



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 11, 2019

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.

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 and Contract Negotiations

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.

Dr. Shen 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, Dr. George Shen, Samantha Messer and Nirav Patel

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

In honor of Veterans Day, LPS Veterans Marie Battist-Rock, Amro Mohammed and Mike Munley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bela Batta, Robyn Burger, Ilana Chalom, Matthew Gershman and Gene Lu from the Livingston High School Notations sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

Mr. August congratulated Sam Messer and Seth Cohen on winning the school board election.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Block congratulated Sam Messer and Seth Cohen on winning the school board election and thanked everyone who ran.

Dr. Block announced he will be holding four superintendent coffees for the community to attend. The first one is scheduled for November 21 at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Building.

Dr. Block announced there will be a celebration tomorrow night to mark the 90th birthday of Harrison Elementary School.

Dr. Block explained he met with the Town Safety Committee last week and they had a lot of discussion about student safety outside of school, traffic issues around town and how to make sure students are following traffic laws.

Dr. Block announced the Diversity Committee is holding a world religions event on November 21.

1. Assessment Update

Mrs. Natalie Topylko and Ms. Danielle Rozensweig provided an assessment update on the Advanced Placement Exams, the SAT, the ACT, Access for ELLs and the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment for Science. For Advanced Placement, Ms. Rozensweig explained the school summary over the past five years noting the number of AP test takers has increased by 5.1% since 2019 and that 91.5% of the students scored 3 or higher. Mrs. Topylko reviewed the overall mean scores for the SAT with a comparison of Livingston vs. New Jersey vs. National scores. Mrs. Topylko continued with the percent of students meeting college readiness benchmarks taking the ACT. Mrs. Topylko also reviewed the Access for ELLs performance level. We have not yet received the results of the NJ Student Learning Assessment for Science so those results will be shared out with the public at a later date.

Ms. Messer asked what makes a student qualify for AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honors or AP Scholar with Distinction and Mrs. Rozensweig replied it has to do with the number of AP exams a student takes and their score.

Dr. Shen requested sharing the data on the median as well as the mean for the SAT scores.

Mrs. Konner asked to see a comparison with other schools in our district factor groups.

2. Board Budget Goals

The group discussed their board budget goals which include increased counseling supports for mental health, ensuring we have appropriate expertise for college counseling services, enhanced extracurricular opportunities for students at the elementary and middle school levels to feed into what we do in high school, accessing middle school needs to drive participation at the high school in different levels, maintaining class sizes, diversity/equity training for staff, students and families, adequate staffing to fund internship program, sustainability, sharing assessment practices and best practices across other high performing districts, review of fields, facilities and arts, ensure there is funding to support wellness initiatives so that we are not limited from using the best possible programs to measure data, develop a LBOE app to make communication easier with students and parents, reviewing the six-day rotation at the elementary schools and looking at the cost to change the size of the board.

Mr. August added putting lights from the parking lot on the ramp along the administration building, restriping some of the parking lots, adding one or two handicap spaces at the back of MPE and suggested having a gymnastics team.

Board Reports

Mrs. Konner and some other board members attended the HCHY meeting. Dr. Block also attended and spoke to the group.

Mrs. Konner and Mrs. Chirls participated in the New Jersey School Boards Association workshop where they attended a number of presentations. Mrs. Konner continued that one presentation that stood out called "Building a Foundation for Hope" had to do with a mental health report and suggested our board take advantage that the chairman of this group offered to come visit with boards to discuss the recommendations. The report has been shared with the board.

In addition, on December 11, Essex County School Boards Association is holding a meeting to discuss putting together a group of Essex County districts to work together to deal with these issues.

Mrs. Konner added the Garden State Coalition did an interesting presentation on dealing with stress for your superintendent.

Mrs. Konner announced the high school is having a production of Radium Girls on November 14, 15 and 16 and the Children's Theater Workshop is performing Annie Junior on November 16 and 17.

Dr. Shen shared a report he saw about the reduced rigor of courses of study in the public schools in Japan and how this led to a negative impact in averages scores for 8th and 12th graders. Dr. Shen added their public education base is shrinking and their private education base is booming due to there being more rigor in the private schools.

Mrs. Konner announced the Chamber of Commerce is holding their annual community Thanksgiving luncheon on November 26. There is a \$45 fee to attend. Harrison's fourth grader, Matthew Smith, who was a Master Chef Junior finalist, will be giving a cooking demonstration.

Mr. August announced he attended a 2 on 2 meeting with township officials as well as Mrs. Konner, Dr. Block and Mr. Robinson and the topics discussed were the township moving the DPW over to Okner Parkway by the end of 2020 and their offering the board of education to take over the firehouse property near the circle to park our bus fleet. Mr. August explained some research needs to be done about how best to have the buses exit the property since there is currently only one way onto Northfield. Mr. August continued there was a discussion about the fields and the creation of a fields committee that will include members of the sports council. Mr. August continued the last topic was about LTV. The district has already made a major investment in LTV and the town discussed making an investment of their own as they have some needs that are unique to them.

Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes

Sasha Paillet Koff, 13 Rumson Road, with respect to the budget, suggests planning appropriately for the influx of third and fourth graders, look at equity in stipends and look at alternative funding sources.

Sage Blinderman, 18 East Drive, asked where Livingston students are attending charter schools and if the reason has to do with language.

Mike Ramer, 22 Mohawk Drive, invited everyone to attend Religions of the World, a community wide event to promote education on the five world religions. The event will be held on Thursday, November 21 at the Livingston Community Center at 7 p.m. Mr. Ramer asked if we could move the school buses that are parked there as they anticipate a large turnout.

Seth Cohen, 9 Thurston Drive, requested we keep in mind opportunities for the students who aren't college bound when working with the budget.

VOTING ITEMS

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

4.1 Termination

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education authorizes the termination of Employee #7559, effective immediately.

4.2 Resignations

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

Name	Position	Reason	Location	Last Day of Employment
<i>Christopher Faley</i>	LDT-C	Resignation	Collins	October 31, 2019
<i>Dr. Frank Ruggiero</i>	Supervisor of World Language & ESL	Resignation	District	December 16, 2019
<i>Lindsay Bogachuk</i>	Teacher of Science	Resignation	HMS	December 20, 2019, or earlier if a replacement is found

**as amended from a previous agenda*

4.3 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
<i>Nicholas Bellanich</i>	HMS	Teacher of Science	First Year Tenure Track	Lindsay Bogachuk	MA	3	\$61,216 (pro-rated)	12/9/19 or upon release from current contract

**begins 60-day probationary period
**as amended from previous agenda*

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

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

PREVIEW OF NOVEMBER 18, 2019 VOTING AGENDA

Superintendent’s Report

1. Livingston Education Foundation
2. Elementary Presentations
3. Summer Curriculum Writing Update

Conference with Livingston Education Association

Board Reports

Approval of Minutes

1. Workshop/Voting Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2019
2. Voting Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2019

1. PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

- 1.1 Textbooks**
- 1.2 Student Teachers**

2. STUDENT SERVICES

- 2.1 Out of District Placements**
- 2.2 Related Services/Medical Consultants**

3. BUSINESS

- 3.1 Payment of Bills**
- 3.2 Board Secretary Report – September 2019**
- 3.3 Transfers**
- 3.4 Conferences and Overnight Trips**
- 3.5 Field Trips**
- 3.6 Ski Club**
- 3.7 Update to Financial Depositories and Signatures**
- 3.8 Drs. Eric Herschman and Susan Herschman**
- 3.9 Policies & Regulations**

4. PERSONNEL

- 4.1 Leaves of Absences**
- 4.2 Transfers**
- 4.3 Appointments**
- 4.4 Substitutes**
- 4.5 Extra Work Pay**

- 4.6 **Mentor Fees**
- 4.7 **Stipends**
- 4.8 **Extra Period Assignments**
- 5. **MISCELLANEOUS**
- 5.1 **HIB Report**
- 5.2 **Suspension Report**

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

Seth Cohen, 9 Thurston Drive, asked that the new board goals be updated on the website.

Sasha Paillet Koff, 13 Rumson Road, asked that there be a concerted effort to reach out to the community to get input on their priorities before the budget is put together.

Dr. Block responded the community is welcome to give their input during the superintendent coffees in November and January or when they see him at a PTA/HSA meeting.

Mark Stern, LHS Principal, thanked Linda Majzner, who was on the last agenda as a retirement, for all of her work at the high school.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15 p.m., Mr. August requested a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations stating the board will not be coming back into public session and that 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 November 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.

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven K. Robinson

November 11, 2019

Page 7 of 8

Board Secretary