



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Executive Session – Administration Building Large Conference Room – 6:00 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 in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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, Superintendent Search 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 7:00 p.m., Mr. August reconvened the public meeting.

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

Members Absent: Samantha Messer

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

Superintendent's Report

1. Budget Discussion

Mr. Robinson asked the board if they have any questions about the budget. Public forums are this Thursday, April 4 at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The public hearing is on April 29.

Mrs. Konner asked how the administration will address her concerns about how they will deal with having only one administrator at MPM.

Mr. O'Neill responded he met with staff at MPM this afternoon and the teachers are fond of the interim principal who has been there all year. Mr. O'Neill added the staff are of the opinion it will be difficult for one administrator to run that building so he is making a recommendation to the board that in addition to the principal and two supervisors already stationed in that building, we would appoint someone to be a part-time assistant principal. This person would receive a stipend for the additional responsibilities and would be housed at MPM two out of five days per week according to the needs of the principal. This recommendation will be on the next board agenda.

Mrs. Chirls asked Mr. O'Neill to address what other resources are in that building so the community understands that there are other supports in place during the school day.

Mr. O'Neill reviewed a PowerPoint that highlighted the type and number of counseling professionals we have across the district. Mr. O'Neill added there are more support professionals in Livingston than any other district he has worked. Mr. O'Neill added all of these people offer support to the administrative staff, they help students with disabilities and help other staff members understand how to provide accommodations for students so they can be successful.

Mr. O'Neill continued that at MPM, there is a principal, a proposal for a part-time assistant principal in the building two days a week, two supervisors who are already stationed in the building and a number of experienced teachers who are familiar with the building and its operation. Mr. O'Neill continued he is comfortable that staffing is commensurate with the needs of the student population. Mr. O'Neill concluded if we saw concerns, they would be addressed.

Mr. O'Neill announced the summer academy offerings have been posted online and for the first time there is an Algebra course offered that, if passed, will allow 9th graders to take Geometry.

Mr. O'Neill announced some might have noticed that Mr. Ostrowski, the principal at Riker Hill, is retiring at the end of the school year after 32 years in Livingston. Mr. O'Neill wished her well and thanked her for her many years of service to the district.

Mr. O'Neill continued the Collins principal search committee has recommended a few great candidates to go onto the next round. Mr. O'Neill added a similar committee will be formed to conduct interviews for the Riker Hill principal position.

Mr. O'Neill explained the board has been presented with a proposal for addressing the issue of live streaming and when it is ready for first reading on an agenda, the board will welcome community input.

With respect to the superintendent search, Mr. O'Neill explained the board is continuing to interview candidates this week. Afterwards, they will decide if they need to see anyone again and then move forward with a recommendation to appoint someone on April 29.

Board Reports

Mr. August announced there will be a Five-on-Five Meeting with the Board of Education and Township Council on April 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Court to discuss joint projects of the past and future. The public are invited to attend.

Mr. August announced that April 9 is the Intergenerational Prom, another joint effort between the board and township.

Mr. Chirls recognized the support our student assistance counselors gave to the Dr. Matt Bellace program at Heritage Middle School last week.

Dr. Shen announced there will be a multicultural night at the high school on April 12 at 5 p.m. in the Fitness and Wellness Center.

Mrs. Konner attended an HCHY meeting this past week that included a lot of discussion for support for the high school multicultural night. Mrs. Konner added Autism Speaks will be April 30 at the oval, the Intergenerational Prom on April 9 and a joint sponsored event by LMAC and HCHY this Thursday for the Darren Prince event.

Mrs. Konner attended a Curriculum Committee meeting this week where they viewed a presentation on a new math series.

Mrs. Steiger added they spent a year and a half examining resources within the K-6 math world, but particularly for K-1 math, and are in the final stages of making a decision and making sure we have everything ready for the opening of school in September.

Mr. O'Neill added to his Superintendent's Report the announcement that the National Association of Music Merchants awarded us with the *Best Communities for Music Education Award* for the third year in a row.

Mr. August congratulated Mr. Robinson on being one of four business administrators in the State chosen to receive the 2019 Distinguished Service Award. As part of the award, Mr. Robinson will have the honor of presenting a \$1,000 scholarship to a student in the district.

Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes

Mike Ramer, 22 Mohawk Drive, attended Dr. Matt Bellace's event at HMS but stated there was also a program about online bullying at another location in town the same evening. Mr. Ramer asked if there is a mechanism in place to check for conflicts in programming or if the district has plans to record some of the programs so parents who can't attend in person can watch them at a different time.

Mrs. Chirls explained that some of the speakers at the events restrict taping. Mrs. Chirls continued that other programs are not taped to protect the privacy of parents who may not want their questions or the answers recorded.

Mrs. Konner said the township uses Burbio that you can subscribe to and see what's going on in the community. Mrs. Konner thought if other committees were aware of the service, they could put their events on as well.

Mr. O'Neill added we have a hard time not conflicting with our own events so it is even more difficult to coordinate with township events. We try our best to avoid conflicts.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

PERSONNEL

Dr. Shen 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>Debra Ostrowski</i>	Principal	Retirement	RHE	June 30, 2019
<i>Susan Rothbard</i>	Teacher of English	Retirement	LHS	June 30, 2019
<i>Edward Meehan</i>	Teacher of Social Studies	Retirement	LHS (MCC)	June 30, 2019
<i>Sandra Criscenzo</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Retirement	Collins	June 30, 2019
<i>Katherine Abrams</i>	Teacher of Art	Retirement	BHE/MPE	June 30, 2019
<i>Patricia LeDonne</i>	Intervention/Enrichment Specialist	Retirement	Collins/Hillside/RHE	June 30, 2019
<i>Damien Villeneuve</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	Hillside	April 5, 2019

**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/o pay, but with benefits (if applicable)	Extended LOA w/o pay or benefits	Return Date
<i>Dr. Mallory Seidman</i>	School Psychologist	BHE	NA	8/29/19-11/21/19	11/22/19-2/9/20	2/10/20

**as amended from a previous agenda*

***Designates time counted toward NJFLA/FMLA*

4.3 Substitutes

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following substitute assignments:

Name	Location	Title	Leave Replacement or Long Term Sub	Replacing	Salary	Effective Date
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<i>Jaimee Mirsky</i>	LHS	Teacher of English (.4)	Long-term substitute	Jessica Rivchin	\$105/day	4/1/19-6/30/19
<i>Michael Collins</i>	LHS	Teacher of Social Studies (.6)	Long-term substitute	Samantha Kowalak	\$158/day	4/1/19-6/30/19

Mrs. Konner seconded the motion.

Mrs. Burman congratulated all of the retirees.

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

PREVIEW OF APRIL 29, 2019 VOTING AGENDA

The board reviewed the topics coming up on the April 29 agenda.

Public Hearing on Budget

1. Discussion
2. Questions and Comments from Public
 - Speakers are asked to stand and state name and address for the board and public
 - Each person may speak once with a three (3) minutes time limit until all who wish to be heard have had an opportunity to speak.

Adoption of 2019-2020 Budget

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenues</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
2019-2020 Total Expenditures	\$115,883,285	\$1,791,343	\$8,145,350	\$125,819,978
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$7,340,011	\$1,791,343	\$960,970	\$10,092,324
Taxes to be Raised	\$108,543,274	\$0	\$7,184,380	\$115,727,654

1. **PROGRAM/CURRICULUM**
 - 1.1 **Student Teacher**
 - 1.2 **Educational Leadership Intern**
2. **STUDENT SERVICES**
 - 2.1 **Related Services/Medical Consultants**

3. **BUSINESS**
 - 3.1 **Payment of Bills**
 - 3.2 **Board Secretary Report – February 2019**
 - 3.3 **Transfers**
 - 3.4 **Field Trip**
 - 3.5 **Conferences and Overnight Trips**
 - 3.6 **Joint Transportation Agreement with Educational Services Commission of Morris County**
 - 3.7 **Union County Educational Services Commission - Transportation**
 - 3.8 **Subscription Bus Pricing**
 - 3.9 **Policies and Regulations**
4. **PERSONNEL**
 - 4.1 **Substitutes**
 - 4.2 **Extra Work Pay**
5. **MISCELLANEOUS**
 - 5.1 **HIB Report**
 - 5.2 **Suspension Report**

Mr. August asked a question about the Earned Sick Leave Law policy and Mrs. Burman explained the State passed a new law that anyone who is not covered by statute or code with respect to sick leave will earn one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours that an individual works. This applies to our hourly employees.

Mrs. Burman continued when she and Mr. Robinson looked at the people who would be affected, rather than tracking them, they decided to give everyone six of their days (for example, for someone who works 1.25 hours a day, they would earn 1.25 hours of sick time).

Mr. August asked about policy 2415.06, Unsafe School Choice and Mrs. Burman explained this policy is for districts that have unsafe schools so they can request to go to another school in their district.

With respect to policy 5612, Mrs. Konner asked if there is any policy that protects the board from assault, harassment or bullying and Mrs. Burman said there is the Civility policy but will look into if there is anything else.

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

Mahnaz Shirazi-Whang, 94 Sykes Avenue, asked why we are reducing one teacher at the elementary level and how that will affect class sizes.

Mr. Robinson explained based on the number of students, we can go down three sections but he is being conservative and is only reducing by one. Mr. Robinson explained some fifth grades that currently have four sections will become three next year because enrollment numbers are lower.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m. Mrs. Konner made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven K. Robinson
Board Secretary

April 1, 2019

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