

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on November 4, 2015, in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Carol D' Alessandro, Board Vice President at 7:30 P.M. Mrs. D'Alessandro 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 October 28, 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 – absent
 Dr. Michele Nitti – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and 2 members of the public.

III. Flag Salute

The President led the flag salute.

IV. Public Comment

- A member of the public asked about the dress code survey. Mrs. Gadaleta stated that 60 of approximately 140 families returned the survey and we were still waiting on more to be returned. The Safety team will have a meeting on November 11th to review the results. Mrs. Gadaleta is also anticipating some to be returned next week during teacher parent conferences. Mrs. Gadaleta pointed out that we need a 60% response to consider the survey. When asked if she would have an update at the next meeting Mrs. Gadaleta responded yes.

V. Superintendent's Report

- Mrs. Gadaleta referenced the resolution for the submission of NJQSAC.

VI. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolution # 01.

1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the submission of the NJQSAC (NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum) Statement of Assurance and Declaration Page for School Year 2015-2016 to the NJ Department of Education.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

VII. Buildings & Grounds

- Mrs. Gadaleta expressed her thanks to the PTA for the backboards being installed in the gym. 4 of 6 were installed today and will be finished tomorrow. Mrs. Gadaleta commented that the backboards looked great.
- Mrs. D'Alessandro asked about possible walkway repair. Mr. Lella will attempt to obtain quotes for patch up work before the winter and possible larger repair in the spring.

VIII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had met with the PreK-6th grade consortium to discuss a shared Curriculum Coordinator. Mrs. Drogin asked if we do share would all the districts have to have the same curriculum. Mrs. Gadaleta stated that we would not. The Board discussed. EFS has tried to have staff in this capacity in the past but hasn't been able to implement the position. Mrs. Huegel asked what would be the cost, which Mrs. Gadaleta stated would be between 80-100k, split by all the districts.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported that she had spoken with the County Office regarding the NCLB Title 1 funding and expressed concern over the district not feeling comfortable taking the funds. The county office explained that the district should take the funding for supplementary usage and that the accepting of these funds no longer makes you a Title 1 school. The County Office agreed that professional development for the Wilson Training Program would be a great idea. Mrs. Gadaleta will reach out to see which staff members are interested in the program, which would cost about \$3,000 per staff member. The Board was in agreement with the idea.

IX. Finance

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with a presentation provided by Brown & Brown Benefits Advisors regarding the 2016 Open Enrollment for the SEHBP.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the auditors would be completing field work sometime next week. The auditors are still waiting for the release of the GASB 68 information which had been delayed by the state.
- Mr. Lella provided the Board with a draft of the 2016-17 Budget Calendar.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the DRTRS Report had been submitted.

X. Business Resolutions

- No business resolutions.

XI. Policy

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of a non-resident tuition request for a family that was returning to Essex Fells. The family had planned on purchasing a home in Essex Fells, but decided not to move forward with the particular residence due to disclosure issues regarding the property. The Board agreed the family could pay for tuition from January thru June until they found another residence in town.
- The Board discussed the current transgender policy. Strauss Esmay feels the policy provided to the district is sufficient. The districts legal council will review and revise the policy as necessary.

XII. Personnel (Public Items only)

- No Personnel report.

XIII. Old Business/Board Discussion

- The Dress Code Survey results were discussed earlier during the public comment.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the Speech Services case was still moving forward.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had met with Lt. Theilacker and discussed a rolling pickup for the upper lot, similar to the lower lot. Lt. Theilacker felt the idea would work and would discuss further with the EFPD to assist with a pilot.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the unemployment claim had been approved, however he was going to file an appeal, for the record, regarding the language as to the reasoning for the claim being filed.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that one of the parents was still challenging the Out of District placement. Mrs. Gadaleta reported that the child is performing well with the placement.

XIV. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with the Unofficial BOE Election Results.

XIV. Public Comment

- No comment.

XVI. Adjournment

At 8:37 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary