

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on September 2, 2015, in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by 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.**

**II. Roll Call**

Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro, Vice-President – present  
Mrs. Shani Drogin – present  
Mrs. Kris Huegel – 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; and 1 student.

**III. Flag Salute**

The President led the flag salute.

**IV. Public Comment**

- No comment.

**V. Superintendent's Report**

- Mrs. Gadaleta reported a very nice and smooth opening at the first day of school, with only 3 absences. Mrs. Gadaleta also stated that she felt the 2 staff opening days were very productive.
- Mrs. Gadaleta explained the Optimal Performance Presentation by Ray Boswell at the opening Spirit Meeting.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that QSAC – Statement of Assurance was due again, however it is not the full QSAC review.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had passed her recertification for the STRONGE Evaluation.

**VI. Buildings & Grounds**

- Mr. Lella updated the Board on the status of the Boiler project. The major installation has been completed and startup will be scheduled when the temperatures become cooler. The architect will prepare his punch list.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the Nurse's Office project had been completed. Mrs. Gadaleta explained the work that was done and that Mrs. McNish will head a group of students to paint a portion of the wall in the office.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the stucco work in the administrative parking area had been completed.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the PSE&G Energy Audit/Project that was completed last year returned for a second review of the facilities.

**VII. Curriculum & Instruction**

- Mrs. Gadaleta made the Board aware of an unanticipated purchase that was needed for a new server. It appears the district's ports were being opened from a hacker in China. Dr. Nitti commented she had heard that happening in the medical profession as well.

**VIII. Finance**

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that he had contacted the auditor for a start date of the 2014-15 audit.

**IX. Policy**

- No report.

**X. Personnel (Public Items only)**

- No report.

**XII. Old Business/Board Discussion**

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the EFTA vs. BOE Calendar Decision had gone in favor of the BOE.
- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board as to the status of the Speech case. The Board of Education was served by Creative Speech that the BOE and Mrs. Hybl were in breach of contract. Per the Board's attorney, the district did not breach the contract, the contract had expired and the Board did not hire Mrs. Hybl as a competitive contractor, but rather as an employee. Mrs. Hybl will retain her own attorney.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that a new placement had been found for our Out of District placement, however the father filed for emergent relief. However, he pulled the request 1 hour before the scheduled court case hearing. Regardless, the father will file due process. Mrs. Gadaleta pointed out the mounting legal fees as a result.
- Mrs. Gadaleta explained her concerns to the Board to not accept the NCLB Title 1 funding. The changes to the funding formula and restrictions to how the funds can be used are not something she feels comfortable with. The Board has asked for further review and discussion at the next meeting.

**XIII. New Business / Board Discussion**

- No report.

**XIV. Public Comment**

- No comment.

**XVI. Adjournment**

At 8:00 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro  
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti  
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary