



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Executive Session – Heritage Middle School Faculty Room – 6:00 p.m.

Public Session – Heritage Middle School Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

A **Workshop/Voting Meeting** of the Livingston Board of Education was held on this date in the Heritage Middle School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by the Board President, Charles August, 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, 2019 and posted at the Board of Education office and communicated to *The Star Ledger*, *West Essex Tribune*, *TAPinto Livingston* and the Livingston Township Clerk.

Dr. Shen 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 and Legal Issue

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 7:02 p.m., Mr. August 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 75 members of the public and staff

Teachers of the Year Recognition

The 2018-2019 Teachers of the Year were recognized by their principals. Mrs. Bright introduced Erin Espino from Burnet Hill; Mr. Accardi introduced Tracey Dunleavy from Collins; Mrs. Healy introduced Lisa Fischer from Harrison; Mr. Gramata introduced Bridget Marshall from Hillside; Dr. Sortino introduced Samantha Bannon from Mt. Pleasant Elementary; Mrs. Ostrowski introduced Geralyn Lacourtna from Riker Hill, Mr. Espinoza introduced Stafford Horne from Mt. Pleasant Middle; Mr. Kelly introduced Dr. Dakashna Lang from Heritage; Mr. Stern introduced Dr. Susan Rothbard from Livingston High School and Mrs. Capone-Steiger introduced the LPS Educational Services Professional, Susan Gould, School Nurse.

Superintendent's Report

1. Update for Testing for Graduation

Mr. O'Neill explained the New Jersey Department of Education updated the high school graduation assessment requirements in both English Language Arts and mathematics for the Classes of 2019 and 2020. Mr. O'Neill continued students graduating as members of these two classes can meet graduation assessment requirements through any of these three pathways: 1) achieving passing scores on high school level NJSLA/PARCC assessments (the test has been renamed to NJSLA – NJ Student Learning Assessment); 2) achieving scores defined in the table on alternative assessments such as the SAT, ACT or ACCUPLACER or 3) by submitting, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to NJDOE. Mr. O'Neill added there will be a reduction in testing times both in the number of testing units as well as in the number of problems. Mr. O'Neill concluded that we will be posting the schedule on the website as well as distributing it to parents at different grade levels.

Budget Discussion Featuring Curriculum, Facilities and Personnel

Mr. Robinson provided a review of the 2019-2020 budget explaining the budget is at cap, no programs have been cut and no existing staff members are being reduced. Mr. Robinson introduced Mrs. Burman to review staffing.

Mrs. Burman reviewed the proposed staffing additions, which include four full-time teachers at the high school, two full-time teachers at Heritage, a full-time district nurse, a full-time basic skills instructor to support math instruction at the elementary schools, a full-time teacher for the Life Skills program at HMS, a part-time teacher of students with disabilities to assist at MPMS and an allocation of money towards security personnel to cover evening and weekend events as needed within the district.

Mrs. Burman continued with a review of the proposed staffing reductions, which include the reduction of an assistant principal at MPMS and one elementary school teacher position.

Mrs. Kopacz and Mrs. Topylko explained the curriculum writing cycle and then reviewed the curriculum initiatives, proposed new high school courses and explained the many professional development opportunities provided to staff throughout the year.

Mr. Robinson reviewed the capital improvements budget highlighting the proposed budget includes, but is not limited to, replacing the high school shingle roof, replacing the high school gym floor in the Fitness and Wellness Center, Media Center Upgrades at Heritage, Burnet Hill and Mount Pleasant Elementary, repaving of blacktop/walkways at five schools and air conditioning of small activity rooms at Mount Pleasant Elementary and Riker Hill.

Mr. Robinson continued that the technology budget will be reviewed at the March 18 meeting and will include information about the continuation of the 1:1 initiative, upgrade of the

infrastructure with additional wireless access points and infusion of funding to upgrade the high school TV studio.

Mr. Robinson continued by explaining enrollment is deemed to be relatively flat and that the only increase right now is approximately 50 students at the high school.

Mr. Robinson added we have been informed that ratables are up \$109,234,970.

Mr. Robinson announced the proposed budget has a tax impact of \$89 on a house assessed at \$600,000.

Lastly, Mr. Robinson reviewed the budget calendar announcing the additional meeting on March 25 will be at 8:00 p.m. to adopt the tentative budget. Public forums to discuss the budget will be held on April 4 at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The public hearing is scheduled for April 29.

Board Reports

Mrs. Konner reminded everyone that the performance of *Once Upon a Mattress* is coming up this weekend at the high school.

Mrs. Konner read to students at Burnet Hill and Riker Hill in celebration of Read Across America.

Mrs. Konner attended TREPS at Collins.

Mrs. Chirls attended a NJ Spotlight event where she watched a publisher lead a panel discussion with three different high school principals about the 21st century graduate.

As NJSBA representative for the 27th district, Mrs. Chirls attended the district legislative meeting where they reviewed primary legislative issues for the group that included issues about the funding formula, challenges faced with charter schools, discussions about special education funding and assessments.

Mrs. Konner requested the topic of legislation be added as a future agenda item.

Mrs. Chirls thanked the community for reaching out to our legislators about the superintendent salary cap.

Mr. August read to students at Burnet Hill in celebration of Read Across America.

Mr. August and Mrs. Konner attended an event presented by the students of the robotics team at the high school. The team was presented with a \$10,000 grant from the Columbia Bank Foundation for our LHS Technology/Engineering Competition Teams.

Mr. August announced that we are sending a letter to the Commissioner of Education tomorrow to request a waiver on the superintendent salary cap. Mr. August added the cap has been a hindrance in the superintendent search.

Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes

Andrew Miller, 18 Sycamore Terrace, asked if we are buying physical textbooks or using online resources and what the plan is to keep them updated. Mr. Miller asked about adding another guidance counselor to the budget to reduce the counselor/student ratio at the high school.

Mrs. Steiger responded when we purchase textbooks, we also get an online component
March 11, 2019

Mr. O'Neill explained our guidance counselor/student ratio is smaller than the State guidelines.

Sasha Paillet Koff, 13 Rumson Road, thanked parents in the community for stepping up to write to their legislators about the superintendent salary cap and asked a question about the heart rate monitors.

Laura Goren, 8 Tremont Terrace, asked how we are keeping kids safe and what board action will be taken with respect to the policy that was instituted last year about live streaming school events.

Mr. August responded that a violation of our policies can result in severe consequences.

Michael Ramer, 22 Mohawk Drive, invited the board members who aren't on his private Facebook site and the administration to join so they can see firsthand the range of discussions held about the superintendent search, social and emotional behavior of children, using technology in schools and preparing for college. Mr. Ramer also asked if the board is considering a comprehensive social media policy that includes student usage of smart phones in the classroom.

James Calderon, 17 Claremont Avenue, asked about having math textbooks for students to use at home so parents can assist with homework questions. Mr. Calderon also asked why it is such a difficult task to find a superintendent.

Ms. Messer responded to Mrs. Goren that in order to avoid any potential of impropriety and to stay neutral, she proposes the school administration, who are well equipped and concerned about the safety of our students, make the decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Konner 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>Barbara Lombardo</i>	Media Specialist	Retirement	RHE	June 30, 2019
<i>Stephanie Robinson</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Resignation	Harrison	March 29, 2019
<i>Alyssa Lee</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Resignation	Collins	April 30, 2019
<i>Meredith Coviello</i>	Teacher of English	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2019
<i>Ducarmel Dupont</i>	25 Hr Bus Driver	Resignation	Transportation	February 21, 2019

Dr. Shen seconded the motion.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

5.1 HIB Report

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

Dr. Shen seconded the motion.

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

PREVIEW OF MARCH 18, 2019 VOTING AGENDA

The board reviewed the following items:

- 1. PROGRAM/CURRICULUM**
 - 1.1 Textbook**
 - 1.2 Student Teachers**
- 2. STUDENT SERVICES**
 - 2.1 Out of District Placements**
- 3. BUSINESS**
 - 3.1 Payment of Bills**
 - 3.2 Board Secretary Report – January 2019**
 - 3.3 Transfers**
 - 3.4 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**
 - 3.5 Field Trip**
 - 3.6 Conferences and Overnight Trips**
 - 3.7 Policies and Regulations**
- 4. PERSONNEL**
 - 4.1 Appointments**
 - 4.2 Substitutes**
 - 4.3 Extra Work Pay**
 - 4.4 Stipends**
 - 4.5 Extra Period Assignments**
 - 4.6 Mentor Fees**
- 5. MISCELLANEOUS**
 - 5.1 HIB Report**
 - 5.2 Suspension Report**

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

There was no public comment.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

March 11, 2019

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:11 p.m., Mr. August requested a motion to go back into Executive Session to discuss personnel. No action will be taken.

Mrs. Konner 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 March 11, 2019 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,

Steven K. Robinson
Board Secretary