



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Executive Session - Administration Building - 6:15 p.m.

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

A **Workshop/Voting Meeting** of the Livingston Board of Education was held on this date in the Administration Building and via Facebook Live. The meeting was called to order at 6:18 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, Parul Khemka and Jake Ferrans

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

Mrs. Khemka 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 and student matters

Action may be taken upon return to the public session. The full length of the meeting is anticipated to be approximately 45 minutes and be it

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

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

At 7:23 p.m., Mrs. Khanna reconvened the public meeting. There were approximately 70 members of the public and staff watching in person and through the webinar and Facebook Live Stream.

Mrs. Khanna acknowledged Diwali, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Block spoke about the program for parents that was held last night with Lisa Athens from *Grief Speaks*. The program focused on taking care of our own mental health as adults and talked about ways we can give our children a sense of security and normalcy during these stressful times.

Butterfly Project

Mrs. Bronawyn O'Leary, Mrs. Mara Rubin and Mrs. Alexandra Pefanis presented The Butterfly Project and explained how it was implemented at Mount Pleasant Middle School this year. The Butterfly Project teaches social justice and cultivates empathy, kindness and social responsibility through art, advisory, social studies and the district's equity work.

Two students, David Chuvin and Angelia James spoke about being honored with glass butterflies for their efforts and contributions to the equity and kindness initiatives at MPMS.

Annex Update

Dr. Block explained that Hillside School's annex is completely installed and up and running. The annex at Burnet Hill still has some outside work scheduled for this week and he is hoping it will be fully functional the first week of December.

Board Reports

Mr. Cohen read through the six budget goals the Board has agreed upon for the 2024-2025 budget as noted below:

1. Based on an updated facility usage plan incorporating board, stakeholder, and community input and with the goal of adhering to class size guidelines, develop a long-range facility plan and timeline to address enrollment increases and facilities constraints.
2. Support a five-year curriculum writing cycle to keep research- and evidence-based programs and materials current, relevant, and rigorous; initiate technology solutions to drive consistency, collaboration, and communication; and provide professional development to support staff, students, and other stakeholders.
3. Assess and reflect upon the raw data, professional recommendations, and community input of the Equity Audit and drive student achievement by providing community-supported, research- and evidence-based programs and activities to both students and staff in the school environment.
4. Execute a district-wide security audit and implement necessary improvements to ensure the safety and security of all students, staff, and district property.
5. Audit current curricular, extracurricular, and mental health programming to provide resources for greater inclusion and the betterment of the student experience and outcomes; to drive a greater sense of connectedness; and to ensure the academic, social, physical, and mental well-being of all LPS students.
6. Expand access to high quality programs, services, and resources aligned to external standards to support LHS students in their high school planning, post-graduation planning, and college application process.

Ms. Arnette attended the *Grief Speaks* program and encouraged more people to come out for these programs.

Ms. Arnette attended the Sanskriti Diwali fireworks on Saturday.

Ms. Arnette read a statement that in part stated she has been thinking deeply about the children and families in our community who are directly impacted by the Israeli and Hamas war and that she has heard their concerns about the safety and security of their children. Ms. Arnette wanted those who have emailed and spoken in public to know that they are seen and their comments have been heard and that as a parent, educator and leader in this community, the concerns lead her with a drive to ensure that all students of LPS are well both physically and emotionally. As we begin to work on the budget, she is advocating for structural changes and programming that will equip all of the children in our community with the support and skills necessary to deal with hate and oppression not only during our current climate but in their daily lives in the future as well.

Mrs. Khemka and Mrs. Chirls attended the Youth Mental Health Awareness Fair hosted by Shiv's Third Eye.

Mrs. Khemka asked about the status of two grants she raised earlier with Dr. Block and Mr. Lambe. The first is about security and the second is about high impact tutoring in the summer.

Mrs. Khemka asked her fellow board members about starting to look at restorative justice practices and how it impacts the policies in our school district. The group agreed they should have a discussion about it but that it should be explored as part of the equity audit discussions.

Mrs. Khemka asked for an update on the financial reports and Mr. Lambe responded he hopes to have information from the auditor in a few weeks.

Mrs. Khemka asked if we can make investing in treasury bills a part of the budget discussion.

Mrs. Chirls asked about the budget timeline. Mr. Lambe explained we have already started the budget process with the principals and supervisors, the budget has been opened online and information is due back from them in early December. Mr. Lambe plans to set up meetings to discuss their requests in December and January and will follow those up with Finance Committee Meetings. Mr. Lambe added that typically the Governor gives his budget address on the last Tuesday in February and a few days later we receive our State Aid numbers. The preliminary budget is approved in March and the Public Hearing and final approval will be in April.

Mrs. Khanna attended the Youth Mental Health Awareness Fair hosted by Shiv's Third Eye and was also at the *Grief Speaks* program last night. Mrs. Khanna urged the community to be mindful of these events and to try and attend.

Student Representative's Report

Mr. Ferrans announced the LHS Drama *Pride and Prejudice* will be held this coming Thursday to Sunday in the high school auditorium.

Mr. Ferrans announced that the Student Government Association, in conjunction with Neighbors Helping Neighbors, is holding a food drive event.

Mr. Ferrans congratulated all of the fall athletes on finishing their seasons and offered additional congratulations to those students who signed with colleges to compete on their athletic teams next year.

Public Comment

Saanvi Jain, thanked the Board for making Diwali a recognized school holiday and day off for students to enjoy with their families.

Naureen Akhter, asked the district to be more inclusive in their teachings of social justice and to include Palestinian authors in their media centers.

David Lipsic, stated he appreciates that the security audit is going into next year's budget but asked what are we doing now to protect our kids and is concerned about the current lack of security.

Sam Messer, expressed her disappointment with the lack of current events being taught in the schools.

Starr Preston, thanked Vineeta for her service on the Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

1. Voting Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2023

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

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

PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

1.1 Center for Public Research and Leadership

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves participation in a one-year study conducted by Columbia University focused on evaluating the Curriculum Implementation Change Framework (CICF) and toolkit of the Open Sci Ed curriculum initiative in grades 7 and 8.

1.2 Plan for Virtual and Remote Learning

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the *Plan for Virtual and Remote Learning for the 2023-2024 School Year* for submission to the Essex County Department of Education. This plan will be instituted in the event a school or schools in the district are required to close for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure.

1.3 Student Teacher

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

1.4 Field Trips

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

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mrs. Chirls, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Khanna (with amended language in Resolution 1.1)
Nays - None

STUDENT SERVICES

There was no motion.

BUSINESS

Mrs. Khemka 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 C***.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves *Marisa Vosa, Brian Megaro, Sara Rosenberg, Guy Rabner, Michael Munley and Michael Ladocetta* to chaperone approximately 47 members of the Ski and Snowboarding Club on daily ski trips to Camelback Resort in Tannersville, PA, on January 7 and 21, 2024; February 4 and 18, 2024 and March 4, 2024, at no cost to the district.

3.2 Donation

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education accepts Charles Maltzman's donation of \$400 to the Riker Hill Student Activities Fund.

3.3 Joint Transportation Agreements with Morris-Union Jointure Commission

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education enters into agreements with the Morris-Union Jointure Commission to provide extended school year and regular school year student transportation services for the 2023-2024 school year.

3.4 North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education desires to become a member of the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System, NJWCPS, effective November 14, 2023 and, that such membership shall be for the period ending November 24, 2024, and each renewal, thereafter of the system, unless the Livingston Board of Education elects to formally withdraw from the system;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Business Administrator and Board President are hereby authorized to execute the agreement for such membership.

3.5 Application and Receipt of Funds for Amended ESEA Grants

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the submission of the *amended* grant application and acceptance of the funds inclusive of prior year carryover for the fiscal year 2023-2024 for the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) Consolidated Grant as follows:

Grant Description	\$ Amount
Title I Part A Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged	\$145,093
Title II Part A Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers and Principals	\$75,963
Title III Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students	\$31,995
Title III Immigrant	\$18,573
Title IV Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment	\$13,190

3.6 Approval: Submission and Acceptance of Funds for the 2023-2024 Amended IDEA Grant Application

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the submission and acceptance of funds for the *amended* 2023-2024 IDEA Grant Application for the following amounts for special education programs:

- IDEA Basic \$1,648,099.00
- IDEA Preschool \$ 66,604.00

The IDEA Basic amount includes \$167,510.00 of Non-Public Funds. The district's spending amount for IDEA Basic is \$1,480,589.00. The IDEA Preschool amount includes \$829 of Non-Public Funds. The district's spending amount for IDEA Preschool is \$65,775.00.

The IDEA Basic 2023-2024 grant is being amended to include \$55,603.00 in carryover funds from the 2022-2023 school year. The IDEA Preschool 2023-2024 grant is being amended to include \$829.00 in carryover funds from the 2022-2023 school year.

3.7 Change to Annual Meeting Calendar

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves moving the November 28, 2023 Voting Meeting to December 5, 2023. The December 5th meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

3.8 Bylaws, Policies & Regulations

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education abolished the following policies and regulations:

- Policy #5460.02 - Bridge Year Pilot Program (M)
- Regulation #5460.02 - Bridge Year Pilot Program (M)

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

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

PERSONNEL

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

4.1 Resignations & Retirements

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

Name	Position	Reason	Location	Last Day of Employment
<i>Maura Scully</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Resignation	Harrison	December 22, 2023
<i>Laura Richards</i>	Teacher of FCS	Resignation	LHS	December 22, 2023
<i>Gehan Kennedy</i>	PRIDE Teacher	Resignation	BHE	December 15, 2023
<i>Kayla Choi</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	RHE	December 1, 2023
<i>Zachary Gurmankin</i>	ABA Discrete Trial TA	Resignation	BHE	November 3, 2023
<i>Mikie Hagler</i>	ABA Discrete Trial TA	Resignation	BHE	November 3, 2023

**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	Location	Position	LOA w/pay and benefits	LOA w/o pay, but with benefits (if applicable)	Extended LOA w/o pay or benefits	Return Date
<i>Elizabeth Waldron</i>	Collins	Kindergarten Aide	11/2/2023-11/30/2023	12/1/2023-12/15/2023**	NA	12/18/2023
<i>Emily Burger</i>	BHE	Elementary School Teacher	2/19/2024-5/16/2024	5/17/2024-6/20/2024 & 8/29/2024-10/16/2024**	NA	10/17/2024
<i>Jennifer Loniewski</i>	CO	Director of Elementary C&I	10/30/2023-11/15/2023	11/16/2023-1/17/2024**	NA	1/18/2024
<i>Claudia Netti</i>	HMS	Teacher of Spanish	10/30/2023-1/1/2024**	NA	NA	1/2/2024
<i>Priti Peklo</i>	LHS	Teacher of Math	2/26/2024-4/19/2024	NA	4/22/2024-1/29/2025	1/30/2025
<i>William Peklo</i>	LHS	TOSD	3/11/2024-3/29/2024**	4/1/2024-5/27/2024**	NA	5/28/2024
<i>Jennifer Torres*</i>	LHS	Teacher of English	9/14/2023-11/10/2023	11/13/2023-2/9/2024**	NA	2/12/2024
<i>Sara Kiene*</i>	Harrison	Intervention/Enrichment Specialist	9/7/2023-10/31/2023	11/1/2023-12/1/2023 & 12/4/2023-3/8/2024**	3/11/2024-6/30/2024	8/30/2024

Jamal Chavis	BHE	ABA Discrete Trial TA	NA	11/20/2023-12/11/2023**	NA	12/12/2023
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*as amended from a previous agenda

**Designates time counted toward NJFLA/FMLA

4.3 New Position

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the addition of a position within the Buildings and Grounds Department for an electrician effective November 1, 2023. The PTR for the position will be 9500-000-BUILD-012.

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
Natalie Bray	LHS	Teacher of FCS	First Year Tenure Track	L. Richards	D	13	\$100,575 (prorated)	1/16/2024 or upon release from current district
David Grimes	LHS	Campus Facility Supervisor	NA	A. Burrows (transfer)	NA	NA	\$90,000 (prorated)	11/1/2023
Harris Goldman*	LHS	Teacher of Business Ed	Leave Replacement	S. Rembecky	MA	1	\$63,075 (prorated)	8/30/2023-11/15/2023
Cara Dock	RHE/Collins	Reading Interventionist (.6)	Leave Replacement	K. Ambrose/S. Crosby	MA	1	\$37,845 (prorated)	8/30/2023
Denise McLaughlin	Collins	Playground Aide	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$18/hr	10/30/2023
Hermine France	MPE	Playground Aide	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$18/hr	10/25/2023
Debra Gaccione	Transportation	25-Hr Bus Driver	NA	NA	25 Hr BD	9	\$31,974 (prorated)	11/1/2023

*as amended from a previous agenda

**begins 60-day probationary period

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the appointment of the ABA Discrete Trial TAs and Instructional Aides as listed on **Attachment D**.

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 2023-2024 school year:

Teachers

Fareeha Babar

Matthew Levis

Joshua Zacher

Resolved, 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.

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	Replac ing	Salary	Effective Date
Alexandra Wynn**	HMS	Teacher of Spanish	Long-Term Substitute	C. Netti	\$275/day**	10/26/2023-1/3/2024
Rina Haleva*	Harrison	School Counselor	Long-Term Substitute	C. Siti	\$315/day	8/30/2023-11/17/2023
Suzanne DiTacconi	BHE	TOSD	Long-Term Substitute	C. Wittjohann	\$275/day**	11/1/2023-12/22/2023

**as amended from a previous agenda*

***to be paid the difference between their current daily rate and the rate quoted above*

4.6 Transfers

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the transfers as listed on **Attachment F**.

4.7 Stipends

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment G** for co-curricular stipends at Livingston High School for the 2023-2024 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 H** for athletic stipends at Livingston High School for the 2023-2024 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 I** for co-curricular stipends at Heritage Middle School for the 2023-2024 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 co-curricular stipends at Mount Pleasant Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education rescinds the appointment of *Matthew Van Pelt* for the Math Lab co-curricular stipend at Livingston High School for the 2023-2024 school year.

4.8 Mentor Fees

Resolved, the Livingston Board of Education amends the individuals on **Attachment K** listed as assigned mentors to receive payment in accordance with the schedule listed.

4.9 ESEA Grant

Resolved, the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals listed on **Attachment L** to work at the ELL Family Night on November 2, 2023, at the rate of \$51.63/hour, not to exceed 1.5 hours per person. These funds will be paid through the ESEA Title III Grant (Account number: 20-241-100-100-1033-12).

4.10 Extra Period Assignments

Resolved, the Livingston Board of Education approves the extra period assignments as listed on **Attachment M**.

4.11 Memorandum of Understanding

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Understanding between themselves and the Livingston Education Association dated November 14, 2023.

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

The start date for Natalie Bray, the new Teacher of FCS, is effective on January 16, 2024, not the 15th since it is a holiday. This change has been amended in the minutes.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Mrs. Khemka moved the following:

5.1 HIB Report

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

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

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

PREVIEW OF DECEMBER 5, 2023 VOTING MEETING AGENDA

Superintendent's Report

1. Equity Audit Presentation

3. BUSINESS

3.1 Payment of Bills

3.2 Board Secretary Report – August 2023

3.3 Board Secretary Report – September 2023

3.4 Transfers

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Cricket - This discussion has been tabled.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 p.m., Mr. Cohen made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas J. Lambe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Thomas J. Lambe
Board Secretary

November 14, 2023