



**LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2018-2019 BUDGET/VOTING MINUTES**

Monday, May 7, 2018

Executive Session - Administration Building Large Conference Room – 6:00 p.m.

Public Session – Administration Building Large Conference Room – 7:00 p.m.

A **Public Hearing on the 2018-2019 Budget/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 6:00 p.m. by the Board President, Pamela Chirls, who announced that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided by amendment to notice approved at the Board's reorganization meeting on January 4, 2016 and posted at the Board of Education office and communicated to *The Star Ledger*, *West Essex Tribune*, *The Alternative Press* and the Livingston Township Clerk.

Members Present: Charles "Buddy" August, Pamela Chirls, Ronnie Konner, Samantha Messer and George Shen

Members Absent: Evan Tong

Also in Attendance: Christina Steffner, Steven Robinson, Lisa Capone-Steiger, Susan Burman, Joann Goldberg and approximately 22 members of the public and staff

Mr. August 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 60 minutes and be it

Further Resolved, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Mrs. Konner seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

At 7:10 p.m., Mrs. Chirls reconvened the public meeting.

Public Hearing on Budget

May 7, 2018

Mrs. Steffner began by reviewing the district philosophy, Livingston's tradition of excellence, the opportunities for students to develop academically and personally and our budgetary goals.

Mrs. Marybeth Kopacz and Mrs. Natalie Topylko, Directors of Curriculum and Instruction, highlighted how the proposed budget supports curriculum and instruction and how it allows us to build on our work in specific strands of the district's Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Steiger reviewed how the proposed budget enables us to maintain the high quality of special services that currently exists in the district.

Mr. Tom Douglas, Manager of Technology, reviewed the technology initiatives included in the proposed budget.

Mrs. Kopacz explained the draft budget continues the support of 28 varsity sports at multiple levels and Mrs. Topylko reviewed the non-State funded initiatives that add to the district's excellence as well as the proposed additional staffing.

Mr. Robinson reviewed the capital improvements included in the budget, where the money comes from and goes and how Livingston compares to other districts. Mr. Robinson continued with an explanation of the main cost drivers of the budget, the ongoing ways the district contains costs and the tax impact.

The full presentation is available on our website.

1. Discussion

Mr. August asked if the tax impact includes the extra aid we were told about receiving and Mr. Robinson replied that it does but doesn't want to allocate that money to a budgetary line in case we don't receive the funds.

Mrs. Chirls asked at what point the board should discuss making a decision about moving ahead with the 1:1 initiative at MPMS and Mr. Robinson replied he would like it to be finalized in the next 30 days.

Mrs. Chirls asked for an inventory of our equipment.

Mrs. Chirls asked if there is a plan to form a committee to discuss the details and Mrs. Steffner replied they would like to hold two parent information events for current 3rd, 4th and 5th grade parents so they could provide a presentation of what 1:1 would look like and answer any questions they may have. Mrs. Steffner added afterwards, a small committee can be put together to look at a device. Mrs. Steffner added another option would be to have a full blown committee to review throughout the year and bring this back next year. Mrs. Steffner will review this with the curriculum committee tomorrow morning.

Mr. Shen asked how valid is the claim that the devices last three years and what happens it breaks within that time and Mr. Douglas replied we have a warranty that covers the three year period.

Mrs. Konner asked if anyone has checked to see if Heritage has had any concerns with their devices as this was their first year using the HPs.

Mrs. Steffner replied the only difference for Heritage in the last year was the change in device from the Lenovo to the HP but they could do another survey to see how the students felt about them.

With respect to the device for MPMS, Mrs. Konner is interested in knowing about the inking, the value of taking the device home versus only using in the classroom and how to address parent's concerns about managing screen time at home.

2. Questions and Comments from Public

James Calderon, 17 Claremont Avenue, asked about the budget increases each year, health insurance costs, why there are proposed repairs to Squiretown and about the lease purchase agreement budgetary line for \$1.87 million.

Mr. Robinson replied the difference in the budget increase is over a two year period, the lease purchase line is for capital leases that are currently outstanding, that we own Squiretown and rent it out to CPNJ and we shop the health benefits plan but even in doing so, the costs go up higher than any other budget line. Mr. Robinson added employee contributions do help offset the cost.

Sasha Koff, 13 Rumson Road, asked with the addition of one staff member, are we confident we will be where we want to be with our class sizes and courses offered.

Mr. Robinson explained if more students register over the summer and the class sizes become larger, we will add another teacher but that right now, most classes are within guidelines.

Mrs. Chirls asked at what point do we make decisions about course changes and if there is a minimum number of students at which we will run a class at the high school.

Mrs. Steffner replied they have discussed running some of the courses that have low numbers of students taking them every other year and communicating that so that students can plan accordingly.

Mr. Robinson added we have class guidelines of 25 but sometimes we will come to the board if we need to go slightly over.

Mrs. Konner asked that going forward would we consider offering an online or blended course so that students can take advantage of a particular topic that we might not have enough to fill with a full time teacher.

Mrs. Steffner replied students have the ability to take an option 2 but there needs to be a balance because most of their coursework should be taken at the high school. Mrs. Steffner added they are currently working on the regulation so that it is articulated properly to students.

Steve Shaiman, 4 Knollwood Drive, asked the board to consider exploring an IB program in the future in lower grades.

Justin Alpert, Amherst Place, asked what we have to do to get into a position to plan for growth and asked what percentage of staff live in district and out of district and has that changed during the course of time.

Ethan Ramer, 22 Mohawk Drive, asked what initiatives are being taken in the upcoming budget to improve mental health specifically in the Guidance Department.

Mrs. Steffner replied as part of work in strand 4 of the Strategic Plan, there are specific areas on mental health in the curriculum and looking at mindfulness. In addition, the district hired an additional Student Assistance Counselor so now we have three, two who work with high school students and one who works with Heritage. We also developed a program with our Dean of Students who works with students. Mrs. Steffner concluded that we recognize the need to

address mental health, even though we are not a therapeutic organization, and have support systems in place so that we can recognize them and help provide the resources to get them the help that they need.

Mrs. Steiger added we are not solely relying on school counselors to be the only mental health professionals accessible to students. In the past few years we have created a K-12 continuum of clinical counseling support and have many professional working together.

Cindy Goldstein, 23 Mayhew Drive, asked if there is a way to have consistency throughout the schools with regard to social emotional learning and asked how we manage it so it stays front and center.

Mrs. Steffner replied all of the principals currently have a mindfulness goal as part of their goals to ensure it stays on their radar although it may not look exactly the same in all of the buildings. Mrs. Steffner added it is also part of the Strategic Plan that we would report out on an annual basis.

Mrs. Konner added the board is getting information from the State to see how they can fit social emotional learning into policy.

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

Adoption of 2018-2019 Budget

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenues</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
2018-2019 Total Expenditures	\$111,862,445	\$1,791,343	\$8,117,825	\$121,771,613
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$6,072,383	\$1,791,343	\$960,970	\$8,824,696
Taxes to be Raised	\$105,790,062	-----	\$7,156,855	\$112,946,917

Mr. August seconded the motion.

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

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

PERSONNEL

Ms. Messer 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>Fredrica Glucksman</i>	Teacher of English	Retirement	LHS	September 30, 2018
<i>Lynne Ann Collier</i>	TOSD	Resignation	HMS	June 30, 2018

<i>Daniel Russak</i>	Teacher of Health & PE	Resignation	Harrison	June 30, 2018
<i>Rebecca Rosenberg</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Resignation	Collins	June 30, 2018
<i>Amy Ash</i>	School Psychologist	Resignation	MPE	June 30, 2018
<i>Amy Zweiback</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Resignation	Hillside	June 30, 2018
<i>Heather Keith</i>	TOSD	Resignation	Collins	June 30, 2018
<i>Paula Horton</i>	Reading Specialist	Resignation	Collins	June 30, 2018
<i>Deena DeMaio</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Resignation	Collins	June 30, 2018
<i>Asha Sohan</i>	Teacher of Biology	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2018
<i>Carl Morelli</i>	Teacher of Business Education	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2018
<i>Dr. Kevin Huang</i>	Teacher of Chemistry	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2018
<i>Jared Sharpe</i>	Job Coach	Resignation	LHS	May 4, 2018
<i>Madeley Real</i>	ABA Discrete Trial TA	Resignation	BHE	April 13, 2018
<i>Angela Wyatt-Frazier</i>	Bus Driver	Resignation	Transportation	April 26, 2018

Mr. Shen seconded the motion.

Mrs. Chirls thanked Freddie Glucksman for her service and wished her well in her retirement.

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

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

Eddie Solomon, 2 Valley View Court, asked the board to consider offering a Hebrew language class. Miss Solomon provided a petition with 62 signatures in favor of the course.

Mrs. Konner asked what the process is for investigating offering a new course and Mrs. Steffner replied we would need to create curriculum around it, make sure we have a teacher who is certified in that language, look at student interest and see how it would impact the other courses. Mrs. Steffner will reach out to the DOE tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 p.m., Mrs. Chirls asked for a motion to go back into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation and that no action will be taken.

Mr. August moved the following:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Legal Matters
2. Negotiations
3. Personnel

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 May 7, 2018 to discuss the matters stipulated, in conformance with the subsections of said act which are indicated.
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 matter.
 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. Shen seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven K. Robinson
Board Secretary