

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Regular Meeting on December 11, 2019, in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Kris Huegel, at 7:30: 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 November 25, 2019. 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 – 7:30 P.M.

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

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Kris Huegel – President , present
Dr. Steven LoCascio – Vice President, present
Mrs. Bethany Buccino, – present
Mrs. Shani Drogin –present
Mrs. Debra Tedesco – absent

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; 3 Staff Members and 1 Member of the Public.

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 noted that the Kindergarten currently has 0 classified students, therefore the Special Education teacher will split 50/50 between both classes.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported to the Board that she and Mr. Lella had attended a School Safety Symposium that was hosted by West Essex. Also in attendance was the NJDOE Office of School Preparedness & Emergency Planning, the NJ State Police, Chiefs and Officers of the local Police Departments, the NJ Bomb Squad and other school Superintendent’s and administrators. The meeting addressed the rise of safety concerns in schools and the continued planning and working together of districts and law enforcement. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that the EFS staff and Police Department do an excellent job working together to keep everyone safe.
- Mrs. Gadaleta relayed the thank you from the Newton, NJ BOE for the EFS Smartboards donation. Mrs. Gadaleta recognized the EFS BOE, the Foundation and the PTA for making available the resources to the students at EFS.
- Mrs. Gadaleta wished a Happy Holiday season to the BOE members, EFS Staff and families. Dr. LoCascio thanked the EFS Administration and Staff.

VII. Old Business / Board Discussion

- None

VIII. New Business / Board Discussion

- None

IX. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01 – 07.

- 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): Steve Lella
Event: West Essex Regional Safety Symposium
Location: West Caldwell, NJ
Date: 12/6/19
Cost: \$0

Staff Member(s): Steve Lella
Event: SSS Annual Training
Location: Paramus, NJ
Date: 12/9/19
Cost: \$0

Staff Member(s): Kristin Gann
Event: Decrease Attention-Getting Behaviors/Practical
Solutions Workshop
Location: West Orange, NJ
Date: 1/8/20
Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Debbie Emma
Event: Dyslexia Workshop
Location: Wilshire Grand Hotel, West Orange, NJ
Date: 1/9/20
Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Kimberly Trafford
Event: 101 Best Strategies to Increase the Effectiveness and Impact
of Your School Library Program Workshop
Location: West Orange, NJ
Date: 1/16/20
Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Marisa Burger
Event: NJ Council for Exceptional Children Annual Spring Conference
Location: Ramapo College
Date: 3/16/20

Cost: \$125.00

Staff Member(s): Rory Duarte, Laura Quinn
Event: Nurture Young Children As They Make Meaning and Joyfully Engage With Any Book Workshop
Location: Livingston, NJ
Date: 5/12/20
Cost: \$209.00 per person

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Moved by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

- 2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Essex Fells Public School District Nursing Services Plan 2019-2020 / Cardiac Emergency Response Plan.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

- 3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Use of Facilities Request for the following:

Cub Scouts of Essex Fells – Blue & Gold/Bull Riding Ceremony
February 21, 2020 – 4:00-8:00pm

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

- 4. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2020-2021 School Calendar.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

TABLED

- 5. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following student from Caldwell University for a supervised internship:

Student: Yaritza Yens
Cooperating Teacher: Jeanine Whitman
December 2019: 15 hours
January – June 2020: 45 hours

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, Kasey Desiderio and Parker Levy to help Mrs. Buonomo and Mrs. McNish with the set design for the school musical.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the submission of the following to the Essex County Office of Education for the 2019-2020 school year:

- *Memorandum of Agreement Between Education & Law Enforcement Officials - 2019 Revisions*
- *MOA Attached Document – Designated officials, law enforcement jurisdiction and agencies list*
- *Essex County Addendum of Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials – School Critical Incident Drills*
- *Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Live Streaming – Essex County*

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

IX. Business Administrator’s Report

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the 2018-19 Audit was complete and he was just waiting on the hard copy for the Board Members to review.
- Mr. Lella noted that the 2020-21 Budget process was underway, as the staff have been submitting their requests.
- Mr. Lella noted the BOE positions for the 2020 calendar year.

XI. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01–03.

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

Regular Meeting Minutes 11/20/19

Executive Meeting Minutes 11/20/19

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for December in the amount of **\$102,322.08**, as certified by the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for November as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$356,914.67 including \$333,360.48 for the gross payroll, \$4,847.49 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$18,706.7 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

4. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the month of November as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XII. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- Mr. Skopak noted that he was looking forward to joining the EFS Board of Education in January 2020.

XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:40 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. Drogin

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XIV. Adjournment

At 8:31 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn. **The Reorganizational /Workshop Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7:30 PM** in the Media center

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0