



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 7, 2019

Executive Session - Administration Building Large Conference Room - 6:30 p.m.

Public Session - Administration 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 6:30 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:

- Contract Negotiations and to review Executive Session Minutes

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.

Mrs. Konner seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

At 7:10 p.m. Mr. August reconvened the public meeting.

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

Also in Attendance: Dr. Matthew Block, Steven Robinson, Susan Burman, Joann Goldberg and approximately 20 members of the public and staff

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Block announced we have had a great first month of school and that all of our schools are doing a lot of work on community building. They have held PEP rallies and programs to bring the students together and connect them to the schools.

Dr. Block continued that Officer Mullaney has visited a couple of our schools to speak with students about safety procedures. He will continue this at all of them.

Dr. Block announced high school graduation will be held on June 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

1. NJSLA (as per policy 2610)

Mrs. Natalie Topylko reviewed the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment data, which was formerly known as the PARCC exam. Students took NJSLA English Language Arts and Literacy Assessments in grades 3 to 10 and NJSLA Mathematics Assessments in grades 3 to 8 and End of Course Assessments in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II.

Mrs. Topylko explained that the administrative staff utilizes this data to identify what has happened in this current year, how it compares to previous performance and how particular cohorts perform. The administrative staff then develop action plans to move forward that impact professional development and curriculum development.

The full presentation is available on our website.

The board asked some questions about the middle school math sequence, if there is a need to change the English program at the 6th grade level to help with vocabulary and if we should be concerned about the results.

Mrs. Topylko stated the math results show we have some work to do and are addressing. With respect to the 6th grade English program, their preliminary analysis didn't indicate a need for more help at the moment but they will continue to monitor.

Dr. Block added a lot of observations and internal assessments all contribute to understanding that the math program needed some additional support so we have made that a goal this year; however, it is important to remember that this is one data point in multiple looks that keep us informed so that we can look for ways to improve our instruction.

Dr. Block tabled the Public Hearing for District and School HIB Self-Assessment Report to the October 14 meeting.

Board Reports

Ms. Messer announced she attended a meeting of the Livingston Education Foundation where they discussed how to disperse some of the funds they are raising. At one of the November board meetings Greer Gelman and Stefanie Lichtstein will be present to discuss a proposal about offering grants to teachers for in-classroom projects.

The board reviewed the board goals for 2019-2020 that will be approved and adopted at the October 14 meeting.

Dr. Shen attended a senior internship program at the high school and asked the community to help spread the word so more local businesses that are within 20 minutes of the high school can get involved.

Mrs. Konner added the Chamber of Commerce has expressed an interest and suggested Dr. Shen reach out to them. Mrs. Konner also suggested reaching out to our local alumni.

Mr. August announced this Sunday is the Big L Hall of Fame induction.

Mr. August stated there was a suggestion to form a ten member committee to discuss the fields but he spoke with the Mayor and they agree that the existing sports council should be involved because they represent all of the sports teams, know what their teams need and know the history of discussions thus far. Mr. August added we will be having a 2-on-2 meeting coming up with plans for a potential 5-on-5 to follow. The fields will be a topic of discussion.

With all of the news centered on the health dangers and challenges for our youth with regard to vaping, Mrs. Chirls reached out to New Jersey School Boards Association and they sent a resolution for school boards to consider approving. The resolution makes a statement about the dangers of vaping.

The board discussed and agreed to add the word "temporary" before statewide ban which is similar to what the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has instituted while a study to determine more about the dangers is conducted.

VOTING ITEM

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 – Mrs. Chirls, Mrs. Konner, Dr. Shen, Ms. Messer, Mr. August
Nays – None

PREVIEW OF OCTOBER 14, 2019 VOTING AGENDA

The board reviewed the voting items for next week's meeting.

- 1. PROGRAM/CURRICULUM**
 - 1.1 Textbooks/DVDs**
 - 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 – August 2019**
 - 3.3 Conferences and Overnight Trips**
 - 3.4 Field Trips**
 - 3.5 Policies & Regulations**
- 4. PERSONNEL**
 - 4.1 Resignations**
 - 4.2 Leaves of Absences**
 - 4.3 Appointments**
 - 4.4 Substitutes**
 - 4.5 Extra Work Pay**

- 4.6 Lateral Moves
- 4.7 Stipends
- 4.8 Contract Adjustments
- 4.9 Home Instructional Personnel Approval and Rates
- 5. MISCELLANEOUS
 - 5.1 HIB Report
 - 5.2 Suspension Report
 - 5.3 HIB Self-Assessment Report

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

There was no public comment.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mr. August mentioned student backpacks are heavy and asked if there is a way to make them lighter.

Mr. August announced people may have seen solicitations from the fire department and first aid squad and encouraged they make donations.

Mr. August wished everyone observing Yom Kippur an easy fast.

Mrs. Konner announced that Monday is a professional development day for staff. There is no school for students.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 p.m., Mrs. Konner made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Shen seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven K. Robinson
Board Secretary