



LIVINGSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTING MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2024

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

Public Session - 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 a Facebook Livestream. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Jessica Rapp, 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 60 minutes; and be it

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

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

At 7:02 p.m., Mrs. Chirls reconvened the public meeting.

Superintendent's Report

National Merit Semi-Finalists Recognition Ceremony

In honor of the achievement of these students to receive the distinction of National Merit Semi-Finalists, they are given an opportunity to recognize an educator, active or retired, from grades K-12 in Livingston who supported, influenced, inspired and/or made a difference in their lives. Students purchased the following books to present:

- Payton Gao recognized Dr. Anatoly Fonarev with *Beyond Physicalism: Toward Reconciliation of Science and Spirituality*
- Eric Guo recognized Mr. William Peklo with *Game Changer*
- Alina Lee recognized Dr. Dorine Starace with *Project Hail Mary*
- Lelun Li recognized Mr. Michael Coleman with *Ender's Game*
- Eric Niu recognized Mr. Paul Raiz with *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*
- Benjamin Silversten recognized Mr. Ernie Cuneo with *The Collected What If?*
- Shining Wang recognized Mrs. Alexandra Pefanis with *A History of Art In 21 Cats*
- Audrey Xu recognized Ms. Susana Fernandez with *The Joy Luck Club*
- Honglin Xue recognized Ms. Jennifer Gee with *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing*
- Kevin Zhang recognized Mr. Hal Mordkoff with *Freakonomics*
- Asher Zhao recognized Mrs. Alison Fauerbach with *Monster*

Dr. Fishbein read through the impressive statistics of our Chess Teams.

New Course Offerings

Mr. Mark Stern reviewed the new course offerings for the 2025-2026 school year which include a continuation of our 95 Phonics Program Sequencing in Grades 2 and 3, a continuation of Math in Focus in Grade 7, a course entitled AP Computer Science Principles: Engineering and a semester course entitled Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) Studies. Mr. Stern continued that in an effort to address the teacher shortage, he has had conversations with TCNJ about forming a partnership to create a teaching and learning pathway that could prepare students for a career in the field of education. Several of the courses would offer a dual enrollment option.

In addition to the new courses, Mr. Stern explained they will be revising Chinese 2 Honors and Italian 2 Honors and renaming Sports and Entertainment Marketing to The Business of Sports and Entertainment and Introduction to Data Science to Data Science Principles.

The full presentation is available on our website.

Board Reports

The Board thanked Ms. Arnette for her three years of service on the Livingston Board of Education.

Ms. Arnette thanked her family, friends, board members, staff members and community members for their support and addressed the community about her tenure on the board.

Student Representative's Report

Miss Bialick explained that on December 4 during Lancer time, the LHS administrative team hosted an assembly for freshmen to discuss technology usage. The panel of speakers included several law enforcement officers, student representatives, student assistance counselors and administrators, who addressed a series of concerns surrounding technology misuse from their perspectives and roles. The law enforcement officers highlighted the gravity of the situation including the exchange of inappropriate photographs between minors and explaining that the act

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of possessing or distributing one of these images can garner a second degree charge for child pornography. The administrative team's goal with the assembly is to educate the freshman in an effort to reduce the number of HIB cases involving the misuse of technology.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Arnette moved the following:

1. Voting Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2024
2. Executive Session Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2024; October 8, 2024; October 29, 2024; November 12, 2024 and November 19, 2024

Mr. Cohen seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

Daniel Rothman, Livingston, has not received a response from anyone about an incident he emailed about that took place at HMS. Mr. Rothman would like an acknowledgment of receipt and confirmation that someone will look into the matter.

Paulette Dorflauffer, Livingston, was removed from her job for taking food and drinks from the cafeteria that were going to be thrown away and donating them to families in need in Livingston. Ms. Dorflauffer asked for her job back and also suggested each cafeteria have a basket to collect these unused items to donate to families in need.

Pamela Vandenberg Smith, Livingston, stood in defense of Ms. Dorflauffer for her acts of kindness and suggested the district team up with an organization to pick up unused, packaged food items that could be donated to those in need. Ms. Smith provided some literature about these organizations to Mrs. Rapp.

Starr Preston, publicly thanked Jenissa Arnette for her service to the children in Livingston.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

PROGRAM/CURRICULUM

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

1.1 Field Trips

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

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

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

STUDENT SERVICES

Mr. Cohen moved the following:

2.1 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 2024-2025 school year:

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

Bergen County Special Services

\$1,300/evaluation

Adam Krass Consulting, LLC

\$1,100/consultation

BEHAVIORAL TRAINING & ASSISTANCE / APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS

123ABA, LLC

\$125.00/hour

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

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

BUSINESS

Mr. Cohen moved 3.1 through 3.10 plus the additional walk-in item 3.11, which was read out loud by Mrs. Rapp:

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.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10,11,12	Operating Budget (checks 108349-109830 ;adv 247-258)	\$8,872,710.10
20	Grants (checks 108349-109830 ;adv 247-258)	\$249,546.83
60	Cafeteria (checks 60082)	\$10,295.55
	TOTAL	\$9,132,552.48

3.2 Board Secretary Report – November 2024

Whereas, the Livingston Board of Education has received the Report of the Board Secretary for November 30, 2024, 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 November 30, 2024, 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	\$8,631,738.57	\$99,683,361.76	\$5,720,541.87
(11) Current Expense			
(12) Capital Outlay			
(20) Special Revenue Fund	\$566,610.91	\$3,057,904.05	(\$120,317.73)
(30) Capital Projects Fund	\$2,032,629.34	\$1,619,600.00	\$3,638,310.50
(40) Debt Service Fund	(\$2,808,862.64)	\$1,084,212.99	\$174,139.87
Total:	\$8,422,116.18	\$105,445,078.80	\$9,412,674.51

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c3), the Board Secretary has certified that as of November 30, 2024, 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. 6A:23A-16.10(c4) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

3.3 Transfers

Whereas, the Superintendent of Schools recommends certain transfers among accounts in the 2024-2025 budget for November pursuant to Board of Education Policy 6422, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education ratify transfers pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A.10 as shown on **Attachment B**.

3.4 Conferences and Trips

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

3.5 Technology Purchases

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following technology purchases:

Name of Product	Vendor	Subscription Date	Amount	CO-OP#
Acer R856TN chromebooks for Class 2029 and 2033	CDW	n/a	\$534,610.00	ESCNJ/AEPA-22G
Rubrik backup hardware	SHI	n/a	\$39,367.47	E-8801-NJSBA ACES-CPS

Projector and Screen for LHS Auditorium	PureTek	n/a	\$45,000.00	TIPS 230901
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3.6 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the submission of an application for the State of New Jersey, State and Local Cybersecurity grant for the Federal Fiscal Year 2023.

3.7 Tuition Students (Receiving)

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the acceptance of the following tuition students for the 2024-2025 school year:

Student(s)	School	Tuition
OOD-1	Secondary	\$55,727
OOD-1 ESY	Secondary	\$1,432
OOD-2	Secondary	\$56,046
OOD-2 ESY	Secondary	\$1,192
OOD-3	Secondary	\$58,354

3.8 SF Consulting & Advising

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the contract with SF Consulting & Advising to provide payroll processing services, Fourth Quarter 2024 IROC, Quarterly Report Processing, and 2024 Year-End Report Processing for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00.

3.9 Professional Wetlands Consulting Services

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the proposal from Verdantes to perform Professional Wetlands Consulting Services for the central office property for an amount not to exceed \$13,051.00.

3.10 Settlement Agreement

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Settlement Agreement for Case #08-2024 which is on file at the Board of Education office.

3.11 Residency Hearing

Resolved, the Livingston Board of Education, after convening a residency hearing in executive session on December 11, 2024, the Board has determined that student ID #262235 and student #292234 are not residents of Livingston and are not otherwise entitled to attend Livingston Public Schools.

Ms. Arnette seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes - Ms. Arnette, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Gong, Mrs. Khemka, Mrs. Chirls
Nayes - 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>Leala Baxter</i>	Supervisor of ELA (Prek-6)	Retirement	Elementary	June 30, 2025
<i>Dr. David Jones</i>	Teacher of Health & PE	Retirement	LHS	February 21, 2025
<i>Richard Darst</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Retirement	MPE	June 30, 2025
<i>Ellen O'Connor</i>	Applications Architect	Retirement	CO	January 31, 2025
<i>Chani Levine*</i>	Elementary School Teacher	Retirement	Hillside	September 30, 2025
<i>Jennifer Loniewski</i>	Director of Elementary C&I and PD	Resignation	CO	January 20, 2025
<i>Jennifer Suarez</i>	Payroll Manager	Resignation	CO	December 6, 2024

**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>Nathalie Ricot</i>	HMS	Teacher of French	11/4/2024-1/15/2025**	1/16/2025-2/7/2025**	NA	2/10/2025
<i>Chani Levine</i>	Hillside	Reading Interventionist	NA	1/2/2025-1/31/2025**	NA	2/1/2025
<i>Amanda King</i>	Hillside	Intervention/Enrichment Specialist	3/17/2025-5/6/2025 & 5/7/2024-6/11/2024**	6/12/2025-9/26/2025**	9/29/2025-12/12/2025	12/15/2025
<i>Diana Terrana</i>	BHE	ABA TA	NA	NA	1/10/2025-4/10/2025	4/11/2025
<i>M. Alden Earle</i>	LHS	Teacher of Physics	1/3/2025-1/24/2025**	NA	NA	1/27/2025

**as amended from a previous agenda*

***Designates time counted toward NJFLA/FMLA*

4.3 Transfers

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

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
Angelina Rodriguez	CO	Director of Elementary Education	First Year Tenure Track	J. Loniewski	NA	NA	\$160,000 (prorated)	1/21/2025
Irina Gueva	MPM	School Nurse	NA	D. Heesemann	NCSN	9	\$73,927 (prorated)	12/17/2024
Tanya Lazzarini	BHE	Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	NA	C. Marrotta	LPN	NA	\$45,000 (prorated)	12/10/2024
Jack Durschlag	COL	Playground Aide	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$18/hr	12/4/2024
Kara Mazza	MPE	Playground Aide	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$20/hr	12/2/2024

**as amended from a previous agenda*

***begins 60-day probationary period*

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 2024-2025 school year:

Teachers

Drew Basarab
Tara Bird
Jodi Chisarick
Victoria Corino
Azka Khan
Michael Eisenhardt
Julie Kaplan

Nurse

Deborah Girone (to be paid the difference between her daily rate and \$250/day)

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	Replacing	Salary	Effective Date
Christopher Ebneeth	MCC	Teacher of Social Studies (.6)	Long Term Sub	J. Hoyle	\$207/day	12/2/2024 - 12/20/2024

**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 F**.

4.7 Contract Adjustments

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the contract adjustments as listed on **Attachment G**.

4.8 Stipends

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment H** for elementary stipends for the 2024-2025 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 athletic stipends at Livingston High School for the 2024-2025 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 Livingston High School for the 2024-2025 school year in accordance with the contract between the LBOE and the LEA.

4.9 Longevity

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the individuals on **Attachment K** for longevity.

4.10 Memoranda of Understanding

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Understanding between itself and the Livingston Education Association regarding the 2026-2027 OG 10-Month Administrative Secretary Guide.

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Understanding between itself and the Livingston Education Association regarding payroll and deductions.

4.11 Job Descriptions

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the following job descriptions:

Director of Elementary Education (change in title and revisions)
Director of Secondary Education (change and title and revisions)

4.12 Termination of Employment

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education terminates the employment of Employee #6794 with an effective date of December 20, 2024.

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.

5.2 Suspension Report

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the Suspension Report for the months of September, October and November.

5.3 Bus Evacuation Drills

Resolved, that the Livingston Board of Education approves the bus evacuation drills that were completed by the end of December 2024.

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 8:07 p.m., Ms. Arnette made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mrs. Khemka seconded the motion.

Vote all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Rapp
Board Secretary