

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Regular Meeting held remotely on August 19, 2020. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Kris Huegel, at 7:32 P.M. Mrs. Huegel 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 as of January 7, 2020. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress and the Star Ledger, and posted on the district's web-site".

**I. Call to Order -7:32 P.M.**

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

**II. Roll Call**

Mrs. Kris Huegel, President-present  
Mrs. Bethany Buccino, Vice-President-present  
Dr. Steven LoCascio-absent  
Mr. Raj Mehta-present  
Mr. Theodore Skopak-present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and 49 members of the public.

**III. Flag Salute**

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

**IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

- None

**V. President's Report**

- None

**VI. Superintendent's Report**

- Mrs. Gadaleta reported that she had informed the County Office of the Essex Fells School re-opening plan and that it is on the district's website and updated daily. Currently we are expecting 236 in person students with 21 remote.
- Mrs. Gadaleta noted that the staff are setting up and she is very excited to see them coming back in.
- An Art Therapist session will be held at the end of the month.
- Mrs. Gadaleta spoke on another calendar approval for the first 4 week sessions, and Monday's Executive Order regarding Election Day. The district needs to close for a full day of remote learning. Mrs. Gadaleta also noted the staggered arrival and departure times.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she gets recertified each year for the Stronge Teacher Effectiveness Performance Evaluation System, which is the EFS model for teacher evaluations. There is no guidance as of yet regarding 2020-21 evaluations.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported on the NJQSAC State Monitoring Letter. The district overall received a high rating, with minimal reductions in Curriculum and Instruction scoring and some test scores. Overall EFS is still a high performing district.
- Mrs. Gadaleta provided an update on her Doctoral Completion / Dissertation. She did graduate in May however she was not able to finalize her Dissertation yet. She hopes to have this completed during the 2020-21 school year.

- Mrs. Gadaleta hopes to have the class lists finalized by Friday.
- Mrs. Gadaleta noted the resolution regarding the Road Back Policy
- Mrs. Gadaleta sadly noted the resolution accepting Mrs. Leggett’s retirement on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Leggett has been the face of the main office for the last 20 years and will definitely be missed. She thanked her for her years of service and wished her well.

**VII. Superintendent’s Resolutions**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions # 01 – 22.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the proposed Merit Goals for Michelle V. Gadaleta in the 2020-2021 school year, for submission to the County Office of Education.

**NOTE:** Merit Goals Attached

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the proposed Merit Goals for Steven J. Lella in the 2020-2021 school year, for submission to the County Office of Education.

**NOTE:** Merit Goals Attached

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Board of Education Goals for the 2020-2021 school year.

**NOTE:** Merit Goals Attached

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the District/Superintendent Goals for the 2020-2021 school year.

**NOTE:** Attached

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

5. **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): Jeanine Whitman  
 Event: Out-of-District Placement Meeting  
 Location: Shepard School, Kinnelon, NJ  
 Date: 7/15/20  
 Cost: \$14.00 mileage

Staff Member(s): Katie McNish  
 Event: Art in Focus, AENJ Virtual 2020 Conference  
 Location: Online  
 Date: 10/24/20  
 Cost: \$140

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following substitutes for the 2020-2021 school year, at \$95/day, pending the usual criminal history and background check for new hires\*:

Farah Carnahan	Teacher
Elizabeth DeStefano	Teacher
Richard DeVivo	Teacher
Joan Ganton	Teacher
Marla Kearney	Teacher
Lori Kwiatkowski	Teacher
Lucille Lapone	Teacher
Meg Lipper	Teacher
Evelyn Peter	Teacher
Peggy Anne Reinhardt	Teacher
Jackie Savarese	Teacher
Anne Smith *	Teacher
Jennifer Sullivan	Teacher
Patricia Wahl	Teacher
Mariam Whelan	Teacher

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0



Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

11. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the second reading and adoption of the *Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools*.

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

12. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the second reading and adoption of the following Bylaws/Policies/Regulations:

P 0152	Board Officers
P 1581	Domestic Violence
R 1581	Domestic Violence (New)
P 1648	Restart and Recovery Plan (New)
P 1649	Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act (M) (New)
P 2422	Health and Physical Education
P 3421.13	Postnatal Accommodations (New)
P 4421.13	Postnatal Accommodations (New)
P&R 5330	Administration of Medication
P 7243	Supervision of Construction
P 8210	School Year
P 8220	School Day
R 8220	School Closings
P 8462	Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes:4

Nays: 0

13. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following Use of Facilities Requests:

EFRD – Fall Recreation Baseball League  
 8/24/20 – 11/1/20  
 M-F from 5:00pm-Dusk; Sat-Sun from 9:00am-12Noon

WEFC – Soccer Practice/Soccer Games  
 9/1/20 – 11/20/20  
 After School & Saturday/Sunday

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

14. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the revised 2020-2021 School Calendar and staggered Arrival/Dismissal Schedule.

**NOTE:** Calendar & Schedule Attached

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

15. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the School District Professional Development Plan and Statement of Assurance for the 2020-2021 School Year.

**NOTE:** Copy in Superintendent's Office

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes:4

Nays: 0

16. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the District Mentoring Plans and Statement of Assurance for the 2020-2021 School Year.

**NOTE:** Copy in Superintendent's Office

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

17. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Official Release for the 2018-2019 School Year of the *NJDOE School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights District and School Grade Report*.

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

18. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the retirement of Beth Leggett, Administrative Assistant, effective December 31, 2020.



**VIII. Business Administrator’s Report**

- Mr. Lella noted the resolution for the reduction in 2020-21 State Aid in the amount of 18k. He also noted that fortunately the district is receiving and accepting Title I funding this year in the amount of 21k which will help offset the lost state aid.
- Mr. Lella noted the resolution for Out of District Transportation with the Caldwell / West Caldwell BOE.

**IX. Business Resolutions**

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

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

Reappointment Meeting Minutes 6/17/20

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino                      Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4    Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves additional bills and claims for June in the amounts of \$6,749.73, \$62,439.82 & 26,743.17; for July in the amount of \$127,586.43; and for **August in the amount of \$117,160.50** as certified by the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for June as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$384,595.97 including \$358,276.39 for the gross payroll, \$7,264.41 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$19,055.17 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for July as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$80,865.95 including \$75,169.92 for the gross payroll, \$3,959.82 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$1,736.21 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino                      Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4    Nays: 0

3. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has received the Reports of the Board Secretary (Secretary) and the Custodian of School Monies (Treasurer) for the month of May;

**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;





Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

7. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Essex Fells Board of Education approve of Student Transportation Agreements with the Caldwell/West Caldwell Board of Education, effective September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 for the following amounts:

Newmark Student #1	\$15,000
Shepard School Student #1	\$ 7,500

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino	Seconded by: Mr. Skopak
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Ayes: 4	Nays: 0
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X. **Old Business / Board Discussion**

- None

XI. **New Business / Board Discussion**

- None

XII. **Meeting Open for Public Comment**

- Mrs. DiGiovanni asked about Mrs. Leggett's retirement.

XIII. **Adjournment**

At 7:48 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn. The next **Workshop Meeting** is scheduled remotely for **Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 7:30 P.M.** and the next **Regular Meeting** is scheduled remotely for **Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 7:30 P.M.**

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino	Seconded by: Mr. Skopak
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Ayes: 4	Nays: 0
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Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary