

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Workshop Meeting held in the Media Center on October 6, 2022. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Amanda Haber, at 7:30 P.M. Mrs. Haber 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 as of January 5, 2022. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress, and the Star Ledger.

I. Call to Order – 7:30 P.M.

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

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Amanda Haber, President-Present
 Mr. John Toth, Vice-President-Present
 Mrs. Kris Huegel-Present
 Mr. Raj Mehta-Present
 Mr. Theodore Skopak-Present

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; 3 Staff Members, Dr. Nitti, Mayor Davis and 9 Members of the Public

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. President's Report

- None

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Gadaleta shared with the Board the events for the Week of Respect.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted that as part of our 3-year QSAC review, we completed the facilities walk thru last week. Everything went well.

VII. Buildings & Grounds

- Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella shared with the Board that a preliminary punch list walk thru occurred. Gutters still need to be finished, 2 leaks to be addressed and clean up. The sky-lights are in.

VIII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Dr. Gadaleta addressed the curriculum revision schedule. There will be staff PD on Monday.
- The State assessment testing window closed last week, and our testing is complete.
- Mr. Skopak asked about curriculum revisions in the past as well as grading and tests. Dr. Gadaleta addressed.

IX. Finance

- Mr. Lella noted that the 2021-22 Audit would begin soon.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the district received, for the third year in a row, a Health Insurance Premium Rebate as part of the Affordable Care Act, which would go back to eligible staff members based on the plan they are enrolled in.

X. Personnel

- Dr. Gadaleta informed the Board there is still a vacancy for the Special Education position. More advertising will take place.

XI. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta and the Board discussed the SRO/Class III Officer. Dr. Gadaleta shared with the Board information regarding prior incidents and recommends further BOE discussion.
- Mrs. Huegel referenced BOE bylaws and responsibilities of BOE members.
- Mrs. Haber feels a Class III is a responsible move.
- Mr. Toth shared email information provided by Dr. Gadaleta to questions he had.
- As the Board is universally in favor, Dr. Gadaleta will meet with Chief of Police and Mayor to discuss further.
- Dr. Gadaleta provided an update and explained HIB/Code of Conduct. The Board discussed.
- Dr. Gadaleta provided an update to the Board regarding new testing in K-12 schools. The DOH still suggests testing multiple times and up to 48 hours later as a precaution. EFS has 7 cases YTD.

XII. New Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta has started to prepare the 2023-24 school year calendar and will prepare drafts based on W. Essex, which is starting before Labor Day.
- Dr. Gadaleta will further look into an HVAC project funding program that has become available, which could cover financing of up to 75%.
- Dr. Gadaleta shared information regarding PTA volunteers and being aware of HIB policy.

XII. Public Comment

- Mrs. Steiner asked if the Board would consider live streaming future meetings. It will be added to the next agenda.
- Mrs. O'Donnell asked for clarification of the difference between an SRO and Class III Officer. Dr. Gadaleta provided an explanation.

XIV. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

At 8:18 P.M. the Board made a motion to enter into Executive Session discuss personnel and 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: Mrs. Huegel

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

XV. Adjournment

At 8:52 P. M. the Board made a motion to adjourn. The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/