

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a School Budget Public Presentation Meeting held in the Media Center and live streamed on May 4, 2022. 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 5th, 2022. 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
Mrs. Kris Huegel-Present
Mr. Raj Mehta-Absent
Mr. Theodore Skopak-Present

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; 1 Staff Member, and 1 Member of the Public who arrived at 7:38 P.M. and left during Budget Presentation. 21 Members of the Public logged in to live stream

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. President's Report

Good Evening Everyone-

Thank you for joining us. This week we celebrate the teachers that make Essex Fells School the special place it is. 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 exceptional teachers leading and guiding our children.

Additionally- Sunday was National Principal Appreciation day. Dr. Gadaleta serves not only as our superintendent but also as our principal. Her devotion and tireless efforts to make Essex Fells the best place academically, socially and emotionally are certainly appreciated and applauded.

Next week we have school nurse appreciation day. Ms. Renz certainly has risen to the occasion in keeping our school safe and healthy.

All of our different faculty and staff are appreciated. You give this school it's heart. On behalf of the board we thank you all.

Ahead of tonight's budget presentation, I would like to thank Mr. Lella for his attention to detail and working to ensure a fiscally sound and responsible school. We look forward to your presentation.

Thank you.

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Superintendent’s Report

- Addressing Teacher Appreciation Week, Dr. Gadaleta noted how fortunate Essex Fells School is to have the staff that we do. Dr. Gadaleta also reported that the staff had a shelter in place today for police activity in the area during lunch. In all it went well and Dr. Gadaleta thanked the staff for guiding the children during the event.
- NJSLA testing will be May 16th – May 20th.
- Dr. Gadaleta reported on the upcoming 6th Grade Year End Events: the softball game vs. the staff and honoring Mr. Viggiano; the consortium kick ball game and a trophy in Mr. Viggiano’s name (EFS will have 2 teams this year); the first week of June will be the camp; West Essex move up day; the poetry share; graduation.
- Dr. Gadaleta will be advertising for the Physical Education/Health teacher position, noting they will be big shoes to fill.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted the resolution for the 21-22 calendar revision.
- Dr. Gadaleta thanked everyone involved with the Memorial Garden: the Garden Club and Mrs. Davis; Jesse Landscaping; Caldwell Nursery; Mr. Bahati for the “V” sculpture; the North Caldwell teachers for their donation.
- Dr. Gadaleta discussed the Resizing of the front baseball field at the request of Recreation Foundation from Little League to intermediate. The Recreation Foundation will fund the project and reimburse the BOE. The field will be named the John P. Viggiano Memorial Field and 2 signs will be added. The PTA will also be replacing the playground on the field, which is over 20 years old and will place a sign in Mr. Viggiano’s memory.
- Dr. Gadaleta reported the bittersweet news of the resignation of Ms. Monica Craveiro. Dr. Gadaleta read a statement thanking Ms. Craveiro for 12+ years of service and wished her all the best in her future endeavors. Dr. Gadaleta noted that she can’t say enough about the impact Ms. Craveiro had on her students. Mrs. Haber thanked Ms. Craveiro and wished her all the best.
- Dr. Gadaleta addressed Superintendent Resolution #6 regarding policy 8601.
- Mrs. Haber thanked everyone for their support and efforts in dealing with the loss of Mr. Viggiano.

VII. Business Administrator’s Report

- Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella presented the 2022-2023 School Budget

VIII. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolution #01-09.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, after conducting a public presentation, adopts a school district budget for the FY 2022-2023 School Year as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$6,560,497.14	\$5,573,001.14
Special Revenue	359,506.20	0.00
Debt Service Fund	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
 Total Budget	 \$6,920,003.34	 \$5,573,001.14

The Tax Levy includes banked cap utilization of \$27,400 to address special education costs / out of district placements.

7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, Marco Pannullo, IT Services as a chaperone for the 6th Grade Camping trip on June 1, 2022:

Moved by: Mrs. Huegel

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

8. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the resignation of Monica Craveiro, 5th Grade teacher, with June 30, 2022, as the last day of employment.

Moved by: Mrs. Huegel

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

9. **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): Jaclyn Carroll

Event: Best Practices in Co-Teaching for Classrooms 1-12

Location: Virtual

Date: 4/25/22

Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Laura Brutman

Event: Guided Reading: Practical Strategies to Differentiate using Small Group Instruction (K-2)

Location: Virtual

Date: TBD

Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Kimberly Trafford

Event: Guided Reading: What's New in Children's Books and Creative Powerful Strategies to Use Them

Location: Virtual

Date: 5/12/22

Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Jessica Lodato

Event: Guided Reading: Co-Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms

Location: Virtual

Date: TBD

Cost: \$159.00

Staff Member(s): Michelle Barshay

Event: Using Practical Differentiation Strategies to Meet the Learning Needs of Gifted Students Grades 2-6

Location: Virtual

Date: TBD

Cost: \$129.00

Staff Member(s): John Thomas
 Event: IAQ and IPM Certifications
 Location: Mahwah, NJ/ Paterson, NJ
 Date: 5/6/22 & 5/20/22
 Cost: \$0.00

Moved by: Mrs. Huegel

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

IX. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta discussed the Health/Physical Education Curriculum. The Learning Standards are posted on the district website for parents to review. EFS will be teaching by each grade level appropriately. Mr. Skopak asked if this was something being put into law by Governor Murphy and when is it in affect. Dr. Gadaleta addressed.
- Dr. Gadaleta explained the Retirement Celebration that will take place on May 26th at 2 pm for Mrs. DaCosta.
- Dr. Gadaleta reported that she will be discussing with the staff ESY and Extended Day programs to be funded through the ESSER Grants.
- Dr. Gadaleta provided an update on the Ebb and Flows of COVID 19 and that there were 10 cases this week. January had 42, February had 2, March 6 and April 13. Dr. Gadaleta noted we must continue to monitor closely.

X. New Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta shared a letter from NJSPA giving their condolences for the passing of Mr. Viggiano.
- Mrs. Haber noted she likes the pro-active approach the Health Standards.

XI. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- None

XII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

At 8:41 P.M. the Board made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and 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: Mrs. Huegel

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XIII. Adjournment

At 9:45 P. M. the Board made a motion to adjourn. The next regular business meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary