all of the parents and students will receive a survey through the equity audit and if any parent interested in participating in a focus group will be afforded the opportunity.

Francesca Hunt, 121 East Cedar Street, asked who is eligible to participate in the summer intervention program and what they learn.

Nita Vaswani, asked how parents can join the focus groups and what is the best and most expeditious way to do so.

Mr. Stern responded that the AAPI standards are being worked into the curriculum and are funded the same way we write and fund all of our curriculum writing. Mr. Stern added that we are working with Great Schools Partnership on a K-12 social studies audit to identify where we may have gaps so that they can be properly addressed.

Dr. Block responded that some of the focus groups will be determined by the consultants but there will be a chance for everyone to participate in open focus groups. Once the dates of the open focus groups are determined, we will communicate the information out to the community.

Mrs. Steiger added that all students in Grades 4 and up and all of the parents, both in and out of the district, will receive the equity survey.

Mrs. Steiger continued that the equity committees are always open and parents should reach out to their principal to participate. Mrs. Steiger added that the consultants have asked to meet with the equity committee but there will also be opportunities for parents to attend an open focus group.

Mrs. Steiger responded that the summer intervention program is a follow up to support students who receive intervention during the school year and that participation is by invitation only.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

PERSONNEL

Mr. Cohen 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>Ruth Rosenman</i>	Teacher of Science	Retirement	LHS	June 30, 2023
<i>Angelo Lekkas</i>	25-Hour Bus Driver	Retirement	Transportation	June 30, 2023
<i>Konstantina Lekkas</i>	Bus Aide	Retirement	Transportation	June 30, 2023
<i>Yulee Chuy</i>	Assistant Principal	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2023
<i>Joshua Weiss</i>	School Social Worker	Resignation	MPMS	June 30, 2023
<i>Lindita Agastra</i>	Interim ABA	Resignation	CO	June 30, 2023
<i>Allison Backer</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Resignation	RHE	June 30, 2023
<i>Sarah Robey</i>	TOSD	Resignation	MPE	June 30, 2023
<i>Nicole Cicchino</i>	Teacher of Social Studies	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2023
<i>Kimberly Hughes</i>	Job Coach	Resignation	LHS	May 31, 2023
<i>Terri Ciecierski</i>	Job Coach	Resignation	LHS	May 31, 2023
<i>Paul Steiner</i>	Job Coach	Resignation	LHS	May 31, 2023
<i>Marci Rosenstark</i>	Job Coach	Resignation	LHS	May 31, 2023

<i>Daniela Brando</i>	Job Coach	Resignation	LHS	May 31, 2023
<i>Lisa Dascoli</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	HMS	June 30, 2023
<i>Joanna Lin</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	Harrison	June 30, 2023
<i>Francesca LaPolla</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	BHE	June 30, 2023
<i>Andre Starnes</i>	25-Hour Bus Driver	Resignation	Transportation	May 25, 2023

**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>Yooree Gillman*</i>	LHS	Teacher of Math	4/21/2023-6/20/2023 (.5)	6/20/2023 (.5) - 6/30/2023 & 8/30/2023-11/24/2023**	11/27/2023-1/25/2024	1/26/2024
<i>Mary Kate O'Brien*</i>	HMS	School Counselor	2/3/2023-4/7/2023	4/10/2023-6/30/2023 & 8/30/2023-9/6/2023**	9/7/2023-6/30/2024	8/30/2024
<i>Bethany Weissman*</i>	BHE	Speech Language Specialist	4/24/2023-5/22/2024	5/23/2023-6/30/2023 & 8/30/2023-11/24/2023**	11/27/2023-2/2/2024	2/5/2024
<i>Sara Kiene</i>	Harrison	Intervention/Enrichment Specialist	10/2/2023-11/27/2023	11/27/2023-3/1/2024**	3/4/2024-6/30/2024	8/30/2024
<i>Melissa Serrani</i>	MPMS	BSI Reading	6/8/2023-6/30/2023	8/30/2023-11/24/2023**	11/27/2023-2/9/2024	2/12/2024
<i>Kelly Nann</i>	LHS	Teacher of Health & PE	8/30/2023-9/29/2023	10/2/2023-1/1/2024**	NA	1/2/2024
<i>Patrick Nann</i>	HMS	Teacher of Health & PE		9/4/2023-11/24/2023**	NA	11/27/2023
<i>Dr. Christina Piccirillo</i>	LHS	School Psychologist (LINKS)	8/30/2023-9/29/2023	10/2/2023-1/1/2024**	NA	1/2/2024
<i>Jennifer Torres*</i>	LHS	Teacher of English	9/14/2023-11/24/2023	11/27/2023-2/29/2024**	NA	3/1/2024
<i>Kathleen Giordano*</i>	RHE	School Nurse	3/30/2023-4/11/2023**	4/12/2023-5/5/2023**	NA	5/8/2023
<i>Stefanie Velardi*</i>	Harrison	BSI Math	5/1/2023-6/30/2023	8/30/2023-10/6/2023**	NA	10/9/2023
<i>Michele Green</i>	Harrison	Elementary School Teacher	3/28/2023-5/5/2023	5/8/2023-6/30/2023**	NA	8/30/2023
<i>Nicole DiStefano</i>	MPE	School Psychologist	9/25/23-11/15/2023	11/16/2023-2/9/2024**	NA	2/12/2024

Deniz Schwartz	LHS	Teacher of Art	9/5/2023-10/20/2023	10/23/2023-1/19/2024**	1/22/2024-6/30/2024	8/30/2024
Onelia Rodriguez*	HMS	Custodian	NA	NA	4/3/2023-TBD	TBD

*as amended from a previous agenda

**Designates time counted toward NJFLA/FMLA

4.3 Transfers

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

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
Sara Kiene	Harrison	Intervention/Enrichment Specialist	Leave Replacement	S. Velardi	MA	8	\$69,625	8/30/2023
Jodi Shalom	Harrison	TOSD	Leave Replacement	S. Kiene	MA+32	2	\$69,375	8/30/2023
Axel Marrero	Hillside	Teacher of Spanish	Leave Replacement	R. Gonzalez	BA	2	\$55,775	8/30/2023
Jenny Ostroff	LHS	Teacher of Art	First Year Tenure Track	A. Brown	MA	7	\$66,825	8/30/2023
Anne Terkovich	Harrison	Teacher of Art	First Year Tenure Track	E. Dandash	MA	10	\$77,525	8/30/2023
Isabella Gardner	MPE	TOSD	First Year Tenure Track	J. George	MA	10	\$77,525	8/30/2023
Lexie Calvert	Collins	Elementary School Teacher	First Year Tenure Track	K. Berrios	MA	2	\$63,775	8/30/2023
Jonathan Lee	LHS	Teacher of Business Ed	First Year Tenure Track	R. Snyder	BA	5	\$57,175	8/30/2023
Christopher Djurin	MPMS	IT Support Specialist	NA	J. Allard (transfer)	NA	NA	\$62,500, plus \$1,200 BS degree	7/1/2023
Gary Schwerzler	LHS	District Audiovisual & IT Support Specialist	NA	P. Gutheil	NA	NA	\$62,500, plus \$1,200 BS degree (prorated)	5/31/2023
Maria Reed	Transportation	25-Hr Bus Driver	NA	G. Silva	25 Hr BD	9	\$31,974	8/30/2023
Kathryn Layton	MPE	Playground Aide	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$18.00/hr	5/11/2023

*as amended from a previous agenda

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**.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Dr. Mark Faber* as a consulting Psychiatrist at the rate of \$300 per hour for 4 hours per week from May 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

4.5 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 2022-2023 school year:

Teachers

Linda Kleban (retired)

Lisa Quinlan

Roger Berg

4.6 Extra Period Assignments

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment C** for extra period assignments during the 2022-2023 school year.

4.7 ESEA Grant

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment D** for the *ELL Homework Help* at the rate listed. This program will be paid through ESEA Title III Immigrant grant funds.

4.8 Stipends

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment E** for athletic stipends at Livingston High School for the 2022-2023 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 Livingston High School for the 2022-2023 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education amends the appointment of the individuals on **Attachment G** as Student Equity Advisors for the 2022-2023 school year.

4.9 2023-2024 Reappointments

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the reappointment of certificated staff for the 2023-2024 school year as shown on **Attachment H**.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the reappointment of security staff for the 2023-2024 school year as shown on **Attachment I**.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the reappointment of support staff for the 2023-2024 school year as shown on **Attachment I**.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the reappointment of Supervisors for the 2023-2024 school year as shown on **Attachment J**.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the reappointment of certificated Administrators for the 2023-2024 school year as shown on **Attachment J**.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the reappointment of the non-certified school nurses for the 2023-2024 school year as shown on **Attachment K**.

4.10 Updated Salaries

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the 2023-2024 salaries for the individuals listed on **Attachment L** who were appointed prior to the LEA contract ratification on April 25, 2023.

4.11 Summer Work

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the School Counselors listed on **Attachment M** to work up to the number of days reflected at their per diem rate. Employees will be required to submit timesheets over the summer and once reconciled, days listed will be included in the employee's pensionable salary per the LEA Contract, unless otherwise noted.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment N** to work over the summer of 2023 at the Summer Intervention Program at \$63.20/hr.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Zachary Levine* as a summer worker in the Buildings & Grounds Department for the summer of 2023 at an hourly rate of \$14.

4.12 Longevity

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment O** for longevity on July 1, 2023 or September 1, 2023.

4.13 Increases of FTE's for Positions at LHS Beginning During the 2023-2024 School Year

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the increase from .6 to 1.0 (+.4 FTE) for the Teacher of Dance at Livingston High School for the 2023-2024 school year. This increase will be inclusive of the choreography stipend that is currently in the LEA contract and will be archived.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education transfers 1.0 FTE from the Teacher of Technology Education position to a Teacher of Science position for the 2023-2024 school year. The Board further approves the increase of .2 FTE in the Technology Department and an additional .35 FTE for the Science Department as extra period assignments to meet scheduling needs.

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Khanna
Nays - None

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Cohen 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 March and April.

May 15, 2023

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Khanna
Nays - None

PREVIEW OF MAY 23, 2023 VOTING MEETING AGENDA

The board reviewed items that will be voted on at the next meeting.

Superintendent's Report

1. End-of-Year District Goals Report

1. PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

1.1 Field Trip

2. STUDENT SERVICES

2.1 Out of District Placements

2.2 Related Services/Medical Consultants

3. BUSINESS

3.1 Payment of Bills

3.2 Board Secretary Report – March 2023

3.3 Transfers

3.4 Conferences and Overnight Trips

3.5 Approval of Academic Calendars

3.6 General Education Out of District Tuition Rates

3.7 Sale of SRECs

3.8 New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association

3.9 Architectural Services – Proposal for Professional Services for Modular Buildings at Burnet Hill and Hillside Elementary Schools

3.10 Essex Regional Educational Services Commission

3.11 Joint Transportation Agreement with Educational Services Commission of Morris County

3.12 Settlement Agreement

3.13 Annual Appointments

3.14 Bylaws, Policies & Regulations

There was additional discussion on the academic calendars and it was decided that we remove the asterisk and continue to hold elementary conferences as we have in the past until we are able to send out the survey to gauge parents' responses so that we can make a determination on what will happen to them moving forward.

There was also discussion about bringing students back in August in order to end earlier in June to accommodate the start of summer camps and how best to keep students starting after Labor Day and ending school early in June while trying to maintain a weeklong February break with the addition of all the other celebrations that have been added to our calendar as days off.

Mr. Stern will check to see if Schoology can be used as a communication tool for conferences.

Under 3.6, the Board requested a comparison of the last three years rates.

Under 3.9, the Board requested we invite DiCara Rubino to a meeting in June to discuss and review the modular units.

Under 3.14, Policy #5200, which was up for first reading, will be tabled until June.

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

There was no public comment.

Old Business

Mrs. Khemka asked for an update on the financial literacy program that she brought up at a prior meeting and Mr. Stern responded it is not on the curriculum writing docket for this summer but he has the resources and has shared them with the supervisor of the Business Department.

Mrs. Khanna asked when we will receive an update from Great Schools Partnership as to how this year has gone.

New Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m., Mrs. Chirls made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Dora E. Zeno
Interim Board Secretary