

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ESSEX FELLS, NJ
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – 7:30 P.M.

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. – Board Secretary

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Amanda Haber, President
Mr. John Toth, Vice-President
Mr. Raj Mehta
Mrs. Caragh Lavoie
Mrs. Jacquelyn Burke

III. Flag Salute

IV. Election Report

The annual School Election was conducted on Tuesday, November 7th, 2023 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

The results of the election, as reported and certified by the Essex County Clerk, are as follows:

Members of the Board of Education: Raj Mehta 233 votes

V. Reorganization of the Board of Education

- A. Oath of Office
- B. Roll Call: Board Secretary
 - Mrs. Amanda Haber
 - Mr. Raj Mehta
 - Mr. John Toth
 - Mrs. Caragh Lavoie
 - Mrs. Jacquelyn Burke
- C. Election of President: Board Secretary
- D. Election of Vice President: Board Secretary

VI. Board Comments/President’s Report

VII. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

VIII. Superintendent’s Report

- January – School Board Recognition Month
- BCBA Status

IX. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Budget Development

X. New Business / Board Discussion

- 2024 Board of Education Meeting Dates
- 2024 BOE Financial Disclosure Statement

XI. Reorganization Action Items

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Reorganization Action Items #01 - 2.

1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education adopts the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics.

NOTES: Code of Ethics Attached/Bylaws

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following dates for its meetings in the ensuing year (*dates subject to change):

Wednesday	January 17, 2024	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	February 7, 2024	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	February 21, 2024	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	March 6, 2024	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	March 20, 2024	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	April 17, 2024	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	May 1, 2024	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	May 15, 2024	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	May 29, 2024	Reappointment Meeting
Wednesday	June 12, 2024	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	August 21, 2024	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	September 4, 2024	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	September 18, 2024	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	October 2, 2024	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	October 16, 2024	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	November 6, 2024	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	November 20, 2024	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	December 11, 2024	Regular Monthly Business Meeting

Wednesday January 8, 2025 (TBD) Reorganizational/Workshop Meeting

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Medical Leave of Absence for 33573791 from January 2, 2024, through June 19, 2024, using the following days:

January 2, 2024 – May 22, 2024 Medical Leave of Absence utilizing Sick days

May 23, 2024 – June 19, 2024 FMLA

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

XII. Public Comment

XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

WHEREAS the following subject is not appropriate to be discussed in a public meeting and is within the exemptions which may be discussed and acted upon and,

WHEREAS only the following subject(s) shall be discussed in private recess by the Board and the minutes made available to the public as soon as the reason for exemption no longer exists, it is therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED at the Public Meeting of the Essex Fells Board of Education on this day Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024, pursuant to Sections 7 & 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the following subject(s) shall be discussed in a session of the Board closed to the public:

Please be advised that the Board will be going into executive session for approximately thirty minutes for the purpose of discussing litigation regarding special education, personnel and negotiations. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

XIV. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this reorganizational/workshop meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at ____ P.M. The next **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 7:30 P.M.** in the media center.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

AGENDA

January 3, 2024

2023-2024

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Burger/Ms. Wiezcorek	PS/AM	14	5	9
Mrs. Burger/Ms. Wiezcorek	PS/PM	11	4	7
Mrs. Focarino/Scoras	KFS	19	11	8
Mrs. Axentiou	KA	18	11	7
Mrs. Brutman/Mrs. Hromoko	1BH	13	7	6
Mrs. Gann	1G	13	7	6
Ms. Duarte	2D	15	7	8
Mrs. Quinn/Mrs. Takkel	2QT	16	7	9
Mrs. Fitzgerald	3F	20	8	12
Ms. Kowalski/Mrs. MacKenzie	3KM	19	8	11
Mrs. Banek/Mrs. Lodato	4BL	15	11	4
Mrs. Hacker	4H	14	10	4
Ms. Jaworski	5J	15	6	9
Mrs. Latino/Mrs. Brzostowski	5LB	15	6	9
Mrs. Santalla/Mrs. Carroll	6SC	15	8	7
Ms. Katsios	6K	15	8	7
TOTAL		247	124	123
Out-of-District	*	3		
FINAL TOTALS		250		

*Total includes 3 out-of-district students.

9/11/2023

Fire Drills: 2022-2023

Month	Fire Drill	Emergency Drill
August	August 17, 2023 – Fire Extinguisher Training MVG/SL	August 31, 2023 – 911 call
September	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023 – Shelter in Place with EFPD
October	October 17, 2023	October 16, 2023 – Lockdown with EFPD via Share 911
November	November 7, 2023	November 16, 2023 – Shelter in Place with EFPD
December	December 12, 2023	December 4, 2023 – Shelter in Place – Medical Emergency December 12, 2023 – Shelter in Place – Police Activity
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July	July 31, 2023	July 31, 2023 – Silent Alarm Drill with EFPD

HIB / V&V Report

As of Date of BOE Meeting	9/6	9/20	10/4	10/18	11/1	11/15	11/29	12/13	1/3									
TOTAL # of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0									
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0									
Number of Founded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Violence & Vandalism Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									

ESSEX FELLS SCHOOL
DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Essex Fells School is a very special public elementary school enrolling boys and girls in preschool through the sixth grades. Pupils enjoy small classes and a total school population of approximately two hundred and fifty.

The size of the school is a wonderful asset as it allows a strong sense of community and offers teachers and pupils many opportunities to form bonds of collegiality, identification and support. It also supports the concept that every adult in the school is responsible for every child.

The comparatively small faculty is also a benefit. The faculty as a whole are the decision-making body on all questions of teaching and learning. Teachers find it easy to share experiences and act consistently across pupils' entire academic program. The combined efforts of the staff work to support a pupil centered approach to education.

Essex Fells teachers are encouraged to try new ideas, to work collaboratively with colleagues, and to participate fully in all aspects of schooling.

The mission of the school is etched in the mortar of the original schoolhouse with the words Studies Pass Into Character.

The primary goals of an Essex Fells education include:

1. Developing in all pupils the capacity to think critically and communicate effectively through a mastery of written and spoken English.
2. Motivating all pupils to recognize and develop their academic abilities in order to build character and to achieve their full potential.
3. Teaching children to value themselves, their peers and their teachers.
4. Establishing a respect for and a strong sense of responsibility to the physical, social, and aesthetic world around them.
5. Nurturing a love of country and a pride in our American heritage and citizenship.
6. Communicating a love of scholarship and continued interest in life-long learning.
7. Ensuring all pupils will achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all levels.

To secure these common goals, the Essex Fells staff of professional educators recognizes that the collaborative engagement of the children in the learning process is the key to intellectual development. Dedicated teachers create classrooms that are alive with cooperative learning activities and child-centered problem-solving routines. Children are encouraged to explore, to question, to make decisions, and to express opinions in a supportive learning environment. Teachers also model their own commitment to learning by continuing to earn advanced degrees. On-going professional development is acknowledged as the foundation for promoting outstanding pupil achievement.