



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Executive Session - Administration Building - 6:00 p.m.

Public Session - Hybrid Meeting - Administration Building - 7:15 p.m.

A **Workshop/Voting Meeting** of the Livingston Board of Education was held on this date in the Administration Building and via Zoom and Facebook Live. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Vineeta Khanna, Board President, who announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by amendment to notice approved at the Board's reorganization meeting on January 3, 2023 and posted at the Board of Education office and communicated to *The Star Ledger*, *West Essex Tribune*, *TAPinto Livingston* and the Livingston Township Clerk.

Members Present: Jenissa Arnette, Pamela Chirls, Seth Cohen, Vineeta Khanna (via Zoom), Parul Khemka and Jake Ferrans

Also in Attendance: Dr. Matthew Block, Thomas Lambe, Lisa Capone-Steiger, Mark Stern and Joann Goldberg

Mr. Cohen 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:

- legal update and student matters

Action may be taken upon return to the public session. The full length of the meeting is anticipated to be approximately 75 minutes and be it

Further Resolved, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Mrs. Chirls seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Khanna
Nays - None

At 7:32 p.m., Mrs. Khanna reconvened the public meeting. There were approximately 35 members of the public and staff watching in person and through the webinar and Facebook Live Stream.

On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Khanna acknowledged the tragic events that occurred in Israel last week and expressed that our hearts go out to those directly and indirectly affected. Mrs. Khanna added these events remind us of the importance of peace, tolerance, respect and understanding within our community and our world.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Block announced that this week's Spotlight newsletter highlights our National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists and offered his congratulations to them. These students will be honored at our December board meeting.

Dr. Block congratulated Chloe Marrache for earning a perfect score on a college-level Advanced Placement Exam. Miss Marrache is one of only 357 students in the world to earn every point possible on the AP Research Exam.

1. NJSLA Report

Mrs. Natalie Topylko presented the NJSLA Spring 2023 results from the following assessments: NJSLA English Language Arts and Literacy Assessments in grades 3-9, NJSLA Mathematics Assessments in grades 3-8 and Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra II and NJSLA Science Assessments in grades 5, 8 and 11. Mrs. Topylko reviewed the participation levels and went through the data showing students meeting/exceeding expectations in all of the assessments.

Mrs. Topylko concluded that moving forward the data teams are digging deeply into the beginning of the year assessments and triangulate these with the NJSLA scores, classroom observations and assessments; they will provide an emphasis on differentiation to ensure that small group instruction targets the needs identified by the assessments; they will continue to focus on analytical writing, continue with the implementation of Math in Focus in Grade 5 and will examine Grade 8 math inclusive of instructional materials, program and professional development for teachers.

The full presentation is available on our website.

2. District Goals

Dr. Block presented the District Goals for 2023-2024. The goals fall under the headings of Safety and Wellness, Teaching and Learning, Leadership and Governance, Community and Culture and Finance and Facilities. Dr. Block read through each of the five goals along with their corresponding action steps. The full presentation is available on our website.

Board Reports

Ms. Arnette announced that the Sazon event originally scheduled for Saturday, October 7 has been postponed to Saturday, October 21 due to the inclement weather. The event will be held rain or shine, either at the oval or inside the community center.

Mrs. Khemka announced the Essex County Board passed the resolution on book banning that the Board discussed and advocated for during their last meeting.

Mr. Cohen announced he attended the MPE walk-a-thon and asked that the Board continue to get invitations to these events in their roles as board liaisons to the schools.

Student Representative's Report

Mr. Ferrans thanked Dr. Block for the District Goals report and stated per Mr. Cohen's request, he has been gathering data about how students in the middle and high school feel about unstructured times and will bring that information to next week's meeting.

Mr. Ferrans announced that last week the SGA organized a poster where students highlighted what they appreciated about the custodians in celebration of National Custodian's Day.

Mr. Ferrans announced this week is Homecoming Spirit Week and students are celebrating by dressing in different themed clothing each day, holding a Homecoming Pep Rally on Friday, attending the Homecoming Football game on Friday night and participating in a Homecoming Dance on Saturday night.

Public Comment

Shilpa Kulkarni, Livingston, is the founder of Shiv's Third Eye, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting inclusivity and acceptance. Mrs Kulkarni announced that due to the tragic events over this weekend, they have extended the deadline for accepting entries for its "MindSpeak" essay competition to Sunday, October 15. The essay competition is open to all New Jersey middle and high school students in an effort to give children a platform to illuminate the essential topic of youth mental health using their unique experiences and insight. An awards ceremony is scheduled for November 5 at the Youth Mental Health Wellness Fair being held at Livingston High School. Mrs. Kulkani encouraged everyone to attend.

David Lipsic, Livingston, suggested the district hire an independent security consultant to perform a security evaluation of our schools.

Harsh Raju, Livingston, asked if the raw data from the equity study will also be shared along with the process data and Dr. Block responded that yes, it will all be included in the study that is presented to the public.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

1.1 Approval of District Goals

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the district goals for the 2023-2024 school year as shown on ***Attachment AA***.

Mrs. Khemka seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Khanna
Nays - None

BUSINESS

Mrs. Chirls moved the following:

3.1 Settlement Agreement

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Settlement Agreement for Case #11-2023 which is on file at the Board of Education office.

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Khanna
Nays - None

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

5.1 HIB Report

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

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khanna
Abstain - Mrs. Khemka
Nays - None

PREVIEW OF OCTOBER 17, 2023 VOTING MEETING AGENDA

The Board reviewed the upcoming items for next week's meeting.

Superintendent's Report

1. Public Hearing for District and School HIB Self-Assessment Report
2. Board Budget Goals

The Board agreed they will come with a consensus list of goals to share with the administration.

Approval of Minutes

1. Voting Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023

1. PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

- 1.1 **Textbooks and DVDs**
- 1.2 **Student Teachers**
- 1.3 **Field Trips**
- 1.4 **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 2023**
- 3.3 **Transfers**
- 3.4 **Conferences and Overnight Trips**

- 3.5 Un-Tech Consulting
- 3.6 Donation
- 3.7 ROD Grants
- 3.8 Bylaws, Policies & Regulations
- 4. **PERSONNEL**
 - 4.1 Resignations & Retirements
 - 4.2 Leaves of Absences
 - 4.3 Transfers
 - 4.4 Appointments
 - 4.5 Substitutes
 - 4.6 IDEA Basic and IDEA Preschool Salary Allocations
 - 4.7 Stipends
 - 4.8 Extra Period Assignments
 - 4.9 Mentor Fees
 - 4.10 Memorandum of Understanding

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m., Mr. Cohen made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mrs. Khemka seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Lambe
Board Secretary

October 10, 2023