

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

REGULAR MEETING – 7:30 P.M. – MEDIA CENTER

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 3rd, 2024. 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.

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. President’s Report

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

VI. Superintendent’s Report

- Student Attendance
- New Personnel

VII. Superintendent’s Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01–07.

- 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): Erica Santalla
Event: 101 Best Strategies for Teaching Social Studies
Location: Virtual
Date: 1/12/24
Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Danielle Jaworski
Event: NJSLs Grade 5 Year 2 Fractions II
Location: Conquer Mathematics
Date: 1/24/24
Cost: \$180.00

Staff Member(s): Lisa Massaro
Event: Increasing Your Student Mastery of Math Facts and Mental Math Skills
Location: Virtual
Date: 1/17/24
Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Danielle Jaworski
Event: NJECC
Location: Virtual
Date: 3/12/24
Cost: \$6.40

Staff Member(s): Susan Hacker
Event: Differentiation Strategies for Gifted Students
Location: Virtual
Date: 1/24/24
Cost: \$159.00

Staff Member(s): Danielle Jaworski
Event: NJECC - AI
Location: Montclair State University
Date: 1/19/24
Cost: \$0.00

Staff Member(s): Dorotea Banek
Event: NJECC
Location: Virtual
Date: 3/12/24
Cost: \$6.40

Staff Member(s): Candice Fitzgerald
Event: NJECC
Location: Virtual
Date: 3/12/24
Cost: \$6.40

Staff Member(s): Katie McNish
Event: NJECC
Location: Virtual
Date: 3/12/24 & 3/13/24
Cost: \$6.40

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

- 4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Stephanie Bavbek, Maternity Leave Replacement, MA Step 1 for the 2023-2024 school year, beginning on January 25th, 2024 through June 30th, 2024, at the pro-rated salary of \$33,030.38 pending the usual criminal history and background check for new hires.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

- 5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Mary Anderson, Leave Replacement, BA Step 1 for the 2023-2024 school year, beginning on January 18th, 2024 through June 30th, 2024, at the pro-rated salary of \$31,688.30, pending the usual criminal history and background check for new hires.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

- 6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Belinda O'Donnell, Paraprofessional, for the 2023-2024 school year, beginning on January 22nd, 2024, at the pro-rated salary of \$16,304.24, pending the usual criminal history and background check for new hires.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

- 7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Laurie Fischer, Substitute teacher, for the 2023-2024 school year pending the usual criminal history and background check for new hires.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

VIII. Business Administrator's Report

- 2022-23 Audit Exit Conference Call
- 2024-25 Budget Update

IX. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01-04.

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

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Regular Workshop Minutes | November 29 th , 2023 |
| Executive Workshop Minutes | November 29 th , 2023 |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Regular Meeting Minutes | December 13 th , 2023 |
| Executive Meeting Minutes | December 13 th , 2023 |

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Moved by: | Seconded by: |
|-----------|--------------|

| | |
|-------|-------|
| Ayes: | Nays: |
|-------|-------|

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for January in the amount of \$177,712.12, and an additional bills and claims for December in the amount of \$23,386.32 as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for December as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$400,839.67 including \$374,667.91 for the gross payroll, \$7,472.28 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and \$18,699.48 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

| | |
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| Moved by: | Seconded by: |
|-----------|--------------|

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|-------|-------|
| Ayes: | Nays: |
|-------|-------|

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the month of November & December as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Moved by: | Seconded by: |
|-----------|--------------|

| | |
|-------|-------|
| Ayes: | Nays: |
|-------|-------|

4. RESOLVED that the Essex Fells Board of Education approves the submission of the following Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program Waiver to the Essex County Office of Education:

WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district’s participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) program for the 2024-2025 school year, and

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Essex Fells Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Essex an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2024-2025 school year.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Gate Status
- BCBA Status

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- EFTA Negotiation Dates

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 17th, 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 and negotiations. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

XIV. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this public meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at _____ P.M. The next workshop meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

AGENDA

January 17, 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: 2023-2024

| 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 | | January 8, 2024 – Shelter In Place – Silent Alarm with EFPD |
| 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 | 1/17 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| TOTAL# of Reported Incidents | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| Number of Unfounded Incidents | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| Number of Founded Incidents | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| Violence & Vandalism Incidents | 0 | 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.