

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Workshop Meeting on March 4, 2020, in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Kris Huegel, at 7:31 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 –7:31 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 – absent (arrived at 7:48 pm)
Mr. Theodore Skopak – absent

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

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda

- None

V. Buildings & Grounds

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had had a discussion with the EFPD regarding the procedure for rolling pick. A further conversation will be held on Friday. Over Spring Break the district will be installing a paving platform.
- Mr. Lella noted that the phone system upgrades had been completed in compliance with Alyssa's Law. A final punch list will be worked on.
- Mrs. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella will be obtaining lift quotes for building #2 to get to downstairs to the OT/PT rooms. The quotes are for planning purposes right now.
- The baseball & softball field upgrades are scheduled for Spring Break.
- Mrs. Gadaleta provided the Board with a proposed sample of the music room floor project. Quotes will be obtained for a possible weekend or spring break project.

VI. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of the 2020 Summer Job Posting for Curriculum Revision.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she was attempting to absorb 1 staff position in 2020-21 from staff retirement. The BOE discussed potential OOD placements. Mrs. Gadaleta also mentioned of an upcoming maternity leave.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had gone to training for NJSLA 2020 Preparation.
- Mrs. Gadaleta discussed the 2019 NJSLA results
 - Dr. LoCascio arrived at 7:48 pm

- Mrs. Gadaleta spoke about how amazing the Holocaust Survivors Presentation was. Mrs. Gadaleta gave kudos to the 5th grade staff. The presentation was attended by parents as well and was very well received. The speakers were very impressed with the EFS students.
- Mrs. Gadaleta noted Read Across America Week.

VII. Finance

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with a 2020-21 Budget update. Mr. Lella noted the proposed State Aid increase and revenue detail as well as appropriation detail.

VIII. Policy

- None

IX. Old Business/Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she has been having correspondence with the County Health Official, Local Health Department and Dr. Nitti regarding COVID-19 preparedness. Mrs. Gadaleta was also on a phone call yesterday with the Governor and Commissioner of Education. Mrs. Gadaleta shared information from the Governor's call as district's should be preparing not panicking. Continue to emphasize hand washing and keeping the buildings clean. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that we have been increasing the cleaning frequency within the buildings and gave thanks to the custodial staff and Mrs. Renz. Mrs. Gadaleta also thanked the PTA for the purchasing of cleaning wipes for computer devices.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported to the Board that the NJQSAC Report had gone well. Mrs. Gadaleta noted the addressed language for curriculum description as well as district test scores which are now inclusive of special education.
- Mrs. Gadaleta discussed with the Board the event safety and security procedures for the musical to address events that have occurred in the past.

X. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board as to the new legislation for 6th grade curriculum for the 2020-21 school year.
- The NJDOE has asked for guidance to minimize student anxiety, especially special needs students, during drills. Mrs. Gadaleta has volunteered.
- Mrs. Gadaleta asked the Board their thoughts on having Narcan available on school property rather than just at the EFPD for potentially parents or staff. The Board agrees due to the proximity of the EFPD they will not keep Narcan on property.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported to the Board that the 2020 Census was being pushed by the State and Essex County as well.
- Mr. Lella noted the Board will have NJSBA BOE Training at the April 8th meeting as a refresher to BOE responsibility and ethics.

XI. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- None

XII. Adjournment

At 8:23 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn. 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: 4

Nays: 0