

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a School Budget Presentation Public Meeting held in the Media Center on May 3, 2023. 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 4th, 2023. 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
Mr. Raj Mehta-Absent
Mrs. Caragh Lavoie-Present
Mrs. Jacquelyn Burke-Present

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, (2) Staff Members and (1) Member of the Public.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. President's Report

Good Evening Everyone-

Thank you for joining us. National Teacher Appreciation week is upon us and as a board, we celebrate the teachers of Essex Fells School. Our teachers are dedicated professionals who make learning fun and memorable. The relationships they cultivate with the students are everlasting. We are fortunate to have such excellent teachers.

Additionally- Monday was National Principal Appreciation Day. Dr. Gadaleta serves not only as our superintendent but also as our principal. Her ethic of care and devotion are so greatly appreciated. You ensure that the student experience is stellar day in and day out. Thank you for always leading with the student first mentality. We appreciate your service.

Next week we have school nurse appreciation day. Ms. Renz thank you for all you do to keep our students healthy.

All of our different faculty and staff are appreciated. On behalf of the board we thank you all.

Ahead of tonight's budget presentation, I would like to thank Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella for their attention to detail and working to ensure a fiscally sound and responsible school. As a board we are committed to providing the students with the best education while understanding the impact on the taxpayers. We work hard to ensure that we come to a place where the needs are met and we are fiscally responsible. We look forward to your presentation.

Thank you.

V. **Public Comment on Agenda Items Only**

- None

VI. **Superintendent’s Report**

- Dr. Gadaleta noted that May 1st – 5th is Teacher Appreciation Week and how fortunate we are at EFS to have the staff that we have. They have preserved through Covid and dealing with the loss of Mr. V and Mrs. DaCosta (Mitchell) all while putting the children and families of EFS first. Dr. Gadaleta is grateful for them and says thank you.
- Dr. Gadaleta informed the Board that Senior Service will be May 16th – June 13th.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted that we are currently in NJSLA testing. We are utilizing an in-house delayed opening schedule for specials, which so far is working out well.
- Dr. Gadaleta reported on the wonderful experiences last week for Earth/Arbor Day. Dr. Gadaleta thanked the Garden Club and Bartlett tree.

VII. **Business Administrator’s Report**

- Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella presented the 2023-24 School Year Budget.

VIII. **Business Resolutions**

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolution #01-08.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, after conducting a public presentation, adopts a school district budget for the FY 2023-2024 School Year as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$6,265,425.86	\$5,683,903.86
Special Revenue	\$163,167.50	0.00
Debt Service Fund	<u>\$99,752.00</u>	<u>\$65,836.00</u>
 Total Budget	 \$6,528,345.36	 \$5,749,739.86

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there should be raised for General Funds \$5,683,903.86 and \$65,836 for Debt Service Funds for the ensuing school year (2023-2024).

Moved by: Mr. Toth

Seconded by: Mrs. Burke

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

2. **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): Rebecca Santin
 Event: 2023 Anti-Bullying & School Safety Conference
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 5/24/23
 Cost: \$199.00

Moved by: Mr. Toth Seconded by: Mrs. Burke
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

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

Essex Fells Boy Scouts
Meeting Dates: 5/8/23 & 6/5/23 (3:05pm-5:00pm)
Gymnasium

Moved by: Mr. Toth Seconded by: Mrs. Burke
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

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

6th Grade Car Wash
5/13/23 - 9:00am – 1:00pm
Blacktop

Moved by: Mr. Toth Seconded by: Mrs. Burke
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

5. **RESOLVED** that the Essex Fells Board of Education hereby approves the submission of a grant application for the Safety Grant Program through the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group’s ERIC NORTH Subfund for the purposes described in the application, in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Moved by: Mr. Toth Seconded by: Mrs. Burke
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

6. **RESOLVED** that the Essex Fells Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the approval of Jan Pro Northern NJ for custodial substitute services at the following rates through June 30th, 2023:

Regular Service	\$35/hour
Emergency Service (less than 48 hours’ notice)	\$50/hour

Moved by: Mr. Toth Seconded by: Mrs. Burke
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

7. **RESOLVED** that the Essex Fells Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the approval of the below West Essex students for Senior Service for May 16th through June 13th:

Angie Andrade	(Mrs. Quinn)
John Secoy	(Mr. Wallace, Ms. McNish, Mr. Finnegan)
Sydney Do	(Ms. Banek)

Moved by: Mr. Toth Seconded by: Mrs. Burke

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

8. **RESOLVED** that the Essex Fells Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the approval of Kayla Phillip from Caldwell University for Student Observation Hours.

Moved by: Mr. Toth Seconded by: Mrs. Burke

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

IX. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta provided an update on the Class III Officer. The attorneys are speaking directly to make changes/updates.

X. New Business / Board Discussion

- None

XI. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- None

XII. Adjournment

At 8:46 P. M. the Board made a motion to adjourn. The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, May 17, 2023** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mrs. Lavoie Seconded by: Mrs. Burke

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/