



## LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 7, 2019

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

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

A **Reorganization Meeting** of the Livingston Board of Education was held on this date in the Administration Building large conference room. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Steven Robinson, who announced that adequate notice of this meeting has 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:

- Personnel

Action may be taken upon return to public session. The full length of the meeting is anticipated to be approximately 30 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.

Vote all in favor.

Executive Session adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Robinson 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, Susan Burman, Joann Goldberg and approximately 50 members of the public and staff

Justin Benbassat, Alyssa Benbassat, Kai Lantzman and Audra Konner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Mr. Robinson read the election results.

### **Election Results – November 6, 2018**

(Officially certified by the Board of Elections)

For three year term (vote for two) on the Board of Education

*Pamela Chirls – 5715*

*Ronnie Konner – 5339*

*Todd Goren – 4046*

*Rachel Selvin – 3994*

### **Swearing in of New Board Members**

Mr. Robinson administered the oath of office to Pamela Chirls for a three-year term as Board Member.

Mr. Robinson administered the oath of office to Ronnie Ferber Konner for a three-year term as Board Member.

### **Election of President**

Mr. Robinson called for nominations for the position of President of the Board.

Mrs. Konner nominated Mr. August.

Dr. Shen seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations for the position of President, nominations were closed.

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

### **Board President Takes Chair**

Mr. August took the chair as President.

### **Election of Vice President**

Mr. August called for nominations for the position of Vice President of the Board.

Mrs. Chirls nominated Mrs. Konner.

Ms. Messer nominated herself.

There being no further nominations for the position of Vice President, nominations were closed.

Mr. Robinson asked for a roll call vote for Ronnie Konner for the position of Vice President.

**ROLL CALL VOTE** – Ayes – Mrs. Konner, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. August  
Abstain – Dr. Shen  
Nays – Ms. Messer

Mr. Robinson asked for a roll call vote for Samantha Messer for the position of Vice President.

**ROLL CALL VOTE** – Ayes – Ms. Messer  
Abstain – Dr. Shen  
Nays – Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Konner, Mr. August

Mrs. Konner took the chair as Vice President.

### **President/Vice President Comments**

Mr. August wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Mrs. Konner thanked Mrs. Chirls for her service as president this past year and thanked Mr. August for his service as vice president this past year. Mrs. Konner also thanked the community for their support as part of the election. Mrs. Konner added there is still a lot of work ahead and hopes to be able to do it cooperatively with everyone in an effort to provide the best education for all of the students going forward.

### **Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes**

Rachel Selvin, 18 Canoe Brook Drive, stated she is disappointed in the vote for vice president and questioned the promise of unity, transparency and welcoming of new ideas on the board.

Justin Alpert, 56 Amherst Place, thanked the entire board for their service and added it's a brand new start to work together.

Stefanie Cohen, 20 Stonewall Drive, questioned the order of president and vice president stating it seems only three people seem to be rotating within these positions.

Brian Bradley, 46 Ashwood, congratulated Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Konner and Mr. August.

Scott Lantzman, 11 Rockville Drive, in response to the vote for president and vice president, expressed continuity is important for the board.

Dee Dee Pulver, 47 Winchester Road, thanked everyone on the board for their volunteerism.

Elyse Shainbrown, 2 Mountain Ridge Drive, thanked everyone on the board for their hard work and dedication and suggested moving forward with a focus on the kids. Mrs. Shainbrown also asked the board how they will work with the community and schools to remedy the swastika situation at Heritage.

Alan Glazer, 77 Falcon Road, expressed he is surprised three people on the board decided to retain power amongst themselves adding it is smart to follow the ways of the Town Council who alternate the positions even with those from opposing parties. Mr. Glazer expressed he is disheartened and disappointed that the board is continuing to show divisiveness and not unity.

Mr. O'Neill stated he understands there are still residual ill feelings from the campaign and election but pointed out that we have a very strong pool of candidates for superintendent and everyone needs to be aware when people are looking at a district, they look at board meetings and board minutes and try to get an understanding whether or not that community would be a good fit for them. Mr. O'Neill explained this as a cautionary note as we begin to embark on one of the most important jobs of a board of education.

Mr. August recognized Mayor Al Anthony and Deputy Mayor Rudy Fernandez.

Mr. August added it doesn't matter if you hold the title of president or vice president, because everyone on the board has an equal say at all times. Mr. August added he looks forward to all five board members working together as one unit.

Dr. Shen added working together to hire the superintendent is an important role, more important than the differences in their thinking.

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

### **Rules for School Governance**

**Resolved**, the Livingston Board of Education adopts all bylaws, policies and regulations in effect on January 7, 2019 in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

### **Curricula and Textbooks**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education adopts all curricula and textbooks of record on January 7, 2019 in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:33-1 and 34.1.

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

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

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

### **Bylaws, Policies & Regulations**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves all bylaws, policies and regulations previously adopted by the Board to date.

Mrs. Konner seconded the motion.

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

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

### **Official Newspapers/Media Outlets**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education designates *The Star Ledger*, *The West Essex Tribune* and *The Alternative Press* as official newspapers and media outlets for legal notices and other obligations.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

**Financial Depositories and Signatures**

**Whereas**, Charles August has been elected president and Ronnie Ferber Konner has been elected vice president of the Board of Education; and

**Whereas**, Steven K. Robinson has been appointed Secretary of the Board; and

**Whereas**, Steven K. Robinson has been appointed Treasurer of School Monies; and now therefore be it

**Resolved**, the Livingston Board of Education establish the following bank accounts at Regal Bank, Livingston, New Jersey and that Regal Bank is hereby requested, authorized and directed to honor all checks, draft and other orders for the payment of money drawn in the name of the Board of Education in the following accounts when bearing the true or approved facsimile signature(s) indicated:

<b>Regal Bank</b>		
<b><u>Account Title and Number</u></b>	<b><u>Signature(s)</u></b>	
BOE School District of Livingston General Account 0108010471	Board President <b>and</b> Steven K. Robinson <b>and</b> James O'Neill	
BOE School District of Livingston Referendum 0108010505	Board President <b>and</b> Steven K. Robinson <b>and</b> James O'Neill	
Livingston Board of Education Payroll Account 0108010463	Board President <b>and</b> Steven K. Robinson	
Livingston Board of Education Payroll Agency Account 0108010414	Board President <b>and</b> Steven K. Robinson	
Burnet Hill Elementary School School Account 0108010547	Sara Bright Iona Francis-Santa Cruz Steven K. Robinson	<i>Any 2</i>
Collins Elementary School School Account 0108010562	Timothy Hart Stefanie Lichtstein Steven K. Robinson	<i>Any 2</i>
Harrison Elementary School School Account 0108010539	Cynthia Healy Patricia Fernandez Steven K. Robinson	<i>Any 2</i>
Hillside Elementary School School Account 0108010570	Carlos Gramata Gina Ioviero Steven K. Robinson	<i>Any 2</i>
Mount Pleasant Elementary School School Account 0108010521	Dr. Emily Sortino Gail Writt Steven K. Robinson	<i>Any 2</i>
Riker Hill Elementary School School Account 0108010612	Debra Ostrowski Deborah Paoella Steven K. Robinson	<i>Any 2</i>
Mount Pleasant Middle School School Account 0108010554	Andrew Espinoza Gina Covello Steven K. Robinson	<i>Any 2</i>

Heritage Middle School School Account 0108010513	Shawn Kelly Robert Grosso Chrystie Young Christina Woytas Steven K. Robinson	<i>Any 2</i>
Livingston High School Activity Account 0108010588	Mark Stern Bronawyn O'Leary Jenna McCarthy Danielle Rosenzweig Steven K. Robinson	<i>Any 2</i>
Livingston High School Activity Account 0108010588	Mark Stern Bronawyn O'Leary Jenna McCarthy Danielle Rosenzweig Steven K. Robinson	<i>Any 2</i>
Livingston High School Athletic Account 0108010604	Mark Stern Bronawyn O'Leary Jenna McCarthy Danielle Rosenzweig Richard Porfido Steven K. Robinson	<i>Any 2</i>
Livingston High School Special Account 0108010596	Mark Stern Bronawyn O'Leary Jenna McCarthy Danielle Rosenzweig Steven K. Robinson	<i>Any 2</i>
Livingston Board of Education Board Secretary's Petty Cash 0108010489	James O'Neill Steven K. Robinson Patricia Ramos	<i>Any 2</i>
Livingston Board of Education Capital Reserve Fund Account 0108010448	Wire Transfers to other Board of Education Accounts Only  Steven K. Robinson Patricia Ramos	
Livingston Board of Education Unemployment Trust Fund Account 0108010455	Wire Transfers to other Board of Education Accounts Only  Steven K. Robinson Patricia Ramos	
Livingston Board of Education Cafeteria 0108010430	Steven K. Robinson or Patricia Ramos	
Livingston Board of Education FSA 0108010422	Wire Transfers to other Board of Education Accounts Only  Steven K. Robinson Patricia Ramos	

<b>State of New Jersey - Cash Management Fund</b>	
<b>Account Title and Number</b>	<b>Signature(s)</b>
Livingston Board of Education Regular Account 171-000068497	Wire Transfers to other Board of Education Accounts Only  Steven K. Robinson Patricia Ramos
Livingston Board of Education Capital Reserve Fund 171-000091480	Wire Transfers to other Board of Education Accounts Only  Steven K. Robinson Patricia Ramos
Livingston Board of Education Unemployment Trust Fund 171-000030538	Wire Transfers to other Board of Education Accounts Only  Steven K. Robinson Patricia Ramos

Mr. August seconded the motion.

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

Mrs. Chirls asked if Mr. Robinson can work with the Township Council to better coordinate our meeting schedules.

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

**Establishment of Annual Meeting Calendar**

**Resolved**, the Livingston Board of Education approves the following meeting calendar for 2019–2020:

<b>January, 2019</b>		<b>August, 2019</b>	
7	<i>Reorganization</i>	14 (Wed)	<i>Voting</i>
28	<i>Voting</i>		
<b>February, 2019</b>		<b>September, 2019</b>	
11	<i>Workshop</i>	9	<i>Workshop</i>
25	<i>Voting</i>	23	<i>Voting</i>
<b>March, 2019</b>		<b>October, 2019</b>	
11	<i>Workshop</i>	7	<i>Workshop</i>
18	<i>Voting</i>	14	<i>Voting</i>
<b>April, 2019</b>		<b>November, 2019</b>	
1	<i>Workshop</i>	11	<i>Workshop</i>
29	<i>Public Hearing/Voting</i>	18	<i>Voting</i>
<b>May, 2019</b>		<b>December, 2019</b>	
6	<i>Executive Session on Personnel (6:00 p.m.)</i>	9	<i>Voting</i>

13	<i>Workshop/Voting</i>		
20	<i>Voting</i>		
<b>June, 2019</b>		<b>January, 2020</b>	
3	<i>Workshop</i>	6	<i>Reorganization</i>
17	<i>Voting</i>		
<b>July, 2019</b>			
17 (Wed)	<i>Voting</i>		

Both voting and workshop meetings are to commence at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, 11 Foxcroft Drive, unless otherwise indicated.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

### **PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

#### **4.1 Resignations**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education accept the resignations of:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Last Day of Employment</b>
<i>Alexandra Sapir</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Resignation	Harrison	December 31, 2018
<i>Janyne Vasel</i>	School Nurse	Resignation	HMS	February 8, 2019
<i>Kristen Markey-Skeffington</i>	School Psychologist	Resignation	MPMS	February 8, 2019
<i>Shannon Lorenzo</i>	Teacher of Spanish	Resignation	LHS	February 8, 2019 or earlier if a replacement can be found.
<i>Melissa Salandra</i>	Teacher of ESL	Resignation	BHE	NA
<i>Casey Friedman</i>	ABA Discrete Trial TA	Resignation	BHE	January 4, 2019
<i>Daniel Sullivan</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	BHE	December 31, 2018
<i>Rebecca Leschinsky</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	HMS	December 31, 2018
<i>Dana Pottheiser</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	HMS	December 31, 2018



**4.2 Appointments**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approve 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>Dr. Frank Ruggiero</i>	District	PreK-12 Supervisor of World Language/ESL	First Year Tenure Track	Carmen Michael	LSA	3	\$116,380, plus \$2,400 for Doctorate (pro-rated)	4/8/19 or earlier if released by current Distirct
<i>Brenda Perry **</i>	MPE	Elementary School Teacher	First Year Tenure Track	Antoinette Cherichello	BA+32	3	\$58,163 (pro-rated)	1/1/19
<i>Kelley Miller</i>	Harrison	Elementary School Teacher	Leave Replacement	Kristen Szelingowski	MA	1	\$59,624 (pro-rated)	1/1/19
<i>Nicole Edelson</i>	Harrison	Elementary School Teacher	First Year Tenure Track	Alexandra Sapir	BA+32	4	\$58,925 (pro-rated)	12/17/18
<i>Iona Francis-Santa Cruz</i>	BHE	First Secretary	First Year Tenure Track	Annette Ferreira	FS-10 Mo. > 7/12	4	\$44,791, plus \$1,200 BA (pro-rated)	12/17/18
<i>Vanessa Barboza</i>	LHS	Secretary	First Year Tenure Track	Lorraine Haenggi	OS-12 mo. >7/12	6	\$53,821, plus \$1,200 for BA degree (pro-rated)	1/14/19
<i>Samuel Kalb</i>	HMS	Teacher of Social Studies	Leave Replacement	Helene McNanna	NA	NA	\$263/day	1/1/19-4/2/19

*\*\*as amended from previous agenda*

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

Mrs. Burman introduced Dr. Frank Ruggiero, our new Supervisor of World Language.

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

Ms. Messer asked if she could share something from the Curriculum Committee since there were no Board Reports listed on the agenda. Ms. Messer shared that Livingston will be represented at the State Level with regard to the new PARCC assessments by herself and Mrs. Steiger. Ms. Messer has been appointed by the State to help redesign the new assessments and Mrs. Steiger has been appointed to help with accommodations and modifications for students with special needs.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Dr. Shen moved the following:

**5.1 HIB Report**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education accepts the findings of HIB cases.  
Mr. August seconded the motion.

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

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

Anthony Rosamilia, President of Livingston Education Association, explained that public employees' salaries have been declining since a law passed in 2011 for them to pay a percentage of their health care premium. Mr. Rosamilia is working to get the law changed to have public employees' pay a percentage of their salary instead. Mr. Rosamilia is alerting the board and public that the LEA is asking its members to wear buttons that say Red for Ed to show support for the change to this law. The bills he is referring to are Senate Bill 2606 and Assembly Bill A4352.

Cindy Goldstein, 24 Mayhew Drive, asked for assistance in educating parents on how the sixth grade parties that are going on every weekend negatively affect the mental health and self-esteem of our children.

Greer Gelman, LEF President, announced that the second annual community book club will be held on Monday, January 14 in the LHS auditorium at 7:30 p.m. This year's author, Ann Arnold, is a graduate of the class of 1987. She will be discussing her book, Together: A Journey for Survival, which tells of her father's survival during the Holocaust. Ms. Gelman encouraged the community, and students in fifth grade and over at their parent's discretion, to come out and join them.

Elyse Shainbrown, 2 Mountain Ridge Drive, is the Director of the Holocaust Council for Greater Federation of Metrowest and wrote the curriculum for Ms. Arnold's book. Mrs. Shainbrown would like the board to make a push for her to come into our schools to work with students on this book.

Mr. August welcomed our County Freeholder, Pat Sebold, who was in the audience.

Mr. August stated if anyone would like to speak with him about any issues, to feel free to call him.

Mrs. Konner reminded everyone that January 21 is Martin Luther King Jr. day of service and hopes the community will come and participate.

## **Adjournment**

At 7:40 p.m., Mr. August made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Shen seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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