



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Executive Session - Virtual Meeting Via Zoom - 6:00 p.m.

Public Session - Virtual Meeting Via Zoom and Facebook Live - 7:00 p.m.

A **Voting Meeting** of the Livingston Board of Education was held on this date via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Board President, Ronnie Konner, who announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by amendment to notice approved at the Board's reorganization meeting on January 7, 2020 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. 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:

- Student and Legal Matters

Action may be taken upon return to 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.

Mr. August seconded the motion.

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

At 7:03 p.m., Mrs. Konner reconvened the public session.

Members Present: Charles "Buddy" August, Pamela Chirls, Seth Cohen, Ronnie Konner, Samantha Messer and Aditya Desai

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

There were approximately 215 members of the public and staff watching remotely through the webinar and via a Facebook Live Stream.

Mr. Aditya Desai led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Konner asked for a moment of silence for Rich Praitano, a member of our transportation staff; for Gary Germain, a long time school social worker; for David Rosa, a former student who was one of our greatest track and field athletes at LHS and for those who gave their lives on December 7, 1941.

Superintendent's Report

1. National Merit Semi-Finalists Recognition Ceremony

Dr. Block explained he is proud to announce the high school students who were selected to receive the distinction of National Merit Semi-Finalists. Dr. Block added students are supported by their own hard work, their families and the great educators they have had a chance to interact with in our schools.

Dr. Block continued, in honor of this achievement, we are giving the students an opportunity to recognize an educator, active or retired, from grades K-12 in Livingston who made a difference in their lives. Students were asked to purchase a book to present to the educator.

- Kevin Chen recognized Ms. Cheryl Coursen with *The Pleasures of Counting*
- Ethan D'Costa recognized Ms. Megan DeBlieck with *The Cosmic Cocktail: Three Parts Dark Matter*
- Aditya Desai recognized Mr. Ernie Cuneo with *Barbarians at the Gate*
- Joyce He recognized Senora Gisela Gugger with *The Wild Iris*
- Jared Hershey recognized Mr. Oscar Benavides with *Latin American Art of the 20th Century*
- Rachelle Hu recognized Ms. Mary Walmsley with *Innumerable Insects: The Story of the Most Diverse and Myriad Animals on Earth*
- Divyank Jain recognized Ms. Jeanne Ziobro with *The 99% Invisible City*
- Jesse Li recognized Mr. Alex Lamon with *SuperFreakonomics*
- Carolyn Meng recognized Dr. Michael Sunga with *How Much of These Hills is Gold*
- Leo Stepanewk recognized Mr. Matthew Wasserman with *The Singularity is Near*
- Hannah Swee recognized Ms. Michelle Sipe with *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore*
- Edward Wang recognized Mr. Michael Coleman with *The Disappearing Spoon*
- Nicholas Wang recognized Mrs. June Volk with *How Not to be Wrong*
- Kasey Wei recognized Dr. Dorine Starace with *Physics of the Impossible*
- Rosa Xia recognized Ms. Maureen Biss with *Hag-Seed*
- Lucy Xu recognized Ms. Rhonda Isakower with *Bruce Springsteen: The Stories Behind the Songs*

2. New Course Offerings

Mrs. Natalie Topylko and Mrs. Sinead Crews provided an update on the new course offerings for next year. One course will be Theater Arts II which falls under TAP! Theater Arts Pathway in Humanities. Mrs. Topylko explained the requirements necessary to successfully complete the Tap! Pathway and receive a certificate.

Mrs. Crews confirmed the Tap! Pathway is not indicated on a student's transcript but would be part of the scheduling and academic advising process.

Mrs. Topylko continued with the next new course entitled Advanced Research Methods which falls under the Science Research Program. Mrs. Topylko explained the Science Research Program is a three-year sequence of courses that starts with Introduction to Research Methods Honors in 10th grade and is an application-only program.

3. Negotiations Update

Mr. Robinson explained the LEA ratified their contract a few moments ago and we are asking the Board to approve the contract on the agenda tonight. Mr. Robinson reviewed the highlights of the contract which, at the elementary schools, includes the creation of a five-day rotation for special areas, establishes a nine-period day and increases student instructional time by 29 minutes per day. Mr. Robinson continued that the contract also provides full time aides with single coverage for health insurance, provides caps on separation pay, reduces opt out payment for health insurance and provides increases that are within line of the averages in the state.

4. New Staff Appointments

Dr. Block introduced and welcomed his two recommendations for new staff appointments. The first, Mr. Daniel Garcia, will be the new principal at Harrison Elementary School to replace Mrs. Healy, who is retiring at the end of the month. The second is Mr. Mark Stern, as the new Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. Mr. Stern will continue to serve as Acting Principal of the high school as well to allow us time to do a thorough search for his replacement and to provide for a smooth transition.

Board Reports

1. Five on Five Meeting

Mrs. Konner announced we will have a Five on Five meeting with the Town Council on Wednesday, December 16 at 7 p.m. where Vince DeLucia of New Jersey School Boards Association will present *Building a Foundation of Hope* which deals with mental and physical health. The group will also be discussing the pandemic and how it affects the community.

2. Recognitions

Mrs. Konner shared the Board's appreciation for Mrs. Healy's work during her tenure in Livingston and wished her all the best in her retirement.

3. Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Chirls and Ms. Messer attended a meeting of this committee which led to the presentation tonight about the two new courses being offered next year. The committee also had some discussion about cleaning up the high school catalog to eliminate some of the redundancies, discussed prioritizing AP Computer Science for students in 11th and 12th grades and discussed the philosophy behind the placement of middle school students.

4. Miscellaneous

Mrs. Konner attended the World Language Honor Society Ceremony and SEPAC meeting.

Mrs. Konner announced our staff and students who created PPE are featured in an article in New Jersey School Boards Magazine entitled, "Head of the Class: Transforming Helplessness into Hope."

Mrs. Konner, Mr. Robinson and Dr. Block had an informal meeting with Peter Klein and Barry Lewis and were given an overview of future projects in the town so the board can be proactive in planning how they might impact our schools in the future.

Mrs. Konner announced the next Garden State Coalition of Schools meeting will be on December 16 at 9 a.m. and Commissioner Angelica Allen McMillan will be their invited guest.

Mrs. Chirls attended the World Language Honor Society Ceremony.

Mrs. Chirls announced the Livingston Committee on Diversity and Inclusion will be holding an online event entitled *Religions of the World*. Information can be found on their website.

Mrs. Chirls attended the NJSBA Legislative Committee Meeting where they discussed state assessments.

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

1. Voting Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2020
2. Public Portion of Executive Session Meeting Minutes of November 30, 2020
3. Executive Session Minutes of December 9, 2019; January 23 and 27, 2020; February 3, 10 and 24, 2020; March 9, 2020; April 1, 13, 23 and 27, 2020; May 4, 7, 11 and 18, 2020; June 1, 2, 11, 15, 22 and 23, 2020; July 7, 15 and 28, 2020; August 3, 10, 12 and 19, 2020; September 2, 9, 14 and 21, 2020; October 12 and 19, 2020; November 9, 23 and 30, 2020.

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mr. August, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen (abstain 12/9/19), Ms. Messer, Mrs. Konner (abstain 2/24/20)
Nayes - None

Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes

Marni & Matt Askinazy, 6 Oxford Drive, wrote how much Mr. Stern will be missed at LHS and that it is a well deserved move up the ladder for him and for our district. They offered their congratulations to him.

Cheryl Paredes, 21 Burnet Hill Road, as an educator stated she is sad, frustrated and disappointed that her children aren't back in school more often and asked the district to reevaluate what we are doing.

Helene Korn, 7 Cherry Hill Road, stated schools should have opened when the medical professionals said we could back in September and that there is no scientific study of spread in schools. Mrs. Korn requested a better plan be put in place for in-person learning in January.

Scott Millman, 3 Trinity Drive, expressed concern about children not caring about going to school in person because of the small number of students in class and their teacher on Zoom with all the other students.

Jacob Handler, 14 Hearthstone Terrace, a freshman at LHS, stated it is easier to focus when in school and thanked the district for letting him go back to school in person.

Dr. Eric Handler, 14 Hearthstone Terrace, as an ER Physician, it is his opinion that having an entire class quarantined when someone has a cough or sniffle is overkill. Dr. Handler asked where our medical recommendations are coming from.

Dr. Block responded he appreciates all the comments and will look at our model to see what is most conducive for students.

Dr. Block added the district consults with the Department of Health and follows their directive on all of our procedures and decisions with respect to quarantining students and staff.

Mrs. Konner added that on December 16, we will discuss this topic jointly with the Town Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

Mr. August moved the following:

1.1 Textbooks/DVDs

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

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

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

STUDENT SERVICES

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

2.1 Out of District Placement

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves placement for the academic year 2020-2021 for one (1) Livingston student with disabilities and for Extended School Year 2020 (Summer Programs) for one (1) Livingston student 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 B**.

2.2 Related Services/Medical Consultants

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following consultants that will be utilized to provide related services for the 2020-2021 school year:

BEHAVIORAL TRAINING & ASSISTANCE / APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Yellow School Bus | \$140.00/hour |
|-------------------|---------------|

HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION / HOME INSTRUCTION

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| LearnWell | \$47.50/hour |
| Penn Medicine Princeton Health | \$65.00/hour |

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

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

BUSINESS

Mr. August 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.

| Fund | Name | Amount |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 10&11 | Regular | 1,793,545.64 |
| 12 | Regular | 6,699.14 |
| 20 | Regular | 74,899.26 |
| 60 | Cafeteria | 1,511.00 |
| | TOTAL | \$1,876,655.04 |

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Regular Checks | 89602-90002 | 1,875,144.04 |
| Cafeteria | 1254-1263 | 1,511.00 |
| | TOTAL | \$1,876,655.04 |

3.2 Board Secretary Report – October 2020

Whereas, the Livingston Board of Education has received the Report of the Board Secretary for October 31, 2020, 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 October 31, 2020, 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 | 15,611,877 | 564 | |
| (11) Current Expense | | 31,948,574 | 8,009,270 |
| (12) Capital Outlay | | 123,211 | 1,978,235 |
| (20) Special Revenue Fund | 1,015,692 | | |
| (30) Capital Projects Fund | 183,655 | | |
| (40) Debt Service Fund | 2,978,355 | | |
| Total: | \$19,789,579 | \$32,072,349 | \$9,987,505 |

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-212(d), the Board Secretary has certified that as of October 31, 2020, 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.6:20-2.13(d) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

3.3 NJQSAC - District Performance Review (DPR)

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the submission and attesting to the accuracy of the responses to the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC): District Performance Review (DPR) 2020-2021.

3.4 Settlement Agreements

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Settlement Agreement for Case #06-2020 which is on file at the Board of Education office.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Settlement Agreement for Case #07-2020 which is on file at the Board of Education office.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Settlement Agreement for Case #08-2020 which is on file at the Board of Education office.

3.5 Addition of LBOE Meetings

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the addition of the following meetings:

- Voting Meeting on December 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
- Five on Five Meeting on December 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

3.6 Bylaws, Policies & Regulations

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following Bylaw, Policy and Regulation for second reading and adoption:

Bylaw 0164.6 - Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency (M) (new to district)

Policy 1620 - Administrative Employment Contracts (M) (new to district)

Policy 2431 - Athletic Competition (M) (with revisions)

Regulation 2431.1 - Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity (M) (with revisions)

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

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

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Chirls 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>Gail Simpson</i> | TOSD | Retirement | LHS | March 31, 2021 |

**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 | Position | Location | LOA w/ pay and benefits | LOA w/ partial pay or w/o pay, but with benefits (if applicable) | Extended LOA w/o pay or benefits | Return Date |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Alexandra Wynn</i> | ABA Discrete Trial TA | BHE | 12/17/2020-1/22/2021 | 1/25/2021 - 4/30/2021** | 5/3/2021-5/21/2021 | 5/24/2021 |
| <i>Catherine Steege*</i> | School Social Worker | LHS | 10/21/2020, 10/28/2020, 11/18/2020, 12/9/2020, 12/16/2020, 12/23/2020** | NA | NA | 1/4/2021 |
| <i>Christine Siti*</i> | School Counselor | Harrison | 10/5/2020-10/16/2020 | 10/19/2020-12/13/2020** | NA | 12/14/2020 |
| <i>Marissa Reynolds</i> | Instructional Aide | MPE | NA | NA | 1/4/2021-4/23/2021 | 4/26/2021 |
| <i>Christina Ness</i> | TOSD | MPMS | 11/30/2020-12/4/2020** & 12/7/2020-12/23/2020 | NA | NA | 1/4/2021 |
| <i>Jennifer Alvich*</i> | Behaviorist | HMS | 10/8/2020, 10/15/2020, 10/22/2020, 10/29/2020, 11/12/2020, 11/19/2020, 12/10/2020 & 12/17/2020** | NA | NA | 1/4/2021 |
| <i>Fabiana Farinhas</i> | Instructional Aide | BHE | NA | NA | 12/7/2020-TBD | TBD |
| <i>Jessica Cohen*</i> | Speech Language Specialist | Collins | 9/14/2020-11/20/2020 | 11/23/2020-12/23/2020 & 12/24/2020-4/8/2021** | NA | 4/9/2021 |
| <i>Amy Morgan*</i> | Instructional Aide | MPE | 9/9/2020 - 9/18/2020 | 9/21/2020 - 12/2/2020** | 12/3/2020-TBD | TBD |
| <i>Kimberly Withers</i> | TOSD | MPE | 12/2/2020- | NA | NA | 12/10/2020 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| | | | 12/9/2020** (.5 each day) | | | |
| <i>Ilze Aivars</i> | Elementary School Teacher | Harrison | 2/22/2021 - 3/17/2021 | 3/18/2021 - 6/17/2021** | 6/18/2021-6/30/2021 | 8/30/2021 |
| <i>Jennifer Randazzo*</i> | Teacher of Art | HMS | 10/1/2020 - 10/12/2020 | 10/13/2020 - 1/1/2021** | 1/4/2021-6/30/2021 | 8/30/2021 |
| <i>Jill Weiss</i> | Instructional Aide | Collins | 11/3/2020-12/1/2020(.5) | NA | 12/1/2020(.5)-12/4/2020 | 12/7/2020 |

*as amended from a previous agenda

**Designates time counted toward NJFLA/FMLA/FFCRA

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>Daniel Garcia</i> | Harrison | Principal | First Year Tenure Track | C. Healy | LAA Elem Principal >5/21/10 | 4 | \$129,725* (pro-rated) | 2/15/2021 or earlier if released by current District |
| <i>Ellen Dwyer*</i> | Heritage | Teacher of Art | One Year Leave Replacement | J. Randazzo | BA | 1 | \$52,673* | 9/1/2020 |
| <i>Wendy Amsterdam</i> | MPMS | Intervention /Enrichment Specialist | Leave Replacement | E. Carabello | MA | 1 | \$59,803* (pro-rated) | 12/17/2020 |
| <i>Ashley Strysko</i> | MPMS | TOSD | Leave Replacement | TBD | BA | 1 | \$52,763* (pro-rated) | 12/21/2020 |
| <i>Laura Casale</i> | MPE | Playground Aide | NA | NA | NA | NA | \$15.50/hr | 12/10/2021 |

*all salaries after 7/1/2020 may be adjusted in accordance with contract negotiations

**will remain at the same step in 2020-2021 in accordance with Article X, Section II.C. of the LEA contract

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the contract with Mark Stern, Assistant Superintendent, effective January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. A copy of the contract is on file at the Board office and has been approved by the Executive County Superintendent.

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

4.4 Substitutes

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment D** 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.

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 2020-2021 school year:

Teachers

Allie Beinhacker

Custodian

Onelia Rodriguez (\$15.50/hr)

4.5 Extra Work Pay

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following payments listed on **Attachment E** for work performed.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves all Livingston Public Schools Related Service Providers to perform evaluations, on an as needed basis, by request or with prior approval of the Assistant Superintendent, at their 2020-2021 hourly rates*.

**the rate may be adjusted in accordance with contract negotiations*

4.6 Stipends

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education rescinds the appointment of *Matt Wasserman* as advisor for the GSA Club at Livingston High School for the 2020-2021 school year.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education rescinds the appointment of *Gregory Puccio* as Assistant Fencing Coach at Livingston High School for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

4.7 IDEA Basic and IDEA Preschool Salary Allocations

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the reallocates the salaries of the individuals listed on **Attachment H** to be funded through the IDEA Basic and IDEA preschool grants.

4.8 Extra Period Assignments

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

4.9 Reporting Structure and Job Descriptions - Technology Department

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Reporting Structure for the Technology Department effective January 1, 2021.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following job descriptions:

Applications Architect & Webmaster (with revisions)
District Technology Coach (with revisions)
Network Administrator (with revisions)
Manager of Technology (with revisions)

4.10 Approval of the Tentative Agreement between the LEA and the LBOE

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the tentative agreement dated October 7, 2020 between the Livingston Education Association and the Livingston Board of Education for a successor contract from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mr. August, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Ms. Messer, Mrs. Konner
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 month of November.

5.3 Bus Evacuation Drills

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the bus evacuation drills that were completed by the end of November 2020.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

Stefanie Cohen, 20 Stonewall Drive, expressed that seniors aren't depressed but are hopeless, are not afraid of COVID but are afraid of school. Mrs. Cohen stated she is happy for Mr. Stern but with all that is currently going on, feels the timing of his appointment is off and should have been July.

Anthony Rosamilia, President of LEA, thanked Dr Block and the Board for their leadership in keeping us all safe during this very difficult time. Mr. Rosamilia continued that the LEA members want the same thing the public wants which is to get kids back in school but to do it safely. Mr. Rosamilia also thanked the negotiations team for getting the contract done and the administration for their collaboration under these difficult circumstances.

Robin Levine, 12 Clover Lane, lashed out at Mr. Rosamilia as the LEA President for not advocating for teachers to come back to school in September when it was safe.

Helene Korn, 7 Cherry Hill Road, speaking for Dr. Stacy Bernstein, 3 Canterbury Road, asked what the school community is doing to handle the mental health crisis caused by students not being able to be back in school.

Dr. Block responded we have a lot of mental health initiatives posted on our website and can provide Mrs. Bernstein with more specifics if she emails him.

Dr. Block added it is our preference to keep schools open, we feel that our schools are safe and we continue to follow the Department of Health guidelines to minimize the spread of the virus in school.

Lori Rosenbloom, questioned Dr. Block's decision to take away another day from cohort B at her child's elementary school and asked that he reconsider what he does with the cohorts in the schools on an individual basis.

Dr. Block responded that for now through December, he would like to keep all of the elementary schools on the same cohort schedule but hopes 2021 will bring new opportunities to get students back into school for more time.

Zach Cohen, 20 Stonewall Drive, requested that Lou Anello attend an upcoming meeting to explain what some of the quarantine rules are to the community. Mr. Cohen asked what the administration's plan is for increasing the amount of in-school learning including lunch.

Mrs. Konner responded that on December 16, the Board of Education and the Township will be addressing mental and physical health and COVID procedures during their joint meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Anello will be present at that meeting and the community is welcome to bring up concerns to both bodies at the same time.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9 p.m., Mrs. Chirls made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. August seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Steven K. Robinson
Board Secretary