



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP/VOTING MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2024

Executive Session - Administration Building - 6:45 p.m.

Public Session - Administration Building - 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 a Facebook Livestream. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Pamela Chirls, 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, 2024 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, Fang Gong, Parul Khemka and Darcy Bialick

Also in Attendance: Jessica Rapp, Lisa Capone-Steiger, Mark Stern, Susan Burman 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:

- student matters

Action may be taken upon return to the public session. The full length of the meeting is anticipated to be approximately 15 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 7:00 p.m., Mrs. Chirls reconvened the public meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Public Hearing for District and School HIB Self-Assessment Report

Mrs. Steiger explained that annually the district is required to complete a HIB self-assessment for the prior school year, present it to the Board of Education and share it with the Department of Education. 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 a variety of components through eight core elements that include HIB programs, approaches and other initiatives, training, curriculum and instruction, programming and reporting procedures. The data is used to address district challenges and provide professional development in areas needed. This year our composite score was 77.44 out of a possible 78 points.

NJSLA Scores

Mrs. Natalie Topylko, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the NJSLA Spring 2024 results from the assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3-9 and for Science in grades 5, 8 and 11. Mrs. Topylko reviewed the participation levels and went through the data showing students' performance levels in all of the assessments. The cohort chart shows how students progress each year from grade through 9.

Mrs. Topylko explained we use a collaborative process to analyze the data and to develop action plans that impact professional development, classroom instruction and curriculum development/materials selection.

Moving forward, we will continue with the implementation of the universal screening tool for grades 2-5 as a means of analyzing student needs for differentiated and small group instruction and skills tracing and continue to examine beginning of the year assessments to analyze and triangulate these with the NJSLA scores and classroom observations and assessment. In Science, we are continuing to collaborate with the NJDOE to pilot a new Open Sci Ed curriculum in the elementary grades. In ELA, we will perform Word Study Work in grades K-1 for both decoding and comprehension. In Math, we are continuing the implementation of Math in Focus in grade 6, emphasizing small group instruction and the implementation of the Tier 1 toolkit, and for grade 8, examining instructional materials, program and professional development for staff.

Mrs. Khemka said that universal screener will be able to identify more children with gaps at an earlier age hence needing differentiated learning. She requested we keep an eye on it from the perspective of budget and what extra support teachers in elementary schools may need.

The full presentation is available on our website.

Board Reports

There were no board reports.

Student Representative's Report

Miss Bialick explained the LHS student government association continues to collaborate with the TV program and administration on their plans for a schoolwide Lip Dub. The student government also attended a summit in Caldwell where various student governments from towns across New Jersey sent representatives to discuss how best to plan events and anchorage spirit. Our student government formed a relationship with the Millburn student government and discussed playing into their school rivalries to promote school spirit at both schools. Millburn may also plan their own Lip Dub and the two groups discussed competing for the winning Lip Dub using the most likes and views on social media platforms. Miss Bialick continued that the

first TikTok was posted on the new SGA account to promote spirit week, which is being held from October 7 to 11 and garnered over 2,400 views.

Public Comment

Michelle Amin, expressed she was upset the district did not do anything to commemorate October 7.

JD Zipkin, stated although there are many important things going on in the world and he values the diversity in our town, he is happy that the schools remain focused on academics as shown through the presentation provided this evening highlighting where students are and what we can do to help them improve.

Maria Lijoi, requested the district review the streamlined implementation process for accommodations of students with IEPs and 504s. She is seeing what is supposed to be made easier for those with accommodations, has become more difficult for some.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

3.1 Policies and Regulations

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

Policy #3214 - Conflict of Interest (with revisions)

Policy #3230 - Outside Activities (with revisions)

Policy #5200 - Attendance (M) (with revisions)

3.2 Conferences and Overnight Trips

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the amended conferences and overnight trips as shown on **Attachment A**.

Mrs. Khemka seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Gong, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Chirls
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>Tatiana Gilbert</i>	Assistant Business Administrator	Resignation	CO	December 5, 2024

**as amended from a previous agenda*

Mrs. Khemka seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Gong, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Chirls
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. Khemka seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Gong, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Chirls
Nayes - None

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:59 p.m., Mr. Cohen made a motion to adjourn the meeting,

Mrs. Khemka seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Rapp
Board Secretary