



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

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Executive Session - Hybrid Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Public Session - Hybrid Meeting at Administration Building - 7:00 p.m.

A **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 6:03 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 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:

- Superintendent's Evaluation and Legal Settlement

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.

Mrs. Konner seconded the motion.

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

At 7:00 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 and Joann Goldberg

There were approximately 17 members of the public and staff in person and approximately 65 members of the public and staff watching remotely through the webinar and a Facebook Live Stream.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **1. National Merit Semi-Finalists Recognition Ceremony**

Dr. Block explained he is proud to recognize the high school students who were selected to receive the distinction of National Merit Semi-Finalists.

Dr. Block continued, in honor of this achievement, we are giving the students an opportunity to recognize an educator, active or retired, from grades K-12 in Livingston who supported them and made a difference in their lives. Students were asked to purchase a book to present to the educator. Ms. Danielle Rosenzweig announced the names in the following order:

- Shourya Bansal recognized Dr. Dorine Starace with *Atomic Habits*
- Josh Faber recognized Ms. Anne Sarasohn with *Turtles All The Way Down*
- Andrew Qian recognized Ms. Melissa Pelullo with *Little Doctors Children's Books Set*
- Daniel Siegal recognized Mr. Ernie Cuneo with *The Greatest Beer Run Ever: A Memorial of Friendship, Loyalty and War*
- Kush Vachher recognized Senora Gisela Gugger with *Don Quixote*
- Alan Wu recognized Mrs. Holtzman with *The Four: The Hidden DNA of Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google*
- Zhiyuan Zang recognized Madame Soukeyna Diop-Tall with *La Rue Cases-Negres*

### **2. Recognition**

Assemblywoman Mila Jasey presented Ronnie Konner with a ceremonial resolution and thanked her for her service as a board member all of these years, leadership and dedication to the community. Assemblywoman Jasey noted some of Mrs. Konner's accomplishments through the years, adding that she has always demonstrated an unwavering devotion to children and praised her as a woman of strong character and uncommon determination.

Assemblywoman Jasey added both she and Assemblyman Mukherji are hearing Bill A6100, which requires school districts to provide instruction on history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as part of implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies, in committee next week and fully expect to be voting on this important bill in education.

Mrs. Konner thanked Assemblywoman Jasey and her assistant Mary Theroux for their support through the years.

### **3. New Course Offerings**

Mr. Mark Stern introduced five new course offerings for the 2022-2023 school year.

At the elementary level, we are offering a continuation of our Math in Focus sequencing for fourth graders.

At MPMS, a course entitled Successful Middle School Habits has been designed to support students in their transition to middle school.

At LHS, a semester-long course entitled Life Hacks & Habits will be offered for seniors interested in honing their productivity and time management skills. There will also be a Dance 2 elective course in the TAP! - Theater Arts Pathway to provide a deeper focus on the choreographic

process. Also at the high school will be Exploration in Data Science and Python, designed to provide the ability to work with, understand and use data.

Mr. Cohen asked if the Successful Middle School Habits course could be offered to students at HMS as well as MPMS since they would also benefit from this type of transition support coming back to school after the pandemic. Mr. Stern responded that as we write the formal curriculum for MPMS, it can be shared out to be used for the transition from elementary to MPMS, MPMS to HMS and HMS to LHS.

Mrs. Chirls asked to what extent we will work on some of the mental health challenges our children have faced through this pandemic in addition to these other skills we are trying to build.

Mr. Stern responded that all of the efforts that we make to support kids have to work in harmony with one another whether they are built into the curricula or provided additionally. Mr. Stern continued that while this course might focus on more executive functioning, skill building and self advocacy, we need to work with the whole child to ensure they are getting all of the support they need.

#### 4. Public Hearing for District and School HIB Self-Assessment Report

Mrs. Steiger explained that each year the district is required to complete a HIB self-assessment, present it to the board of education and share it with the Department of Education. The assessment is for the prior year. The nine anti-bullying specialists in the district spend the year gathering information to complete the self-assessment. The self-assessment is made up of eight core elements that include matters of training, curriculum, programming and reporting procedures. This year our composite score was 76.78 out of a possible 78 points. Mrs. Steiger concluded that this assessment enables the anti-bullying specialists to reflect on their work and provides them with opportunities for improvement.

#### **Board Reports**

Ms. Messer presented a video tribute and Lancer for Life sweatshirt to Mrs. Konner.

Mrs. Konner read her reflections of a retiring board member.

The board took turns talking about Mrs. Konner's stellar leadership, mentorship, dedication and service to the community. Dr. Block and Mr. Robinson also added their well wishes and thanked her for her guidance, support and many years of service to the district.

Ms. Messer presented a video tribute and Lancer for Life blanket to Mr. Robinson.

The board expressed their appreciation for Mr. Robinson's 23 years of service and wished him well in his retirement. Mr. Robinson stated it has been his pleasure to serve the district, that a lot has been accomplished under his tenure and that he feels good about how he is leaving the district.

Mrs. Konner explained the Curriculum Committee met to discuss the proposed new courses we heard about earlier, received a STEAM update, heard about a middle school science program and revisions to Integrated Business Applications at the middle school. Mrs. Konner added more information about these topics will be shared at future meetings.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

1. Voting Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2021
2. Executive Session Minutes from October 12, 2021; October 19, 2021; October 27, 2021; November 9, 2021 and November 23, 2021

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

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

Dee Dee Pulver, 47 Winchester Road, thanked Mrs. Konner and Mr. Robinson for the work they do and expressed her concerns with Policy #5512 and HIB.

Paulette Dorflauer, 56 Havenwood Drive, requested an increase in salary and/or raises for crossing guards and school aides.

Mike Ramer, 22 Mohawk Drive, congratulated Mrs. Konner and Mr. Robinson on their retirements, hopes that hybrid board meetings will continue after the pandemic, invited everyone to a free workshop at the Community Center tomorrow at 7 p.m. entitled, "Positive Parenting: Raising Emotionally Intelligent Children" and asked the board and Dr. Block what they think their top one or two LPS accomplishments were for this year.

Cameron Parke, 10 Wellington Road, asked the board to purchase at least two portable air purifiers and HEPA filters for every classroom and workspace in the district as another layer of protection in reducing infectious particles in the air.

Helen Engel, 53 Wynnewood Road, congratulated Mrs. Konner and Mr. Robinson on their retirements and thanked the board members for the important questions they asked at the last meeting about SEPAC. Mrs. Engel stated she hopes Dr. Block follows his commitment to making sure SEPAC is run in accordance with the guide published by the Department of Education with SPAN and suggests we have SPAN training provided to the entire special education community so they can all understand SEPAC's mission.

Keith Hines, thanked Mrs. Konner for service to the board of education and wished her the best in her retirement. Mr. Hines also mentioned the Livingston hydroponics project that he plans to turn over to the board in two years.

Nisha Khanna, 112 Shrewsbury Drive, asked what the HIB assessment specifically measures and who serve as HIB specialists.

Mrs. Steiger responded that full time school counseling professionals serve as anti-bullying specialists in each building. Their names and contact information can be found on the front page of each school building's website as well as the district's HIB website.

Mrs. Steiger continued the State of New Jersey compares the scores on the self assessment against a rubric of eight core elements.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL**

### **PROGRAM/CURRICULUM**

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

#### **1.1 Textbooks**

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

#### **1.2 Student Teacher**

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

Mrs. Khanna seconded the motion.

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

### **STUDENT SERVICES**

Mrs. Konner moved the following:

#### **2.1 Out of District Placements**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves placement for the academic year 2021-2022 for two (2) Livingston students with disabilities and for Extended School Year 2021 (Summer Programs) for one (1) Livingston student with disabilities, as classified and recommended by the Child Study Team, in facilities with tuition costs to be determined within the limits established by the New Jersey Board of Education as shown on **Attachment C**.

#### **2.2 Related Services/Medical Consultants**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following consultants that will be utilized to provide related services for the 2021-2022 school year:

#### **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

Bergen County Special Services	
Assistive Technology Evaluation	\$950.00/evaluation
Augmentative and Alternative Communication Evaluation	\$1,100.00/evaluation

Mrs. Khanna seconded the motion.

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

**BUSINESS**

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

**3.1 Payment of Bills**

**Whereas**, the Board Secretary has audited certain vendor claims as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2 and Board Policy 6470 and presented them to the Livingston Board of Education with the recommendation they be paid, now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the payment of the following bills in the amounts listed and attach a complete copy of these bills to the minutes of this meeting.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
10&11	Regular	1,670,099.73
12	Regular	286,393.00
20	Regular	126,365.32
60	Cafeteria	37,818.05
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,120,676.10</b>

Regular Checks	94372-94743	2,082,858.05
Cafeterla	1353-1358	37,818.05
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,120,676.10</b>

**3.2 Board Secretary Report – October 2021**

**Whereas**, the Livingston Board of Education has received the Report of the Board Secretary for October 31, 2021, consisting of:

- 1) Interim Balance Sheets
- 2) Interim Statements Comparing Budgeted Revenue with Actual to Date and Appropriations with Expenditures and Encumbrances to Date
- 3) Schedule of Revenues - Actual Compared with Estimated
- 4) Statement of Appropriations Compared with Expenditures and encumbrances, and

**Whereas**, the Livingston Board of Education has received the report of the Treasurer for October 31, 2021, which report is in agreement with the Report of the Board Secretary, and

**Whereas**, these reports show the following balances on the date indicated:

	Cash Balance	Appropriation Balance	Fund Balance
(10) General Current Exp. Fund	7,947,541		
(11) Current Expense		27,073,663	11,830,280
(12) Capital Outlay		604,580	4,389,775
(20) Special Revenue Fund	1,075,518		
(30) Capital Projects Fund	4,542,922		
(40) Debt Service Fund	1,497,241		
Total:	15,063,222	27,678,243	16,220,055

**Whereas**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-212(d), the Board Secretary has certified that as of October 31, 2021, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments contractual orders which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8, 18A:22-8.1, now therefore be it

**Resolved**, the Livingston Board of Education accepts the above referenced reports and certification and directs that they be made part of this resolution by reference, and be it

**Further Resolved**, the Livingston Board of Education certifies that, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6:20-2.13(d) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

### **3.3 Conferences and Overnight Trips**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the conference as shown on **Attachment D**.

### **3.4 Joint Transportation Agreement with Morris-Union Jointure Commission**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education enters into an agreement with the Morris-Union Jointure Commission to provide student transportation services for the 2021-2022 school year.

### **3.5 Settlement Agreement**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Settlement Agreement for Case #07-2021 which is on file at the Board of Education office.

### **3.6 Policies and Regulations**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following Policies and Regulations for second reading and adoption:

#### **Administration**

Policy #1648.13 - School Employee Vaccination Requirements (M) (new to district)

Policy #1648.14 - Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings - COVID 19 (M) (new to district)

#### **Program**

Policy #2422 - Comprehensive Health & Physical Education (M) (with revisions)

Policy #2425 - Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program (M) (New to District)

Policy #2467 - Surrogate Parents and Resource Family Parents (M) (with revisions)

#### **Support Staff**

Policy #4146 - Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member (with revisions)

#### **Finance**

Policy #6471 - School District Travel (M) (with revisions)

Regulation #6471 - School District Travel (M) (with revisions)

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

## **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>Kimberly Withers*</i>	TOSD	Resignation	MPE	December 10, 2021
<i>Joseph Route</i>	LDTTC	Resignation	HMS	January 14, 2022
<i>Margaret Wohltmann</i>	Teacher of Business Ed	Resignation	LHS	January 28, 2022

*\*as amended from a previous agenda*

### **4.2 Leaves of Absences**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the leaves of absences of:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>LOA w/pay and benefits</b>	<b>LOA w/o pay, but with benefits (if applicable)</b>	<b>Extended LOA w/o pay or benefits</b>	<b>Return Date</b>
<i>Nicole Carangelo*</i>	RHE	Elementary School Teacher	4/22/2021-6/24/2021	8/30/2021-11/19/2021**	NA	11/22/2021
<i>Lisa Garamella*</i>	Hillside	School Nurse	NA	9/23/2021-9/28/2021; 9/30/2021-10/5/2021; & 10/14/2021; 11/22/2021-12/10/2021**	NA	12/13/2021
<i>Jayne Merlo-Chiaramonte*</i>	HMS	TOSD	5/17/2021-6/30/2021	8/30/2021-11/22/2021**	11/23/2021-1/31/2022	2/1/2022
<i>Danielle Imbimbo*</i>	HMS	School Counselor	11/15/2021 - 1/18/2022	1/19/2022-4/27/2022**	4/28/2022-6/30/2022	8/30/2022
<i>Carly Haggerty*</i>	BHE	TOSD	4/12/2022-5/23/2022	5/24/2022-10/10/2022**	NA	10/11/2022
<i>Megan Jenkins-Kayzerman</i>	BHE	PRIDE Teacher	3/28/2022-5/17/2022	5/18/2022-10/10/2022**	NA	10/11/2022

*\*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>Marissa Reynolds*</i>	MPE	Elementary School Teacher	First Year Tenure Track	K. Withers	BA+32	1-2	\$59,032	12/18/2021
<i>Alecia Ellis*</i>	District	Nurse	NA	P. Tseng	NCSN	7	\$73,702 (prorated)	1/3/2022
<i>Rebecca Campbell</i>	Collins	Elementary School Teacher	Leave Replacement	M. Tavis	MA	1	\$61,884 (prorated)	12/17/2021
<i>Smruti Shah</i>	HMS/LHS	Teacher of ESL	First Year Tenure Track	L. Brown	MA	9	\$72,562 (prorated)	1/24/2022 or earlier if released from current district
<i>Robert Gillo</i>	LHS	Teacher of Health & PE	First Year Tenure Track	C. Szeles	BA	1	\$54,550 (prorated)	11/29/2021

*\*as amended from a previous agenda*

#### **4.4 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**

*Nicholas Doblowsky*  
*Jennifer Riehl*  
*Kelly Scheper*

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment E** as certified substitutes. These individuals are currently employed by the District. In the event these individuals are called upon to serve as a substitute, they will be compensated an additional \$50/day (\$10/period) for that assignment.

#### **4.5 Extra Work Pay**

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

#### **4.6 IDEA Basic and IDEA Preschool Salary Allocations**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves and reallocates the salaries of the individuals listed on **Attachment G** to be funded through the IDEA Basic and IDEA preschool grants.

#### **4.7 IDEA ARP Salary Allocations**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves and reallocates the salaries of the individuals listed on **Attachment H** to be funded through the IDEA ARP grant.

#### **4.8 Stipends**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education rescinds the appointment of *Maureen Biss* and *Michelle Sapolnick* to the stipend position of *Technical Director of Stage Crew - Fall Drama* for Heritage Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment I** for co-curricular stipends at Heritage Middle School for the 2021-2022 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 J** for athletic stipends at Livingston High School for the 2021-2022 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 K** for co-curricular stipends at Livingston High School for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

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

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

#### **5.1 HIB Report**

**Resolved**, that the Livingston Board of Education accepts the findings of HIB cases.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

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

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

Danielle Santola, 11 North Cedar Parkway, apologized for not being able to make the meeting in person and congratulated the National Merit Semi-Finalists, Mrs. Konner for all she has done for her and the district and Mr. Robinson for his dedication to the community.

Melissa DeAngelus, 16 Filmore Avenue, is also the Treasurer of the LEA. Mrs. DeAngelus wished Mrs. Konner a fabulous retirement and thanked her for all she has done for LPS both as a colleague and as a board member. Mrs. DeAngelus also thanked Mr. Robinson for always being fiscally responsible and for his years of service to the district.

Dr. Shawn Klein, 8 Brayton Road, thanked Mrs. Konner for her dedication and guidance over the years and thanked Mr. Robinson for his dedication and the hard work he did on behalf of the district all these years.

Charles August, 27 Knollwood Drive, congratulated Mrs. Konner on her retirement from the board. Mr. August wished Mr. Robinson well in his retirement, adding he was in attendance at both Mr. Robinson's first and last board meetings. Mr. August also congratulated Mrs. Chirls on her landslide victory.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

Dr. Block explained that our Livingston High School students have been instrumental in advocating for Bill A6100 and how proud we are of them to do so at the State level.

Mrs. Konner wished everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:55 p.m., Mrs. Konner made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Davison", written over a horizontal line.

**Michael Davison  
Board Secretary**