

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 September 23, 2020. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Kris Huegel, at 7:33 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 -7:33 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 27 members of the public.

II. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

**Dr. LoCascio arrived at 7:36 P.M.

III. Public Comment on Agenda Items

- None

IV. President's Report

- None

V. Superintendent's Report

- Mrs. Gadaleta reported that we are entering week 3 of the re-opening. The children are adjusting and the new staggered arrival has been going well. Mrs. Gadaleta thanked all the volunteers, staff and EFPD. Mrs. Gadaleta reported there has been minimal student illness so far and thanked the parents for taking a cautious approach. Mrs. Gadaleta thanked Nurse Renz for her efforts.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported that the district is still required to perform monthly security and fire drills and will be modifying these drills per the DOE Office of Preparedness. Mrs. Gadaleta will be having her monthly meeting tomorrow with the EFPD.

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions # 01 – 03.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the submission of 1 of 2 attained 2020-2021 Business Administrator Merit Goals to the Essex County Office of Education for approval and District payment pending approval of the County Superintendent.

NOTE: Documentation Attached

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Dr. LoCascio

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

2. **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): Lee Ann Smith

Event: NJPSA Annual Special Education Toolkit Workshop

Location: Virtual

Date: 11/13/20

Cost: \$125.00

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Dr. LoCascio

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 Bylaws/Policies/Regulations:

P 2270 Religion in Schools (Revised)

P 2431.3 Heat Participation Policy for Student-Athlete

Safety (M) (Revised)

P 2622 Student Assessment (M) (Revised)

P&R 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)

P&R 5200 Attendance (M) (Revised)

P&R 5320 Immunization (Revised)

P 5610 Suspension (M) (Revised)

R 5610 Suspension Procedures (M) (Revised)

P 5620 Expulsion (M) (Revised)

P&R 8320 Personnel Records (M) (Revised)

Moved by: Mr. Skopak

Seconded by: Dr. LoCascio

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

VIII. Business Administrator's Report

- None

IX. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01–05.

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

Special Meeting Minutes	7/13/20
Executive Session Minutes	7/13/20
Special Meeting Minutes	7/21/20
Executive Session Minutes	7/21/20
Special Meeting Minutes	8/7/20
Executive Session Minutes	8/7/20

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Buccino

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves an additional bills and claims for June in the amounts of \$7,991.67; and for September in the amount of **\$238,810.55** as certified by the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for August as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$67,458.65 including \$62,715.40 for the gross payroll, \$3,007.05 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$1,736.20 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Buccino

Ayes: 5 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 June;

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: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Buccino

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the month of June, July and August as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Buccino

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

5. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Essex Fells Board of Education hereby, approves the withdrawal of \$4,494.02 from the Capital Reserve for the following purpose:

Music Room Flooring

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Buccino

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board on the current 3rd party remote contract with Educere. Educere at this time would like to break the contract with EFS as they feel they cannot satisfy the requests of the Essex Fells families. However, some families would like to remain with the Educere program and Mrs. Gadaleta will continue to see if this request can be accommodated. Dr. LoCascio asked how many children would like to stay in the program. Mrs. Gadaleta noted 3 of the 12 at this time.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- The BOE discussed a possible survey or further discussion to consider to change the district's calendar to mirror what local colleges are discussing, being remote beginning in Thanksgiving through the new year, to address staff with children in college and returning from a quarantine state. Dr. LoCascio asked about a possible change, and Mrs. Gadaleta noted it was not her idea but something she wanted to bring up to the BOE. The Board agreed that at this time an informal discussion with the staff seems fine however we will wait a few weeks to see what develops in the state. Hopefully we can continue to move in a positive direction but we will see what October brings.

XII. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- Mrs. Hidalgo asked about the benefit of following the college schedule. This will only be an informal discussion with the staff at this time, however going remote from Thanksgiving to New Years could limit the exposure over the holidays.

XIII. Adjournment

At 7:50 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn. The next **Workshop Meeting** is scheduled remotely for **Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 7:30 P.M.** and the next **Regular Meeting** is scheduled remotely for **Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 7:30 P.M.**

Moved by: Mrs. Buccino

Seconded by: Mrs. Buccino

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary