



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Executive Session - Virtual Meeting Via Zoom - 6:00 p.m.

Public Session - Virtual Meeting Via Zoom and Facebook Live – 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 and via Zoom and Facebook Live. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by the Board President, Samantha Messer, who announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by amendment to notice approved at the Board's reorganization meeting on January 4, 2021 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. Chirls removed 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:

- Superintendent's Evaluation and Goals

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.

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khanna, Mrs. Konner, Ms. Messer
Nays - None

At 7:08 p.m., Ms. Messer reconvened the public meeting.

Members Present: Pamela Chirls, Seth Cohen, Vineeta Khanna, Ronnie Konner, Samantha Messer and Ethan Hirsch

Also in Attendance: Dr. Matthew Block, Steven Robinson, Lisa Capone-Steiger, Mark Stern, Susan Burman and Joann Goldberg

There were approximately 72 members of the public and staff watching remotely through the webinar and a Facebook Live Stream.

Ms. Messer asked for a moment of silence for Shiv Kulkarni.

Ms. Messer asked for a motion to allow Mrs. Kulkarni to speak now rather than waiting for the public input section of the agenda.

Mrs. Chirls made the motion and Mr. Cohen seconded the motion. Vote all in favor.

Mrs. Kulkarni, 4 Alpine Way, thanked the board for remembering Shiv and holding the moment of silence. Mrs. Kulkarni spoke about her son and asked that the district do more than we currently are to help bridge the gap for students in the LGBTQ community who do not feel accepted by their peers. Mrs. Kulkarni suggested a program called HiTOPS out of Princeton be brought into the district for this purpose.

Superintendent's Report

1. Opening of School

Dr. Block shared a montage of the opening of our schools.

2. Enrollment Update

Mr. Robinson provided an update on elementary class sections, highlighting that we have added sections over the past couple of years to keep class sizes down. This year we have 122 sections of elementary classes and none of them are above our class size guidelines.

Mr. Robinson continued by showing a historic analysis of elementary enrollment and explained that we have approved a proposal with Statistical Forecasting to perform a demographic study that will be presented to the board before the end of the calendar year.

Dr. Block reviewed our secondary course enrollment explaining that enrollment has been steady over the past three years with an average class size between 19 and 23 for academic classes. Dr. Block added there are a minimal number of sections over 26 but that in the first few weeks of school sometimes students drop down from that number. Dr. Block added principals are working to ensure that sections that are high are put in comparable spaces so that students could be spaced out per our Covid protocols.

Mr. Cohen confirmed that the demographer will run reports to understand where in town spikes in enrollment by grade level are coming from. Mr. Robinson added the demographer will meet with the Planning Board, review trends and provide us with an analysis and projections.

Mrs. Konner requested a report on the number of students riding on buses and asked if we have a sufficient number of drivers.

Dr. Block announced that Mr. Robinson is on the agenda for retirement tonight and praised the work that he does to hold the district accountable by making sure that we are spending the taxpayers money responsibly and for the advice he shares through his experience working with the community. Dr. Block wished Mr. Robinson all the best in his retirement.

The board expressed thanks for the deep knowledge, experience and guidance Mr. Robinson has brought to Livingston as the Business Administrator and Board Secretary.

Mr. Robinson added he will make sure some outstanding projects get underway before he leaves.

Board Reports

Ms. Messer announced that for those viewing the meeting tonight, the board is working on policies and procedures to institute a hybrid model for their meetings and will share the details with everyone on September 28 with the goal of rolling it out for the first board meeting in October.

Mrs. Chirls thanked Dr. Block, Mr. Cuneo, Mr. Saltzman and the students who participated in the 9-11 Memorial ceremony this weekend.

Mrs. Konner stated she looks forward to the board having a future discussion about how they will continue with board committees.

Mr. Cohen recognized the maintenance staff for getting the water out of the buildings on September 2 so that students and staff could get back to school on September 3.

Mr. Cohen explained he has a work commitment at 9 p.m. and will be leaving this meeting if we are still in discussions at that time.

Public Input on Agenda Items ~ up to 15 minutes

There was no public input on agenda items.

VOTING ITEMS

BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

3.1 Bylaws, Policies & Regulations

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education suspends Bylaw #0131 for this meeting and adopts the following policies in one reading:

Policy #1648.13 - School Employee Vaccination Requirements (M)

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khanna, Mrs. Konner, Ms. Messer
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>Steven K. Robinson</i>	School Business Administrator	Retirement	CO	December 31, 2021

<i>Dr. Alexander Kuziola*</i>	Teacher of Biological Science	Resignation	LHS	August 30, 2021
<i>Patricia Gillen*</i>	Teacher of Health & PE	Resignation	LHS	August 30, 2021
<i>Kristen De La Rosa*</i>	Teacher of Social Studies	Resignation	LHS	September 10, 2021
<i>Meredith Del Bello</i>	School Social Worker	Resignation	BHE	October 4, 2021 or earlier if a replacement can be found
<i>Mary English Hand</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Resignation	RHE	September 17, 2021
<i>Matthew Wasserman</i>	Teacher of Math	Resignation	LHS	August 14, 2021
<i>Sylvia Yun</i>	Teacher of Math	Resignation	LHS	August 22, 2021
<i>Rachael Keyes</i>	One Year Leave Replacement TOSD	Resignation	BHE	October 22, 2021 or earlier if a replacement can be found.
<i>Laura Coreas*</i>	School Social Worker	Resignation	MPMS	September 10, 2021
<i>Katherine Wu</i>	Secretary	Resignation	LHS	August 16, 2021
<i>Sandra Orejarena</i>	Bus Driver	Resignation	Transportation	August 27, 2021
<i>Stacey Adelson</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	RHE	June 30, 2021
<i>Michael Peck</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	Collins	June 30, 2021
<i>Allison Tevlin</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	HMS	June 30, 2021
<i>Kevin Haber</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	LHS	NA
<i>Mary Rakos</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	LHS	NA
<i>Arthur Roman</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	LHS	NA
<i>Anna Kane</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	LHS	August 24, 2021
<i>Nicholas Doblovosky</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2021

Jennifer Caggiano	Instructional Aide	Resignation	BHE	June 30, 2021
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*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
Dina Ferraro*	Teacher of English	MPMS	5/24/2021-6/30/2021 & 8/30/2021-9/23/2021	9/24 /2021-12/17/2021**	12/20/2021-2/11/2022	2/14/2022
Jennifer Vernotica	Elementary School Teacher	Collins	1/3/2022-1/19/2022	NA	1/20/2022-3/25/2022	3/28/2022
Angela Raiola*	Elementary School Teacher	Harrison	9/13/2021-9/24/2021 (.5)**	9/24/2021(.5) - 11/15/2021**	NA	11/16/2021
Maria Lekhrajmal*	Custodian	RHE	7/26/2021-8/20/2021 **	NA	NA	8/23/2021
Niobel Torres	TOSD	LHS	1/3/2022-2/7/2022	2/8/2022-5/17/2022**	5/18/2022-6/3/2022	6/6/2022
Melissa Pelullo	Teacher of Biology	LHS	2/7/2022-4/7/2022	4/8/2022-6/30/2022	NA	8/30/2022
Kristy Braschi	Teacher of Math	LHS	1/31/2022-3/18/2022	3/21/2022-6/17/2022**	6/20/2022-1/27/2023	1/30/2023

*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
Brianna Torrisi	Collins	TOSD	First Year Tenure Track	L. Babij	MA	1-2	\$61,884	8/30/2021
Heather Amling	BHE	PRIDE Teacher	One Year Leave Replacement	L. Svetvilas	MA	1-2	\$61,884	10/11/2021 or earlier if released by

								current district
<i>Sarah Tighe</i>	Harrison	Elementary School Teacher	One Year Leave Replacement	A. Raiola	MA	1-2	\$61,884	8/30/2021
<i>Joshua Weiss</i>	MPM	School Social Worker	First Year Tenure Track	L. Coreas	MA+32	5	\$70,158	8/30/2021
<i>Laura Richards</i>	LHS	Teacher of Family & Consumer Science	First Year Tenure Track	M. Maltz	MA	13	\$88,644	10/15/2021
<i>Theresa Cannone</i>	LHS	School Counselor	First Year Tenure Track	S. Molaro	MA+16	4	\$66,967	8/30/2021
<i>Amanda Veneroso</i>	MPMS	TOSD	First Year Tenure Track	L. Shaw	MA+32	11	\$88,108	Upon release of current district
<i>Jacquelyn Carsillo</i>	RHE	Elementary School Teacher	One Year Leave replacement	N. Carangelo	MA	1-2	\$61,881	8/30/2021
<i>Allison Backer</i>	RHE	Elementary School Teacher	First Year Tenure Track	H. Bannon (grade level transfer)	MA	9	\$72,562	9/9/2021
<i>Victoria Rossi</i>	LHS	Teacher of Health & PE	First Year Tenure Track	P. Gillen	BA	3	\$55,250	9/1/2021
<i>Diana Heeseman</i>	MPMS	Nurse	NA	H. Gal	NCSN	8	\$79,628 (prorated)	9/20/2021
<i>Ali Cohen</i>	RHE	Elementary School Teacher	First Year Tenure Track	new section	BA	3	\$55,250	8/30/2021
<i>Ariana Bauer</i>	HMS	Teacher of Math	First Year Tenure Track	M. Carroll (transfer)	MA+32	11	\$88,108	10/18/2021 or earlier if released by current district
<i>Lauren Echevarria</i>	LHS	Teacher of Social Studies	First Year Tenure Track	K. De La Rosa	BA	6	\$57,450	8/30/2021
<i>Melyssa Lynch*</i>	LHS	Teacher of Math	Leave Replacement	G. McCorkell	BA	1-2	\$54,550	8/30/2021
<i>Wade Dendy</i>	BHE	School Social Worker	First Year Tenure Track	M. Del Bello	MA	10	\$76,558	11/15/2021 or earlier if released by current district
<i>Jessica Klima</i>	HMS	School Nurse	First Year Tenure Track	J. Gilker	BA+16	9	\$67,250	8/30/2021
<i>Anthony Burrows</i>	LHS	Campus Facility Supervisor	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$77,500	Upon release of current district
<i>Karen Alessio*</i>	LHS	Admin. Secretary	First Year Tenure Track	L. Mercer (transfer)	12 Mo Admin Secy >7/12	5	\$56,327 plus \$800 for degree (pro-rated)	8/31/2021
<i>Daniela Iannelli</i>	HMS	10-mo Admin Secretary	Leave Replacement	R. Tauro	10 Mo Admin Secy >7/12	1	\$41,997 (pro-rated)	8/30/2021-2/28/2022
<i>Jesse Allard</i>	District	IT Support Specialist	NA	J. Sloven	NA	NA	\$50,000 (pro-rated)	1/3/2022
<i>Viviana Mendez</i>	Transportation	Bus Aide	NA	NA	Bus Aide	3	\$13,200	8/30/2021
<i>Wilmick Ablard</i>	Transportation	25-Hr Bus Driver	NA	NA	25 Hr Bus Driver	5	\$24,588	8/30/2021

<i>Ainne Iftikhar</i>	Collins	Playground Aide	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$15.50/hr	9/1/2021
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**as amended from a 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 B**.

4.5 Substitutes

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the appointment of the individuals listed below to serve as substitutes on an as-needed basis for the 2021-2022 school year:

Teachers

Laura Coreas
Thalia Ramirez

Custodial

Jared Rummel (\$15.50/hr)

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the appointment of the individual(s) listed below to serve as long-term substitutes as reflected below:

Name	Location	Title	Leave Replacement or Long Term Sub	Replacing	Salary	Effective Date
<i>Jane Russo</i>	LHS	Secretary	Long Term Sub	various	\$195/day	8/23/21-TBD
<i>Suzanne Di Tacconi</i>	BHE	TOSD	Long Term Sub	H. Amling	\$272/day	8/30/2021-TBD

4.6 Lateral Moves

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the lateral moves as shown on **Attachment C**.

4.7 Summer Work

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the School Nurse listed on **Attachment D** to work over the summer of 2021 to assist with health screenings at HMS. She will be compensated at her hourly rate.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment E** to participate in summer curriculum writing during the summer of 2021 at the approved rate.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment F** to work over the summer of 2021 at the Summer Academy Program at the approved rate.

4.8 Contract Adjustments

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the contract adjustments as listed on **Attachment G**.

4.9 Extra Period Assignments

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment H** for extra period assignments during the 2021-2022 school year.

4.10 Payment of Unused Vacation Days

Resolved, that employee #4095 and employee #4752, in consideration of their unique contractual inability to accumulate additional vacation days, their high number of unused vacation days accrued during the pandemic, and the lack of opportunity to take vacation days during this year's health emergency, be paid \$110 per day for each unused accumulated vacation day from the 2020-2021 school year that remain in their bank as of June 30, 2021.

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

Mrs. Khanna asked why there are a large number of resignations on tonight's agenda.

Dr. Block responded there is a teacher shortage and due to late resignations in other districts, a lot of our teacher aides are accepting teaching positions in those districts.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khanna, Mrs. Konner, Ms. Messer
Nayes - None

MISCELLANEOUS

There was no HIB report

PREVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 VOTING MEETING AGENDA

The board previewed items coming up on the next agenda.

- 1. PROGRAM/CURRICULUM**
 - 1.1 Student Teachers**
 - 1.2 District Nursing Services Plan**
- 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 – July 2021**
 - 3.3 Transfers**
 - 3.4 Conferences and Overnight Trips**
 - 3.5 Livingston Chinese School**
 - 3.6 Sale of Cardio Equipment**
 - 3.7 Policies and Regulations**

Mr. Cohen asked when staff are attending conferences in person are they expected to follow our Covid protocols and both Dr. Block and Mrs. Burman responded yes and that conferences also set their own expectations to keep everyone safe.

Mrs. Konner asked how Covid protocols affect attendance under Regulation 8200.

Mrs. Steiger responded that when a student is officially quarantined by our contact tracing nurse, they will have a "Q" indicating quarantine on their attendance record so those students

will participate remotely online in the classroom. This does not affect their attendance because they are participating in the class and are not absent.

Public Comment ~ up to 15 minutes

Michele Cohen, 15 Woodland Terrace, suggested the excused and unexcused absence protocols need to be revisited if kids are expected to stay home every time they have a running nose, cough or sore throat. Mrs. Cohen added they don't want to be punished for doing the right thing and having poor attendance causes them to lose credit for the year. Mrs. Cohen asked if a kid has two of the symptoms to keep them home but can show a negative Covid test, are they allowed to return to school.

Mrs. Steiger responded it depends on the status of the children, whether they are vaccinated or not and what tier their symptoms fall under.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:05 p.m., Mrs. Khanna made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven K. Robinson
Board Secretary