



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING AGENDA

April 8, 2025

Executive Session - Administration Building - 5:30 p.m.

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

I. OPEN SESSION

A. Call to Order – Seth Cohen, President

B. Reading of Meeting Notice

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by amendment to notice approved at the Board's reorganization meeting on January 2, 2025 and posted at the Board of Education office and communicated to *The Star Ledger*, *West Essex Tribune*, *TAPinto Livingston* and the Livingston Township Clerk.

C. 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:

- student and legal matters

Action may be taken upon return to the public session. The full length of the meeting is anticipated to be approximately 90 minutes; and be it

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

D. Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

E. Superintendent's Report

1. Budget Discussion

F. Board Reports

G. Student Representative's Report

H. Public Comment

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. To protect the privacy of all students and staff, concerns regarding individual students and staff members should generally be addressed by first meeting with the appropriate administrative staff.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public comment at every meeting of the Board.

Public participation shall be permitted only as indicated in accordance with Board Bylaw No. 0167.

Public participation shall be extended to residents of this district, persons having a legitimate interest in the actions of this Board, persons representing groups in the community or school district, representatives of firms eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the Board, and employees and pupils of this district, except when the issue addressed by the participant is subject to remediation by an alternate method provided for in policies or contracts of the Board.

Public participation is not an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the Board and shall be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate;
2. A participant is limited to three (3) minutes' duration; elapsed time will be determined through the use of a timing device operated by the Board Secretary;
3. No participant may speak more than once and there shall be no yielding of time among speakers;
4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually;
5. There shall be no cross dialogue between the participant and the Board and/or Administration;
6. Upon conclusion of a participant's remarks, the presiding officer will acknowledge the individual's remarks and may respond and/or direct a member of the Administration to respond to an inquiry following the participant's remarks or at the conclusion of the public participation session.

The presiding officer may:

- a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
- b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
- c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
- d. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and
- e. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the Board's business.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8

N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

II. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

3. BUSINESS

The Superintendent recommends the following:

3.1 Revisions to Academic Calendars

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves using the unused snow days from the 2024-2025 school year as days off for students and staff on Monday, April 21, 2025 and Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the revision to the 2026-2027 academic calendar, making Friday, September 4, 2026, an early dismissal for all staff and students.

3.2 Change to Annual Public Meeting Calendar

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following changes to the Annual Public Meeting Calendar that was previously approved on January 2, 2025:

- Cancellation of the May 27, 2025 Voting Meeting
- Addition of the June 3, 2025 Voting Meeting
- Cancellation of the June 10, 2025 Workshop/Voting Meeting

3.3 Award of Contract - United Business Systems - Copiers

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education obtained pricing for the replacement of copiers throughout the District. These copiers can be networked for use as printers, scanners and fax machines; and

Whereas, United Business Systems provided us with a proposal under state contract Contract 25-COMG-103708 for Canon copiers in the amount of \$14,268.00 per month (which includes service, toner and staples) for 60 months for 82 machines and a cost for copies of .0033 for black and white and .0048 for color; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education enter into a contract with United Business Systems for a 60 month period.

3.4 Architectural Services – Proposal for Pre and Post-Referendum Services

Whereas, the Livingston Board of Education ("Board") has determined that it needs to retain the services of an architectural firm to provide professional architectural services ("Services") pertaining to pre and post-referendum services for the Livingston Public School District; and

Whereas, DiCara Rubino Architects ("DiCara Rubino") has provided the Board with their proposal dated February 10, 2025 ("Proposal"); and

Whereas, the Board has determined that DiCara Rubino possesses the required expertise to perform the Services; and

Whereas, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5, the Board may contract for the Services by resolution at a public meeting without public bidding, as such Services constitute Professional Services in accordance with the terms of the statute.

Be It Resolved, that the Board hereby enters into an agreement with DiCara Rubino as outlined in the proposal for a pre-referendum fee of one hundred and thirty five thousand dollars (\$135,000.00).

ROLL CALL VOTE

4. PERSONNEL

The Superintendent recommends 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>Christopher Bickel</i>	Supervisor of Social Studies (PreK-6)	Retirement	District	June 30, 2025
<i>Elizabeth DeStefano</i>	Administrative Secretary - 10 month	Resignation	LHS	May 5, 2025
<i>Christina Mangiarelli</i>	Teacher of Psychology	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2025
<i>Christina Bravo</i>	TOSD	Resignation	LHS	June 30, 2025
<i>Erica Tucker</i>	Instructional Aide	Resignation	Harrison	April 7, 2025

**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>Carmella Allen</i>	RHE	Instructional Aide	2/5/2025-5/14/2025	5/15/2025-6/30/2025**	NA	TBD
<i>Katharine Carlin</i>	MPE	Elementary School Teacher	8/25/2025-9/24/2025	9/25/2025-10/17/2025**	10/20/2025-6/30/2026	8/26/2026
<i>Pietrina Daly</i>	LHS	School Nurse	4/3/2025-4/25/2025	4/28/2025-5/19/2025**	NA	5/20/2025
<i>Caroline Clark</i>	RHE	TOSD	NA	8/25/2025-11/14/2025**	11/17/2025-11/30/2025	12/1/2025
<i>Jessica D'Annunzio*</i>	Collins	Elementary School Teacher	3/17/2025-5/7/2025	5/8/2025-9/30/2025**	10/1/2025-6/30/2026	8/26/2026
<i>Danielle Wojdyga*</i>	LHS	Teacher of English	1/21/2025-3/24/2025 & 3/25/2025-4/21/2025**	4/22/2025-6/30/2025**	8/25/2025-1/1/2026	1/2/2026
<i>Amanda King*</i>	Hillside	Intervention/Enrichment Specialist	3/17/2025-5/9/2025 & 5/12/2025-6/6/2025**	6/9/2025-6/30/2025 & 8/25/2025-9/12/2025**	9/15/2025-12/12/2025	12/15/2025
<i>Daniel King*</i>	LHS	Teacher of Music	3/28/2025-4/4/2025; 4/8/2025; 4/11/2025; 4/23/2025-5/1/2025**	NA	NA	5/2/2025
<i>Diana Terrana*</i>	BHE	PRIDE TA	NA	NA	1/10/2025-4/8/2025	4/9/2025
<i>Sarah Pasculli*</i>	LHS	TOSD	5/9/2025-6/30/2025 &	9/9/2025-11/14/2025**	11/17/2025-6/30/2026	8/26/2026

			8/25/2025-9/8/2025**			
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**amended from previous agenda*

4.3 Transfers

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the transfer(s) 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
Marken Hyka	CO	Maintenance Person	NA	P. Sbarro	M	8	\$58,767, plus \$625	4/16/2025
Anna Solovyeva	LHS	Teacher of Biology & Chemistry	First Year Tenure Track	B. Bremmer	M	16	\$102,700	8/25/2025
Alexandria Brown	Hillside	Elementary School Teacher	First Year Tenure Track***	C. Levine	BA	5/6	\$60,568	8/25/2025
Amy Pagán	CO	Benefits Coordinator/ Payroll Assistant	NA	E. Villar	NA	NA	\$65,000 (prorated)	5/12/2025
Rafael Pagan	CO	IT Support Specialist (hourly)	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$20/hr	4/22/2025

**as amended from a previous agenda*

***salary will remain the same for the 2025-26 SY*

****leave replacement from 8/25/2025-9/30/2025, tenure track commencing 10/1/2025*

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

4.5 Substitutes

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approve 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
Bettina Plesnitzer*	HMS	Teacher of Health & PE	Long Term Sub	S. Mayk	\$345/day	1/22/2025 - 4/2/2025
Bettina Plesnitzer*	LHS	Teacher of Health & PE	Long Term Sub	T. Mantone	\$345/day	4/22/25 - 5/2/2025
Carol Silberfein	BHE	Elementary School Teacher	Long Term Sub	C. Ferraro	\$320/day**	4/8/2025-5/23/2025

**amended from previous agenda*

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

4.6 Extra Period Assignments

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

5. MISCELLANEOUS

The Superintendent recommends the following:

5.1 HIB Report

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

5.2 Bus Evacuation Drills

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the amended resolution for the 2024/2025 bus evacuation drills. All schools completed at least one bus evacuation drill by 11/27/2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE

I. Old Business

J. New Business

III. ADJOURNMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq., also known as the "Sunshine Law," authorizes a public body to meet in executive or private session under certain limited circumstances, and

Whereas, said law requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public hearing before it can meet in such an executive or private session, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Livingston Board of Education that:

- (A) It does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in executive session on April 8, 2025 to discuss the matters stipulated, in conformance with the subsections of said act which are indicated.
 - 1. Matter rendered confidential by federal law, state statute or rule of court.
 - 2. Matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive federal funds.
 - 3. Matter, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy unless the individual concerned shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.
 - 4. Collective bargaining matters.
 - 5. Matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates, etc. where it would adversely affect the public interest if discussion were disclosed.
 - 6. Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting public property where disclosure could impair protection.
 - 7. Investigation of violations or possible violations of law.
 - 8. Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than collective bargaining agreement.
 - 9. Personnel matters unless the individual employees or appointees affected requested that such matter be discussed at a public meeting.
 - 10. Deliberations occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty.
- (B) The matters discussed will be made public when confidentiality is no longer required and formal action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a meeting to which the public has been invited.
- (C) No action will be taken.

2025-26 PERSONNEL TRANSFERS

Name	Transferring From	Location	Transferring To	Location	Replacing	Effective Date(s)
<i>Dana Triana</i>	Elementary School Teacher	MPE	Intervention/Enrichment Specialist	Collins	A. Rieth	8/25/2025
<i>Pia Bauer</i>	Elementary School Teacher (LOA)	Hillside	Reading Interventionist (LOA)	Hillside	NA	8/25/2025
<i>Chani Levine</i>	Reading Interventionist (LOA)	Hillside	Elementary School Teacher	Hillside	NA	8/25/2025

Location	Name	Position	Guide	Step	Salary	Effective Date
BHE	Kevin Mansfield	ABA Discrete Trial TA	TA	1	\$34,302 (prorated)	4/22/2025
COL	Payal Tyagi	Instructional Aide	I&KA	1	\$27,481 (prorated)	4/7/2025

Name	Position	Location	# Classes	Effective Date
Lori Palazzo	Reading Interventionist	BHE	0.2	3/19/2025 - TBD

**amended from previous agenda*