



## **LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTING/WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, September 9, 2019

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

A **Voting/Workshop 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 7:00 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.

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

Also in Attendance: Dr. Matthew Block, Steven Robinson, Lisa Capone-Steiger, Susan Burman, Joann Goldberg and approximately 15 members of the public and staff

### **Student Representative to the Board (for one year term)**

Mr. Robinson swore in Nirav Patel as the new Student Representative to the Board. Mr. Patel took his seat at the table.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Block welcomed Nirav.

Dr. Block announced we had a great opening of school and he saw lots of positive energy as he traveled across the district to all of the buildings. Dr. Block thanked everyone who worked over the summer for getting the schools ready.

Dr. Block continued we had a few transportation issues and with over 2,000 students going in different directions that is to be expected. Dr. Block added there was also some confusion with a few students MySchoolBucks accounts but those were quickly rectified.

Dr. Block thanked the Livingston Police Department for their presence during opening day.

Dr. Block congratulated the marching band who were the warm up act for the New York Jets opener at MetLife Stadium.

Dr. Block asked the community to get out and support all of our Lancer teams this fall.

Dr. Block tweeted out an article about a vaping related illness that has been reported in the news most recently. Dr. Block continued members of the board have requested more information be shared and the administration will work on putting a presentation together for a future meeting.

In addition, we have sent an email to the health teachers at the high school to make sure this is covered as part of their curriculum.

Dr. Block participated in LHS Summer Reading Lollapalooza where as part of summer reading, students gather with administrators and teachers to discuss what they read over the summer.

## **Board Reports**

### 1. Board Goals

Mrs. Konner explained that the board will be setting goals that are aligned with the district goals. Mrs. Konner continued that district goals falls under the purview of the superintendent and staff and board goals fall under the purview of the board.

Mrs. Konner suggested two board goals: one that has to do with communication among board members, the public and administration and another on negotiations.

Mrs. Chirls suggested board goals that have to do with professional development and training of board members to move them towards achieving master board status.

Dr. Shen suggested a board goal about learning how to exchange ideas.

Ms. Messer suggested a budget and personnel goal to ensure we are appropriately staffed for a district of our size.

Mr. August suggested giving the superintendent as much leeway as possible so that he can perform his job, that all staff eligible for tenure are reviewed by the superintendent and that all new principals are reviewed by the superintendent.

Mrs. Konner added supporting personnel and promoting a feeling of respect and positive culture that filters down to the community through a goal of culture, community and inclusivity.

Mrs. Chirls stated in the past, the board has broken up into groups of two to work outside of the meeting to further review these goals and to bring them back to the table in a more concise format.

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

Seth Cohen, 9 Thurston Drive, would like to expand on the culture and inclusivity goal by prioritizing what our students need first. Mrs. Konner responded that is reflected in our district goals and Mr. Cohen added he would like them reflected in the mindset of how the board works together.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL**

### **PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

#### **4.1 Resignations**

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

| <b>Name</b>               | <b>Position</b>              | <b>Reason</b> | <b>Location</b> | <b>Last Day of Employment</b>                             |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---|
| <i>Jennifer LoBrutto</i>  | Reading Specialist           | Resignation   | Hillside        | NA  |
| <i>Matthew Garcia</i>     | Teacher of Italian           | Resignation   | LHS             | NA  |
| <i>Justine Krawiec*</i>   | Teacher of Science (Grade 8) | Resignation   | HMS             | September 3, 2019   |
| <i>Dr. Jennifer Malik</i> | School Psychologist          | Resignation   | HMS             | September 5, 2019   |
| <i>Michael Santoro</i>    | Teacher of Italian           | Resignation   | HMS             | October 20, 2019 or earlier if a replacement can be found |
| <i>Kayla Rinaldi</i>      | Instructional Aide           | Resignation   | BHE             | June 30, 2019   |
| <i>Paul Crowe</i>         | Instructional Aide           | Resignation   | MPE             | June 30, 2019   |
| <i>Meredith Eger</i>      | Instructional Aide           | Resignation   | RHE             | June 30, 2019   |
| <i>Kelly Correia</i>      | Instructional Aide           | Resignation   | Collins         | June 30, 2019   |
| <i>Jade Bauer</i>         | Instructional Aide           | Resignation   | Collins         | June 30, 2019   |
| <i>Kelsey Murray</i>      | Instructional Aide           | Resignation   | Collins         | June 30, 2019   |
| <i>Stacy Pecorino</i>     | ABA Discrete Trial TA        | Resignation   | BHE             | June 30, 2019   |
| <i>Matthew DeFeo</i>      | Instructional Aide           | Resignation   | HMS             | June 30, 2019   |
| <i>Romana Dhanoa</i>      | Playground Aide              | Resignation   | RHE             | June 30, 2019   |
| <i>Janet Martin</i>       | Playground Aide              | Resignation   | RHE             | June 30, 2019   |
| <i>Fei Yang</i>           | Playground Aide              | Resignation   | RHE             | June 30, 2019   |
| <i>Carol Berger</i>       | Media Aide                   | Resignation   | HMS             | June 30, 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 |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Amanda Cognetti* | Elementary School Teacher | MPE      | 8/29/19-9/10/19        | 9/11/19-12/4/19**                              | 12/5/19-2/7/20                   | 2/10/20     |
| Christine Siti   | School Counselor          | Harrison | 12/2/19-1/1/20         | 1/2/20-4/2/20**                                | 4/3/20-6/30/20                   | 9/1/20      |

\*as amended from a previous agenda

\*\*Designates time counted toward NJFLA/FMLA

### 4.3 Transfers

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the transfers as listed on **Attachment A**.

### 4.4 Appointments

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves 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                                      |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|------|--|---|
| Briana Belostock    | BHE            | Elementary School Teacher | One Year Leave Replacement         | Diana Yellen (LOA)            | BA             | 1    | \$52,673   | 8/29/19   |
| Lauren Chin**       | BHE            | Elementary School Teacher | First Year Tenure Track            | Kristin Santos (transfer)     | BA+32          | 5    | \$59,874   | 8/29/19   |
| Cara Piccerilli     | RHE            | Elementary School Teacher | First Year Tenure Track            | Erin Lurie (resignation)      | MA             | 6    | \$63,612   | 8/29/19   |
| Vincent Belcastro   | HMS            | Teacher of Italian        | First Year Tenure Track            | Michael Santoro (resignation) | MA             | 10   | \$76,192   | 10/29/19 or earlier if released by current contract |
| Robert Ferraro, Sr. | LHS            | Head Custodian            | NA                                 | Amdi Ramani                   | C              | 11   | \$58,662, plus \$2,825 for head custodian and \$625 for black seal | as soon as released from current contract           |
| Rosalina Ortiz      | Transportation | 25 Hr Bus Driver          | NA                                 | Joaquin Diaz                  | 25 Hr BD Guide | 6    | \$25,076   | 8/29/19   |
| Raymond Salvagno    | Harrison       | Playground Aide           | NA                                 | NA                            | NA             | NA   | \$15.50/hr   | 9/4/19  |
| Paul Waldman        | BHE            | Playground Aide           | NA                                 | NA                            | NA             | NA   | \$15.50/hr   | 9/4/19  |
| Nicole Griffin      | Collins        | Playground Aide           | NA                                 | NA                            | NA             | NA   | \$15.50/hr   | 9/4/19  |
| Elaine Anderson     | HMS            | Media Aide                | NA                                 | NA                            | NA             | NA   | \$16.50/hr   | 9/4/19  |

\*begins 60-day probationary period

\*\*as amended from previous agenda

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the appointment of the ABA Discrete Trial TA's and Instructional Aides, who have been previously employed by Livingston Public Schools, as listed on **Attachment B**.

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the appointment of the ABA Discrete Trial TA's and Instructional Aides as listed on **Attachment C**.

#### **4.5 Substitutes**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the appointment of the individuals listed below to serve as substitutes for the 2019-2020 school year:

##### **Teachers**

*Clark Murphy*

##### **Secretarial**

*Marlene Zulauf (\$17.50/hr)*

#### **4.6 Stipends**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment D** for stipends at the elementary schools for the 2019-2020 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment E** for athletic stipends at Livingston High School for the 2019-2020 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment F** for co-curricular stipends at Livingston High School for the 2019-2020 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

#### **4.7 Extra Period Assignments**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment G** for extra period assignments during the 2019-2020 school year.

#### **4.8 Lateral Moves**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves contract changes to be made for the certificated staff members listed on **Attachment H** who completed course work with passing grades and are eligible for a lateral move on the contract guide. The salary adjustments are effective and retroactive to September 1, 2019.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

## **PREVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 VOTING AGENDA**

The board reviewed the items for the upcoming September 23 meeting.

- 1. PROGRAM/CURRICULUM**
  - 1.1 Textbooks**
  - 1.2 District Nursing Services Plan**
  - 1.3 District Mentoring Plan**
- 2. STUDENT SERVICES**
  - 2.1 Out of District Placements**
  - 2.2 Related Services/Medical Consultants**
- 3. BUSINESS**
  - 3.1 Conferences and Overnight Trips**
  - 3.2 Field Trips**
  - 3.3 Parental Contract for Student Transportation**
  - 3.4 Tuition Students (Receiving)**
  - 3.5 SWING Education Services Agreement**
  - 3.6 Policies & Regulations**

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

Mr. August announced that the 911 Ceremony will be held on Wednesday at the oval.

Sasha Koff, 13 Rumson Road, stated there will be a change at the state level that will impact the funding LMAC provides to the district and wanted to make us aware so that we plan accordingly.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

Mr. August stated it is illegal to pass a school bus when it is stopped with its lights on; however, there are a very large number of people who don't stop.

Mr. Robinson responded our buses have cameras on them and the drivers have been instructed to let us know if they see it happen so that we can report it to the police.

Dr. Shen announced he went on a trip to Europe where he was surrounded by people speaking many different languages. Dr. Shen stressed the importance of learning different languages and recommended we continue to push the foreign language program in the district.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:25 p.m., Mrs. Konner made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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