

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Special Public Meeting held remotely on July 19, 2021. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Kris Huegel, at 7:30 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 as of July 15th, 2021. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress and the Star Ledger, and posted on the district's website."

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by the Board President.

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Kris Huegel, President-Present
Dr. Steven LoCascio, Vice President-Present
Mrs. Amanda Haber-Present
Mr. Raj Mehta-Present
Mr. Theodore Skopak-Present

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

II. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

V. President's Report

- None

VI. Superintendent's Report

- None

VII. Old Business / Board Discussion

- The Board discussed a Preschool tuition refund. The Board was not in favor of issuing a refund.

VIII. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mr. Mehta opened the discussion for a masking survey to the community.
- Mrs. Gadaleta provided updated CDC guidance: Moving from 6 feet to 3 feet in the classrooms, removing plexi-glass from desks, and masks still in place. There was no DOH guidance as of yet.
- Mr. Mehta noted the BOE involvement and discretion in the decision process.
- Dr. LoCascio was ok with a survey being prepared.

- Mr. Skopak was ok with a survey but noted he felt there would be mixed results with the survey.

IX. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- Mrs. Dioguardi spoke about not being comfortable masking a pre-school student, thus the reason for a pre-k refund request. She asked who would be responsible for child mental illness from wearing a mask.
- Mrs. J. Davis asked about lunch in the fall. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that there would be outdoor lunch, and indoor if poor weather. Mrs. Davis also asked about when a mask decision would be made, Mrs. Gadaleta noted not yet. Mrs. Davis shared a statement, that children in Israel were beginning to be hospitalized by the delta variant.
- Mrs. Judi Reynolds, speaking as a parent, greatly appreciated the BOE making available a staff child classroom for remote learning. Mrs. Reynolds noted that she felt the environment was safe for her child, and he was happy to be able to be in school. Mrs. Reynolds thanked the BOE and Mrs. Gadaleta for the option.
- Mrs. V. Bronstein added to Mrs. Reynolds thank you. Understands a BOE survey will provide split results but agrees that a survey might be a good idea to get a feel of the community.

X. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

At 7:58 P.M. the Board made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss discuss the Superintendent’s evaluation. 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: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

XII. Adjournment

At 10:15 P.M the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn. The next **Regular Meeting** will held on **Wednesday, August 16, 2021 at 7:30 P.M** virtually.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary