



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Executive Session - Livingston High School Large Conference Room - 6:00 p.m.

Public Session – Livingston High School Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

A **Voting Meeting** of the Livingston Board of Education was held on this date in the Livingston High School Auditorium. 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.

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:

- Negotiations, Legal Settlements, Personnel and Student Matter

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. Dr. Shen seconded the motion.

Ms. Messer seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

At 7:05 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, Susan Burman, Joann Goldberg and approximately 50 members of the public and staff

Mr. August asked for a moment of silence for Tony Hope a former coach and athletic director in Livingston who passed away at the age of 92.

Superintendent's Report

1. Board Member Recognition

Mr. August presented Dr. Shen with a plaque and, on behalf of the board, thanked him for his service over the past three years.

Dr. Block thanked Dr. Shen for his hard work and insight stating he looks forward to continuing to work with him as a parent and community member.

2. National Merit Semi-Finalists Recognition Ceremony

Dr. Block explained he is proud to announce that 12 of our high school students were selected to receive the distinction of National Merit Semi-Finalists. Dr. Block added students are supported by their own hard work, their families and the great educators they have had a chance to interact with in our schools.

Dr. Block continued, in honor of this achievement, we decided to give the students an opportunity to recognize an educator from grades K-12 in Livingston who made a difference in their lives personally or academically. Students were asked to purchase a book to present to the educator.

- Dina Brustein recognized Ms. Megan DeBlieck with *Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman*
- Jacqueline Chan recognized Dr. Dorine Starace with *What If? Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions*
- Erin Chang recognized Mrs. Charissa Sorrentino with *Killers of the Flower Moon*
- Adit Desai recognized Mrs. Susan Spadafina with *Still Alice*
- Kenneth Ding recognized Mr. Alex Lamon with *The Man Who Knew: The Life and Times of Alan Greenspan*
- Jeffery Liao recognized Mrs. Michelle Sipe with *Drawdown*
- Nirav Patel recognized Mr. Ernest Cuneo with *George Washington's Leadership Lessons: What the Father of Our Country Can Teach Us About Effective Leadership and Character*
- Katrina Pham recognized Mrs. Nancy Ciminnisi with *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking*
- Ethan Reiter recognized Mrs. Dawn Feeley with *Utilitarianism*
- Angela Wei recognized Mrs. Dolly Mendes with *All the Light We Cannot See*
- Ian Xiong recognized Mr. Matt Wasserman with *The Sorcerers and Their Apprentices*
- Emily Zhang recognized Mrs. Dorte Poyner with *Tessa & Scott: Our Journey from Childhood to Dream to Gold*

3. New Course Offerings

Mrs. Marybeth Kopacz and Mrs. Natalie Topylko introduced newly proposed courses for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Topylko introduced Social Media Marketing in the Business Department and RHSP Anatomy and Physiology II and Sustainability Science II in the Science Department. Mrs. Kopacz introduced TAP! Theater Arts Pathway under the Humanities Department that will include courses in theater arts, dance and piano.

Mrs. Konner asked if going forward there have been discussions about having blended courses and Mrs. Kopacz responded we haven't yet received any proposals for a blended learning course but they are open to them.

Mrs. Chirls asked if the Science course associated with Rutgers will provide students with a certificate from the school and Mrs. Topylko replied if the student chose to enroll with the university as well they would receive a transcript from Rutgers.

Mrs. Chirls asked if the courses were CP or honors level and the response was they are all CP level but those discussions to include honors level continue to happen.

Mr. August suggested asking alumni to come in and speak to students who take courses through the theater arts pathway.

Board Reports

Mrs. Konner attended the SEPAC meeting. The group will report at a later meeting.

Mrs. Konner and Mrs. Chirls attended the TREPs program at Riker Hill.

Mrs. Konner attended the Chamber of Commerce Thanksgiving luncheon with Dr. Block and Mr. Robinson and was impressed with the cooking demonstration by one of our own students, Matthew Smith.

Mrs. Chirls attended the LHS improvisation night this past Friday expressing she is impressed with the talent of our students. Mrs. Chirls added the high school hosted a tech challenge on Sunday and it was a pleasure to see four LHS robotics teams, including a team that joined them from Israel, compete. Mrs. Chirls congratulated the teams adding two are going to compete at the State level.

Mr. August attended the Key Club Induction Ceremony.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

1. Workshop/Voting Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2019
2. Voting Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2019
3. Workshop/Voting Meeting Minutes of November 11, 2019
4. Voting Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2019
5. Executive Session Minutes of October 14, 2019, November 11, 2019 and November 18, 2019

Dr. Shen seconded the motion.

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

Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes

Seth Cohen, 9 Thurston Drive, congratulated Dr. Shen for serving with humility and class during his years of service on the board.

Mike Ramer, 22 Mohawk Drive, stated he enjoyed the way we honored the students and teachers during the National Merit Semi-Finalists Recognition Ceremony.

Ryan Lam, 10 Marlo Road, expressed concern about the cyber security incident. Mr. Lam is a cyber security expert and would like to ensure we put a process in place to prevent this from happening again.

Dr. Block explained he would like to share as much as he can with the public but cannot get into a deep explanation of the recovery efforts right now. Dr. Block is hopeful he can do that in a few weeks. In addition, Dr. Block explained we are very conscious of the fact that this can happen again so part of our plan is to put security measures in place to protect our systems in the future.

Dr. Shen expressed his appreciation for all who come out to the meetings to support education.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

Ms. Messer moved the following:

1.1 Student Teachers

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the student teachers as shown on **Attachment A**.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

STUDENT SERVICES

There was no motion.

BUSINESS

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

3.1 Conferences and Overnight Trips

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the conferences and overnight trips as shown on **Attachment B**.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Jim Hegedus, Mike Jedwabnik, Erik Donough, Jennifer Wise, Marci Titunick, Kiana Salameh-Vetrero* and *Brendan Hughes* to chaperone approximately 70 students from the Livingston High School band on a trip to Chicago, IL, from April 23 to 26, 2020, at no cost to the district.

3.2 Field Trips

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following field trips as shown on **Attachment C**.

3.3 Settlement Agreements

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Settlement Agreement for Case #03-19 which is on file at the Board of Education office.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Settlement Agreement for Case #04-19 which is on file at the Board of Education office.

3.4 On-Tech Consulting

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator to enter into a Letter of Intent with On-Tech Consulting, Inc. to complete the Universal Service Fund (E-Rate) application process for the 2020-2021 school year. The district will pay On-Tech an amount equal to 10% of any funding received.

3.5 Parental Contract for Student Transportation

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the parental contract for student transportation for student #770029 from September 1, 2019 to June 19, 2020, at a cost not to exceed \$5,349.09.

3.6 Advertising Revenue for LHS Football Field Scoreboard

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education enters into an agreement with Regal Bank in the amount of \$5,000 a year to advertise their business on the LHS football field scoreboard.

Dr. Shen seconded the motion.

Mrs. Chirls asked if there are any policy changes that need to be made before we receive advertising revenue and Mr. Robinson replied no.

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

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>David Hyman</i>	Teacher of Mathematics	Retirement	LHS	June 30, 2020
<i>Vickie Cece</i>	Secretary	Resignation	LHS	June 3, 2020
<i>Michael Peck</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	Collins	November 27, 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>Karen Haley*</i>	Instructional Aide	HMS	11/15/19-12/18/19 (.5)	NA	12/18/19 (.5) - 2/7/20	2/10/20
<i>Dina Ferraro*</i>	Teacher of English	MPMS	11/5/19 -1/1/20	1/2/20-3/31/20**	NA	4/1/20
<i>Lauren Herrera</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Harrison	3/3/20-5/8/20	5/11/20-10/6/20**	10/7/20-6/30/21	9/1/21

**as amended from a previous agenda*

***Designates time counted toward NJFLA/FMLA*

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>Danielle Imbimbo**</i>	Harrison	School Counselor	Leave Replacement	C. Siti	MA+32	2	\$66,082 (pro-rated)	11/20/19-6/30/20
<i>Deniz Olcay</i>	LHS	Teacher of Art	First Year Tenure Track	L. Majzner	BA	1	\$52,673 (pro-rated)	12/16/19

**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 as listed on **Attachment D**.

4.4 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:

Name	Location	Title	Leave Replacement or Long Term Sub	Replacing	Salary	Effective Date
<i>Lois Kaplan</i>	BHE	First Secretary	Long Term Sub	Until new hire can start	\$209/day	11/26/19
<i>Steven Zimmerman*</i>	LHS	Teacher of Music	Long Term Sub	Josh Salzman	\$263/day	10/21/19 - 12/3/19
<i>Ning He</i>	HMS	Instructional Aide	Long Term Sub	Karen Haley	\$126/day	12/2/19 -2/10/20

**as amended from a previous agenda*

Teachers

Steven Zimmerman

Robert Machlachlan

Nancy Updike

Nurse
Kathleen Maurice

4.5 Extra Work Pay

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following payments as listed on **Attachment E** for work performed.

4.6 Stipends

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

Mrs. Chirls 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.

5.2 Suspension Report

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Suspension Report for November.

Dr. Shen seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

Mark Stern, Principal of LHS, thanked Dr. Shen for his years of service as a board member and also thanked and congratulated Dave Hyman for his years of service to LHS.

Mike Ramer, 22 Mohawk Drive, stated the community has responded positively online for the open communication provided by Dr. Block about the cyber event. Mr. Ramer also thanked those who attended the Religions of the World event.

Sasha Koff, 13 Rumson Road, inquired about a policy to ensure data is available to the public if a board member uses a personal device rather than a district issued one. Mrs. Koff also asked how we might think about leveraging the immense talent in the community when reviewing the board committee assignments.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mrs. Chirls thanked the administration for taking them on a tour around the district today.

Dr. Shen thanked everyone for his positive experience on the board.

Mr. August wished everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00 p.m., Ms. Messer made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven K. Robinson
Board Secretary