



## LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 19, 2018

Executive Session – Administrative Building Large Conference Room – 6:45 p.m.

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

A **Workshop/Voting Meeting** of the Livingston Board of Education was held on this date in the large conference room at the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 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 2, 2018 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.

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:

- A student matter and negotiations

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.

Dr. Shen seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

At 7:05 p.m., Mrs. Chirls reconvened the public meeting.

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

Also in Attendance: James O'Neill, Steven Robinson, Lisa Capone-Steiger, Joann Goldberg and approximately 30 members of the public and staff

## **Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Konner thanked the public for their support during the recent school board election and stated she looks forward to joining together with the rest of the board and school community to find common ground to deal with issues at the table and to be good role models for our children.

Mrs. Chirls thanked the Livingston community, the staff at the West Essex Tribune, the Alternative Press, Livingston Old Guard and the League of Women's Voters for promoting informed and active participation in the current election. Mrs. Chirls added she looks forward to continuing her work on the board.

Mrs. Chirls also thanked everyone who kept our children safe, warm and fed during the snowstorm on Thursday.

Mr. O'Neill expressed his sorrow for the frustration and anxiety everyone experience during Thursday's storm as well as his gratitude to the staff (teachers, secretaries, administrators, custodians and bus drivers) who stayed long hours after school to make sure calls were answered until all students made it home safely.

Mr. O'Neill explained he recently wrote a letter to the parent community about the importance of civility in our daily discourse and asked that parents and community members model the behavior we expect of our children and students.

### 1. Budget Timelines

Mr. Robinson reviewed the proposed budget calendar for the 2019-2020 school year.

### 2. Board Budget Goals

Mrs. Konner's board budget goals are to keep smaller class sizes, add air conditioning to activity rooms at MPE and RH, provide mentoring programs, return lost instructional time to special areas as result of cutbacks in the six-day rotation, to have a joint community wide look at the fields and to have a joint community wide look at appropriate diversity/civility training to address inappropriate comments related to HIB incidents.

Mrs. Chirls asked that we pay attention to class sizes at the high school since there will be an increase in enrollment in the building next year. Mrs. Chirls also asked that we keep to the guidelines at the elementary levels of 22 students in grades K-2 and 25 students in grades 3 and up.

Ms. Messer's board budget goals are to budget for facilities needs at the high school to account for any enrollment increases, add training and/or curriculum to address any potential gaps in the elementary math program, add staff to support students taking 9<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra, discuss the addition of staff to increase the ratio of guidance counselors to students and expressed she would be supportive of cutting the six-day rotation if there is a cost savings to be found.

Mr. August asked when some of the parking lots are scheduled to be refurbished and Mr. Robinson replied he would provide this information when the facilities piece of the budget is discussed.

Mr. O'Neill added we also need to pursue with the police department or a traffic consultant a way to fix the traffic and drop off over on Madonna Drive.

Dr. Shen suggested we look at fourth grade test scores and discuss how to improve them. Mr. O'Neill responded they are aware of the problem in that grade across all of the elementary

schools and will be coming back to provide the board with an explanation of how it happened as well as how the administration plans to address the issue.

Mrs. Chirls asked if we can retrofit the old recreation building for use for high school students.

Mrs. Chirls asked that time and resources for clubs such as robotics, FBLA and forensics at the middle and high school be put in place.

### 3. Assessment Update

Mrs. Natalie Topylko, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, STEM/Testing and Ms. Danielle Rosenzweig, Assistant Principal, reviewed New Jersey Learning Assessment for the Sciences, how many students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses in 2018 and the percentage who have scored a 3 or higher. The presentation continued with a five-year comparison that showed the number of students and exams has increased each year along with the number of students scoring a 3 or higher. In addition, a slide highlighted the number of our LHS AP Scholars for 2018.

The assessment update also included the overall mean scores for students taking the SAT and ACT last year. The full presentation is available on our website.

### **Board Reports**

Dr. Shen attended the Diversity meeting and stated the committee will be asking the district to send an email to students to help mobilize student participation at the elementary schools for their Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. Students will be asked to donate materials and pack them together to send to less fortunate surrounding neighborhoods.

Mrs. Konner announced that the Garden State Coalition of Schools is having a meeting at the Ridgewood Board of Education on November 28 at 7:00 p.m. and invited the rest of the board and Mr. O'Neill to attend. The guest speaker is Senator Kristin Corrado.

Mrs. Konner announced she received information from Dr. Eileen Salinsky about a memorial service for Dr. Robert Kish on December 8. If anyone is interested, please contact her for additional information.

Dr. Shen expressed his appreciation to all the teachers who stayed with students who were stuck at school on Thursday during the snowstorm.

Mr. August thanked the fire department for delivering pizzas to Heritage and Mount Pleasant Middle Schools during the storm.

Mrs. Chirls announced we will thank them in person at next week's meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL**

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Mr. August moved the following:

#### **5.1 HIB Report**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education accepts the findings of HIB cases.

Mrs. Konner seconded the motion.

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

### **Preview of November 26, 2018 Voting Agenda**

The board reviewed the agenda items for November 26.

- 1. PROGRAM/CURRICULUM**
  - 1.1 Software**
  - 1.2 Student Teachers**
- 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 – September 2018**
  - 3.3 Transfers**
  - 3.4 Field Trips**
  - 3.5 Conferences and Overnight Trips**
  - 3.6 On-Tech Consulting**
  - 3.7 Settlement Agreement**
  - 3.8 Policies and Regulations**
- 4. PERSONNEL**
  - 4.1 Resignations**
  - 4.2 Leaves of Absences**
  - 4.3 Transfers**
  - 4.4 Appointments**
  - 4.5 Substitutes**
  - 4.6 Extra Work Pay**
  - 4.7 Stipends**
  - 4.8 Job Description**
  - 4.9 Mentor Fees**
  - 4.10 Extra Period Assignments**
  - 4.11 Memorandum of Agreements**
- 5. MISCELLANEOUS**
  - 5.1 HIB Report**
  - 5.2 Suspension Report**

### **Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes**

Joyce Gore, 7 Claremont Avenue and a member of Arts Council, stated they have already claimed the old recreation building to be used as a performing and visual arts center. Mrs. Konner replied there may be changes to that plan.

James Calderon, 17 Claremont Avenue, asked for clarification about the number of students versus the number of tests taken shown on the AP presentation.

Mr. Calderon expressed concern about students crossing Madonna Drive during pick up and drop off and suggested we place a crossing guard there.

Mr. Calderon asked the board to reconsider the 1:1 initiative at MPMS.

Rachel Selvin, 18 Canoe Brook Drive, asked how the board plans on including the community, parents, staff and teachers in the plans for the superintendent search. Mrs. Selvin asked if we

have gotten responses to the advertisement placed at the Atlantic City Workshop and when the community will learn more.

Mike Ramer, 22 Mohawk Drive, thanked Mr. O'Neill for his letter to the community on civility and about our children's health, safety and wellness being the highest priority. After her statement at a recent board meeting, Mr. Ramer asked Ms. Messer how she will work with the rest of the board members to deliver positive progress going forward.

Mr. O'Neill explained that numbers of AP exams are higher than the number of students because they are able to take more than one exam.

With respect to the roll out of the 1:1 initiative at MPMS, Mr. O'Neill replied we are sensitive to the need for a balance between the academic demands of students and social media interactions and have put safeguards and restrictions in place. We will continue to monitor.

Mr. O'Neill continued we are aware of and share in the concerns on Madonna Drive, have expressed them to the police and are working with them to find a resolution.

Mr. O'Neill continued we have received a number of applications and the deadline to apply is January 11. Once the deadline has passed, the board will decide how they want to proceed with the sorting of resumes, preparing interviews and gaining input from the community.

Mr. O'Neill concluded by stating the public is entitled to say anything they want at a meeting but a board member can choose whether or not they want to respond.

Ms. Messer added she would like to respond to Mr. Ramer. Ms. Messer stated that she ran for the board of education because she cares so deeply about education. Ms. Messer expressed she looks forward to working with the board because she believes the most important thing we can do for our kids is to provide them with a great education.

Ms. Messer further explained she gave the statement at the October 15 meeting because she felt she had a responsibility to members of the community to explain her actions and her vote and that the appropriate place to do this was at the board table.

Ms. Messer concluded that for her, the kids always come first and feels confident the board can all move forward together.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

Mrs. Konner wished Mrs. Chirls a Happy Birthday and brought a cake out to share.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:35 p.m., Mrs. Chirls requested a motion to go into executive session to discuss the superintendent search.

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 November 19, 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.

Dr. Shen seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Steven K. Robinson**  
**Board Secretary**