

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop session on May 3, 2017, in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro, at 7:30 P.M. Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro 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 April 24, 2017. 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. Carol D'Alessandro, President – present
Mrs. Shani Drogin – Vice President - present
Mrs. Kris Heugel –present
Dr. Steven LoCascio, – present
Mrs. Debra Tedesco – arrived at 8:10 pm

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; and Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; 4 members of the public, 2 EFS Staff;1 member of the press.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. Public Comment

- Mr. Lella advised the public as to the procedures for speaking during the public comment portions of the meeting.

V. President's Report

- Mrs. D'Alessandro thanked the PTA for all they did for Teacher Appreciation Week.

VI. Buildings Grounds

- Mrs. Gadaleta reported to the Board that she had met with the EFPD regarding the safety of the drop off and pick up procedure. Mrs. Gadaleta noted there is concern with the pickup time and where cars are parking on Forest Way, which makes it difficult for 2 way traffic. Chief Thielacker asked if the Board would like a traffic study during drop off and pickup times. The Board discussed and would like to hear the police's results.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported to the Board that the Earth Day events went off without a hitch. The children really enjoyed the stations, especially the station with the animals. Mrs. Gadaleta also noted that the children did a great clean up. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that a nutritionist spoke to the children and Bartlett Tree Company also presented. Mrs. Gadaleta felt the day was a success and thanked the PTA and Garden Club for their support.
- Mr. Lella reported to the Board that he would be obtaining quotes for window security tint/film as well as quotes for sidewalk and main entrance steps repair. Mr. Lella also noted that the AC project kickoff meeting would take place next week.

VII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta reported that the district was moving forward to align to the student learning math curriculum standards.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported that the district is moving ahead very well with the science curriculum writing, working with the other districts. Mrs. Gadaleta gave thanks to the EFS Staff.

VIII. Finance

- Mrs. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella presented the 2017-18 School Year Budget.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the Extraordinary Application was now open and is due May 31st, 2017.

IX. Personnel

- Mrs. Gadaleta noted the positions she would begin advertising for the 2017-18 school year. The positions include an Elementary School Teacher, World Language Teacher (.4), contracted service for School Psychologist, School Nurse and substitutes.

X. Superintendent's Report

- Mrs. Gadaleta recognized the EFS Staff for Teacher Appreciation Week. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that the district has fantastic teachers who she has the pleasure of working with.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported to the Board how fantastic Bring Your Child to Work Day was. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that the district hosted 18 staff children.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported to the Board that the district was currently in PARCC Testing. Monday was seamless, however Tuesday there was an internet issue. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that the children were able to finish the testing, however the spell check feature was not functioning properly. Mrs. Gadaleta stated that she had reached out to the state and made the decision to pause the testing. Mrs. Gadaleta thanked Mrs. Castellano and Mr. Pannullo for their efforts addressing the issue. The state allowed for extra time for the spelling review. Mrs. Gadaleta thanked the teachers and the children for their hard work.
- Mrs. Gadaleta noted that revisions would be made to the 17-18 school calendar.
- Mrs. Gadaleta noted to the Board the resolution accepting the retirement of the school nurse, Mrs. Gail Ellowitch, after 22 years of service in the district. Mrs. Gadaleta noted the retirement is very bittersweet as she is happy for Mrs. Ellowitch and her retirement however is sad to see her go. Mrs. Gadaleta thanked Mrs. Ellowitch for her service and wished her well upon her retirement.

XI. 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 retirement of Gail Ellowitch, School Nurse, effective July 1, 2017.

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the revision to the 2017-2018 School Calendar.

NOTE: Calendar attached

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following addition to the Substitute List for the 2016-17 school year and July & August 2017, pending the usual criminal history and background check and Black Seal License:

Gerardo Rodriguez	Custodian	\$15/hr		
Moved by:	Dr. LoCascio		Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	5		Nays:	0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the services of Dr. Ellen Platt for Pediatric Psychiatric Evaluations for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year at a rate of \$825.00 per evaluation

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

XII. Business Administrator’s Report

- Mr. Lella notified the Board of the resolution to adopt the 2017-18 budget.

XIII. Business Administrator’s Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolution #01.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, after conducting a public hearing, adopts a school district budget for the FY 2017-2018 School Year as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$5,135,289.00	\$4,606,699.00
Special Revenue	45,260.00	0.00
Debt Service Fund	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Budget	\$5,180,549.00	\$4,606,699.00

The Tax Levy includes an enrollment adjustment of \$115,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there should be raised for General Funds \$4,606,699.00 for the ensuing school year (2017-2018).

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

XIV. Policy

- Mrs. Gadaleta reviewed and explained policy with the Board.

XV. Old Business/Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta noted that the traffic concern regarding Forest Way was addressed during the building and grounds portion of the meeting.

XVI. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta noted that information regarding the open BOE seat as of January 1, 2018 was available on the website and the deadline to file petitions to be on the ballot.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the revised Superintendent Salary Cap Regulations had been adopted.

XVII. Public Comment

- Mrs. Bronstein asked if policy is available to the public. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that policy is on the district website.
- Mrs. DiGiovanni asked if anything is done to recognize Mrs. Ellowitch's retirement. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that nothing is officially done by the Board of Education however the EFTA does plan an event.

XVIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 8:52 P.M. to discuss personnel matters. The Board exited the Executive Session at 9:48 P.M. and returned to the Workshop Meeting. 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:	5	Nays:	0

XIX. Adjournment

At 9:48 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by:	Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	4	Nays:	0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary