

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Regular Public Meeting held in the Media Center on August 17, 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 5, 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-Present
Mr. Theodore Skopak-Present

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and approximately 15 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,

Welcome back to the first meeting of the 2022-2023 school year. We are happy to be back and are looking forward to what will hopefully be the most normal year we have had in quite some time with more opportunities for the staff and students to learn together and make the greatest strides possible academically and socially.

Since the end of the school year the building has had some upgrades which will be spoken about during the meeting.

These projects have created a safer and healthier school environment for all.

Thank you to the summer staff for providing enrichment to our students as well as preparing for the year ahead.

As we start the year, we welcome our returning Staff as well as our newest members. We appreciate your dedication to our students and hope you enjoyed your time off.

I also want to welcome the families! To our newest Bengals you will quickly see how special EFS is- with deep roots in excellence and community. It is an exciting time for parents and students alike.

We look forward to a successful start to the year.

I hope that everyone is enjoying the last few weeks of the summer and are getting to work on those summer packets!

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. Gadaleta reviewed with the Board the 2022-23 BOE and District Goals.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted the calendar revision for teacher appreciation week.
- Dr. Gadaleta explained the upcoming Staff Orientation and PD programs on 9/6 & 9/7, and noted the children return on 9/8.
- The Safe Return Committee will meet on 8/30. Most of the covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, but we will continue with actions like continued hand washing.
- Dr. Gadaleta reported on the Stronge Teacher Evaluation system.
- The Tiny Treasurers program is at full capacity for the afternoon program.
- NJQSAC is upcoming for the district.
- The Board reviewed and discussed Superintendent Resolution #2 regarding 2023-24 preschool tuition. The Board agreed to revise the resolution amount to \$3,800 from \$3,500.
- Dr. Gadaleta explained resolution #9 and the donation to the Ridgewood Cambodia Project.

VII. Superintendents Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01 –12.

1. 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): Jessica Lodato
 Event: Wilson Reading System Introductory Course
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 8/2/22-8/4/22
 Cost: \$679.00

Staff Member(s): Enrique Manlapid
 Event: 2022 STARS Science Educators Conference
 Location: Virtual
 Date: TBD (Summer)
 Cost: \$119.00

Staff Member(s): Danielle Butler
 Event: NJSLS Year 1-3 Stages of Learning, Operations & Algebraic Thinking
 Location: Conquer Math
 Date: 9/21/22
 Cost: \$170.00

Staff Member(s): Danielle Butler
 Event: Buehler Challenge Scenario Workshop
 Location: Buehler Challenger & Science Center
 Date: 9/27/22
 Cost: \$0.00

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mrs. Huegel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the annual preschool tuition rate of ~~\$3,500~~ **\$3800** per student for 2023-2024 school year for a 5-day, 3-hour program.

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mrs. Huegel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Board of Education Goals for the 2022-2023 school year.

NOTES: Goals Attached

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mrs. Huegel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the District/Superintendent Goals for the 2022-2023 school year.

NOTE: Goals Attached

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mrs. Huegel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

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

EFFEE Meetings
 9/13/22, 10/11/22, 11/8/22, 12/6/22
 1/10/23, 2/7/23, 3/7/23, 4/4/23, 5/9/23
 Media Center – 7:00pm-8:30pm

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mrs. Huegel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the first reading of the following bylaws/regulations/policies:

- P 0143.2 High School Student Representative to the Board of Education (M) (Revised)
- P 0163 Quorum (Revised)
- P 1511 Board of Education Website Accessibility (M) (Revised)
- P 2415 Every Student Succeeds Act (M) (Revised)
- P & R 2432 School Sponsored Publications (Abolished)
- P 3216 Dress and Grooming (Revised)
- P 3270 Professional Responsibilities (Revised)
- R 3270 Lesson Plans and Plan Books (Revised)
- P 4216 Dress and Grooming (New)
- P & R 5513 Care of School Property (M) (Revised)
- P 5517 School District Issued Student Identification Cards (M) (Revised)
- P 5722 Student Journalism (M) (New)

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mrs. Huegel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the School District Professional Development Plan and Statement of Assurance for the 2022-2023 School Year.

NOTE: Copy in Superintendent’s Office

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mrs. Huegel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

8. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the District Mentoring Plans and Statement of Assurance for the 2022-2023 School Year.

NOTE: Copy in Superintendent’s Office

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mrs. Huegel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

9. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the partnership with Ridgewood Cambodia Project (a501c3) for donation of IT equipment.

NOTE: List Attached

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mrs. Huegel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

10. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the revised 2022-2023 School Calendar.

NOTE: Revised Calendar Attached

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mrs. Huegel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

11. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the resignation of Caroline King, 6th Grade Paraprofessional.

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mrs. Huegel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

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

WEFC – Fall 2022 Soccer Practice/Soccer Games
9/1/22 – 11/20/22

After School & Saturday/Sunday

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mrs. Huegel

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

VII. Business Administrator’s Report

- Mr. Lella provided an update on the summer B&G projects: the roof, carpet replacement in the lower building classrooms, a new pre-school playground fence, the 2-part art entrance steps repair, annual stucco repair, playground mulch, field maintenance and the addition of an outdoor speaker.

IX. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01-06.

1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the following meeting(s):

Regular Meeting Minutes	5/4/22
Executive Session Minutes	5/4/22
Regular Meeting Minutes	6/1/22
Executive Session Minutes	6/1/22
Regular Meeting Minutes	6/15/22
Executive Session Minutes	6/15/22
Special Meeting Minutes	6/27/22
Moved by: Mr. Skopak	Seconded by: Mr. Toth
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for June in the amounts of \$31,044.84, \$92,426.55 & \$12,348.02, for July in the amounts of \$25,758.22 & \$640,988.14, and for August in the amount of \$451,951.42 as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for June as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$401,777.58 including \$401,136.45 for the gross payroll, \$10,699.70 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$18,941.43 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for July as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$78,131.83, including \$72,713.30 for the gross payroll, \$3,380.67 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$2,037.86 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

3. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has received the Reports of the Board Secretary (Secretary) and the Custodian of School Monies (Treasurer) for the Month of April, May & June;

WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Secretary has certified that as of the date of the reports, no budgetary line-item account, in accordance with the minimum chart of accounts as established by the New Jersey Department of Education, has obligations and payments which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Board of Education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that, after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial report, and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)4, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to P.L. 2004 C73, the Board certifies that after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial report and certification, that there are no budgetary transfers that cumulatively exceed 10% that would require the approval of the Commissioner of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the financial reports for the months be accepted and shall become a part of the official minutes of this meeting.

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the month of June as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

5. **WHERAS** the Essex Fells Board of Education approves the disposal of obsolete technology equipment for recycling that is no longer in working condition and has no value;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Essex Fells Board of Education approves the disposal of fixed asset items #2559, 2561, 2560, 3033, 3089, 2699, 2695, 2690, 2730, 2707, 3090, 2703, 573, 2732.

NOTE: List Attached

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

6. **WHERAS** the Essex Fells Board of Education approves the disposal of the landscaping equipment that is no longer in working condition and has no value;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Essex Fells Board of Education approves the disposal of the walking mower.

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta and the Board discussed policy.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mr. Lella stated that he received notification from the County of 4 individuals on the November ballot for the 2 open BOE seats, beginning on January 1st, 2023. The names are: Mrs. Jaclyn Burke; Mrs. Caragh Lavoie; Mrs. Joyce Candido and Mr. Mike Diaco.

XII. Public Comment

- None

XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

At 8:25 P.M. the Board made a motion to enter into Executive Session 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. Skopak

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

XIV. Adjournment

At 8:44 P. M. the Board made a motion to adjourn. The next workshop meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mrs. Huegel

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/