

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Regular Meeting on January 22, 2020, in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Kris Huegel, at 7:32 P.M. Mrs. Huegel read the following Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: "In compliance with Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975, a notice for this meeting was posted at the respective offices of the Essex Fells School on January 7, 2020. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress, the Star Ledger, and posted on the district web-site.

I. Call to Order –7:32 P.M.

- The meeting was called to order by the Board President.

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Kris Huegel – President, present
Mrs. Debra Tedesco – Vice President, present
Mrs. Bethany Buccino, – present
Dr. Steven LoCascio –present
Mr. Theodore Skopak – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal and Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

V. President's Report

- None

VI. Superintendent's Report

- Mrs. Gadaleta reported on a very successful day of service on Dr. Martin Luther King Day. Activities included a Spread Kindness Assembly, the decorating and preparing of brown paper bags for the Human Needs Pantry food drive, buddy snack and color a smile pictures to mail to the troops, a Table to Table presentation, and the day ending with a presentation of Dr. Martin Luther King's speech. Mrs. Gadaleta was very pleased with the day. The Board of Education thanked Mrs. Gadaleta and thought the day was very well planned out. Mrs. Gadaleta confirmed that 64 children were absent.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had received the State Assessment Comparison Report data from Linked It. Mrs. Gadaleta explained some of the results to the Board.
- Mrs. Gadaleta provided the Board with a district student illness update. We have been tracking the flu cases in the district and the illness numbers are decreasing.
- Mrs. Gadaleta discussed Superintendent Resolution #2, the retirement of Mrs. Emma. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that she was very happy for Mrs. Emma, but sad for us. Mrs. Gadaleta thanked her for her service.
- Mrs. Gadaleta explained Superintendent Resolution #3, the Maternity/Disability Leave of Absence for Mrs. Vetere.
- Mrs. Gadaleta explained Superintendent Resolution #4, which is a new vendor for school pictures going forward.

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01 – 04.

- 1. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the payment of the following travel related expenses in accordance with the travel policy 6471 for Professional Development:

Staff Member(s): Monica Craveiro
Event: iSTEAM Conference 2020
Location: Ramapo College of NJ
Date: 1/14/20
Cost: \$196.43 Total (Fee-\$179.00; Mileage-\$17.43)

Staff Member(s): Marco Pannullo
Event: Jamf 300 Course
Location: NYC
Date: 1/13-16/20
Cost: \$2,044.40 Total (Fee-\$2,000; Mileage-\$44.40)

Staff Member(s): Steve Lella
Event: NJSIG Workshop
Location: The Graycliff, Moonachie, NJ
Date: 2/7/20
Cost: \$0

Staff Member(s): Molly Livio
Event: Introduction to AAC/Pencil Grips & Writing Papers Workshops
Location: Educational Enterprises, Paramus, NJ
Date: 2/21/20
Cost: \$90.00

Staff Member(s): Rosalie Takkel
Event: Full STEAM Ahead Workshop
Location: Wilshire Grand Hotel, West Orange, NJ
Date: 2/24/20
Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Katie MacKenzie
Event: Elementary Conflict Resolution Training
Location: NJ Law Center, New Brunswick, NJ
Date: 3/24/20
Cost: \$22.68 Total (Fee-\$0; Mileage-\$22.68)

Staff Member(s): Monica Craveiro, Kristen Kowalski
Event: IXL Live Workshop
Location: Hilton Parsippany
Date: 4/2/20
Cost: \$84.10 Total Per Person (Fee-\$75.00; Mileage-\$9.10)

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the following meetings:

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| Regular Meeting Minutes | 12/11/19 |
| Workshop Meeting Minutes | 12/11/19 |
| Moved by: Dr. LoCascio | Seconded by: Mrs. Tedesco |
| Ayes: 5 | Nays: 0 |

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for January in the amount of \$147,768.58, as certified by the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for December as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$389,603.02 including \$363,884.27 for the gross payroll, \$7,012.05 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$18,706.70 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

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| Moved by: Dr. LoCascio | Seconded by: Mrs. Tedesco |
| Ayes: 5 | Nays: 0 |

3. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has received the Reports of the Board Secretary (Secretary) and the Custodian of School Monies (Treasurer) for the month of November;

WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Secretary has certified that as of the date of the reports, no budgetary line item account, in accordance with the minimum chart of accounts as established by the New Jersey Department of Education, has obligations and payments which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Board of Education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that, after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial report, 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:23-2.11(c)4, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to P.L. 2004 C73, the Board certifies that after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial report and certification, that there are no budgetary transfers that cumulatively exceed 10% that would require the approval of the Commissioner of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the financial reports for the months be accepted and shall become a part of the official minutes of this meeting.

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| Moved by: Dr. LoCascio | Seconded by: Mrs. Tedesco |
| Ayes: 5 | Nays: 0 |

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the

month of December as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Tedesco

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and accepts the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of the Essex Fells School District and the Auditors' Management Report, prepared by the auditing firm of Samuel Klein and Company for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Tedesco

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

6. **RESOLVED** that the Essex Fells Board of Education approves the submission of the following Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program Waiver to the Essex County Office of Education:

WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) program for the 2020-2021 school year, and

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Essex Fells Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Essex an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2020-2021 school year.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Tedesco

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta noted that she would have a conversation with the EFPD regarding a possible School Resource Officer. Mrs. Gadaleta explained to the Board the difference between an SRO and Class 3. The board discussed.
- Mrs. Gadaleta provided the Board with a copy of her transcript.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- The Board discussed with Mrs. Gadaleta some potential questions for a BOE Survey.

XII. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- None

XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 9:13 P.M. to discuss legal matters. The items discussed in Executive session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain their confidentiality no longer exists.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Tedesco

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

XIV. Adjournment

At 9:33 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn. The next **Workshop Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 7:30 P.M.** in the Superintendent's Office. The next **Regular Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Tedesco

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0