

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Regular Meeting on February 19, 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 and 2 Staff Members.

### **III. Flag Salute**

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

### **IV. President’s Report**

- None

### **V. Public Comment on Agenda**

- None

### **VI. Superintendent’s Report**

- Mrs. Gadaleta shared the BOE Survey results with the Board. The Board discussed the responses.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported back to the Board on what she felt was a very heavy and productive full day of professional development.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reviewed for the Board the SRO meeting that took place with the Mayor and Chief of Police. The Board explained why the SRO was being researched and costs were discussed. The Mayor said he would discuss the matter further with the town CFO. Mrs. Huegel noted that she felt the meeting was a productive discussion on the matter.
- Mrs. Gadaleta noted that a \$60 donation was being made to Color a Smile from the day of service.
- Mrs. Gadaleta provided the Board with an enrollment update. Currently there are 258 students (256 and 2 OOD) with a possibility for an additional 2 students in the upcoming months.
- Mrs. Gadaleta noted resolution #6 and thanked the Content family for the generous donation to the Essex Fells School.

**VII. Superintendent's Resolutions**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01 – 06.

- 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): Kristen Kowalski  
 Event: Conquer Mathematics  
 Location: Pompton Plains, NJ  
 Date: 2/26/20  
 Cost: \$210.00

Staff Member(s): Lauren Brzostowski  
 Event: NJ Council for Exceptional Children Conference  
 Location: Ramapo College  
 Date: 3/16/20  
 Cost: \$125.00

Staff Member(s): Nicole Criscione  
 Event: Centenary University Literary Conference  
 Location: Hacketstown, NJ  
 Date: 3/18/20  
 Cost: \$69.50 Total (Fee = \$45.00; Mileage = \$24.50)

Staff Member(s): Nicole Criscione, Kimberly Trafford  
 Event: What's New in Children's Literature Workshop  
 Location: West Orange, NJ  
 Date: 3/27/20  
 Cost: \$279.00 per person

Staff Member(s): Laurie Fischer  
 Event: Improve Social Emotional Learning & Productivity Conference  
 Location: Parsippany NJ  
 Date: 4/30/20  
 Cost: \$177.69 Total (Fee = \$169.99; Mileage = \$7.70)

Staff Member(s): Tracie Wieczorek  
 Event: Wilson Reading System Introductory Course  
 Location: Banyan School, Fairfield, NJ  
 Date: 5/5-7/20  
 Cost: \$600.00

Staff Member(s): Marisa Burger  
 Event: Restorative Practices in the Classroom Workshop  
 Location: Wilshire Grand Hotel, West Orange, NJ  
 Date: 5/14/20  
 Cost: \$279.00

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Moved by: Mrs. Tedesco

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0



6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the generous donation of \$300.00 by Sheila Allen Styles and the Content Family to Essex Fells School.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Tedesco

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

**VII. Business Administrator’s Report**

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with an update on the 2020-21 Budget. District revenues were discussed. Mrs. Huegel spoke about the potential impact in the future regarding the addition of an SRO/Class 3. The Board discussed.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board of the SEMI waiver approval letter.

**IX. Business Resolutions**

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

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

Reorganizational/Workshop Minutes	1/7/20
Executive Session Minutes	1/7/20
Regular Meeting Minutes	1/22/20
Executive Session Minutes	1/22/20

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Tedesco

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for February in the amount of **\$184,588.74** as certified by the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for January as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$356,236.29 including \$331,940.85 for the gross payroll, \$4,744.56 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$19,550.88 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

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 December;

**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.

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 January 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

**X. Old Business / Board Discussion**

- Mr. Lella received notification from the field maintenance contractor that the fields once repaired and properly maintained would last for several years. The district will move forward with the project.
- The new phones were installed and are in compliance with Alyssa’s Law. Mr. Lella will work on the punch list with the vendor. The district may also be eligible for grant reimbursement. Mr. Lella will work on the application.
- The Board noted that they are not in favor of Regionalization / Consolidation.
- The district will be having the NJQSAC review tomorrow.
- The district will move forward with the drop off / pick up paving.

**XI. New Business / Board Discussion**

- None

**XII. Meeting Open for Public Comment**

- None

**XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session**

The Board convened in Executive Session at 9:32 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 10:02 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn. The next **Workshop Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 7:30 P.M.** in the Superintendent's Office. The next **Regular Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Tedesco

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0