

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a regular session on February 18, 2015, in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Dr. Steven LoCascio, at 7:30 P.M. Dr. LoCascio 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 on January 7, 2015. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress, the Star Ledger, and posted on the district web-site."

I. Call to Order – 7:30 P.M.

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

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Carol D’Alessandro, Vice-President – present
 Mrs. Shani Drogin – present
 Mrs. Kris Heugel –present
 Dr. Steven LoCascio, President – present
 Dr. Michele Nitti – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; 23 members of the EFS staff; and 1 member of the Tiny Treasures staff.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items

- No comment.

V. President’s Report

- No report.

VI. Superintendent’s Report

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she will be advertising for substitute teachers, Nurse Substitutes and a Language Arts Consultant.
- Mrs. Gadaleta explained that the testing window for PARCC is 4 weeks, however she feels our district will not need the full 4 week period. Mrs. Gadaleta feels that the district is as well prepared as possible. Mrs. Gadaleta also pointed out that no opt out letters had been received, also stating that opting out is not permitted. Mrs. Gadaleta reminded the Board that the first year of PARCC testing is a trial year.
- Mrs. Gadaleta stated that the registration for Kindergarten and Pre-School was a success.

VII. Superintendent’s Resolutions

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 Members: Jackie Castellano, Jeanine Whitman
 Event: PARCC Training
 Location: Marriott Saddle Brook
 Date: 1/29/15
 Cost: \$12.98 per person (mileage/tolls)

Staff Member: Michelle Barshay, Debbie Emma
 Event: Empowering Writers Workshop
 Location: Courtyard Parsippany
 Date: 3/4/15
 Cost: \$150.00

Staff Members: Debbie Emma, Kristin Gann, Kelly Mitchell
 Event: Practical Strategies for Meeting Common Core Standards Workshop
 Location: The Wilshire Grand Hotel, West Orange, NJ
 Date: 3/18/15
 Cost: \$235.00 per person

Staff Member: Catherine Codella
 Event: Social-Emotional Learning Strategies Workshop
 Location: Residence Inn, Plainview, NY
 Date: 3/26/15
 Cost: \$189.99

Staff Members: Katelyn Brower, Lindsay Flanagan
 Event: Facets of Dyslexia Workshop
 Location: Stratford, NJ
 Date: 4/25/15
 Cost: \$95.00 per person (plus \$69.44 mileage for LF)

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

- 2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2015-2016 School Calendar.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

- 3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the second reading and adoption of the following policy:

Policy/Regulation 5530 Substance Abuse (Revised)

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

- 4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Maternity/Disability Leave of Absence for Vanessa Facendola, beginning on or about April 16, 2015 through the end of the 2014-15 school year, using 10 as sick days, ½ personal day, and 1 family illness (1 ½ days total) and the remainder as unpaid leave of absence days.

NOTES: Letter attached

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

VIII. Business Administrator’s Report

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with an update on the Budget for 2015-16: No significant appropriation changes from the February 4th workshop, he met with the CST Co-coordinator to estimate for Extraordinary Aid, State Aid figures will be coming out next week. Mr. Lella reminded the Board that preliminary budgets are due to the County Office on Friday March 20th. A resolution will appear on the March 18th agenda and public hearing will be at the May 6th workshop.
- Mr. Lella updated the Board as to the upcoming boiler project. Drawings will be available by the end of the month, and the advertisement will appear on March 9th with bids due March 31st at 11 am.

IX. Business Resolutions

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the following meetings:

Regular Minutes	12/17/14
Reorganizational/Workshop Minutes	1/7/15

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro	Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the bills and claims for February in the total amount of \$143,270.70 as certified by the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for January as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$283,400.24 including \$264,181.11 for the gross payroll, \$4,460.59 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$14758.54 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro	Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

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

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro	Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

4. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has received the Reports of the Board Secretary (Secretary) and the Custodian of School Monies (Treasurer) for the months of December & January; and

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: Mrs. D’Alessandro
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Nays: 0

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board as to correspondence from the attorney regarding the potential Before/After Care School Program. Tiny Treasures was present but did not speak.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- No report.

XII. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- No comment.

XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board resolved to enter into Executive Session at 7:45 P.M. to discuss contractual negotiations. The items discussed in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain confidentiality no longer exists.

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Nays: 0

The Board exited the Executive Session at 9:25 P.M. and returned to the regular public meeting.

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Nays: 0

XIV. Adjournment

The public meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 9:25 P.M. The next **Workshop Meeting** of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, March 4, 2015** in the Superintendent’s Office and the next **Regular Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, March 18, 2015** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Nays: 0

Enrollment Count: 2014-2015

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Quinn/Ms. Burger	PS/AM	12	7	5
Mrs. Quinn/Ms. Burger	PS/PM	13	4	9
Mrs. Gann	KG	15	9	6
Ms. Mitchell/Mrs. Short	KM/S	13	6	7
Mrs. Brutman/Mrs. Hromoko	1B/H	14	9	5
Mrs. Massaro	1M	14	9	5
Ms. McMahon/Ms. Almeida	2M/A	12	5	7
Mrs. Perry	2P	9	3	6
Ms. Cervino	3C	11	6	5
Mrs. Reynolds/Ms. McLain	3R/M	10	5	5
Mrs. Barshay	4B	12	2	10
Mrs. Hacker/Mrs. Calistri	4H/C	12	3	9
Mrs. Banek/Ms. Belmont	5B/B	11	5	6
Ms. Craveiro	5C	12	7	5
Mrs. Buonomo	6B	19	8	11
Ms. Dalton/Mrs. Whitman	6D/W	19	7	12
Total		208	95	113
Out-of-District		4+		
FINAL TOTALS		212	95	113

+ Total includes 4 out-of-district students

Fire Drills: 2013-2014

Month	Fire Drill	Emergency Drill
September	9/8/14	Lockdown 9/16/14
October	10/8/14	Shelter in Place 10/2/14
November	11/12/14	Lockdown 11/19/14
December	12/15/14	Lockdown 12/9/14
January	1/29/15	Lockdown 1/20/15
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		

HIB / V&V Report

As of Date of BOE Meeting	9/17/14	10/15/14	11/19/14	12/17/14	1/21/15	2/18/15			
TOTAL # of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	1	0	0			
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	1	0	0			
Number of Founded Incidents	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. Insuring all pupils will achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary