

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a regular session on January 20, 2016, in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro 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 January 6, 2016. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress, the Star Ledger, and posted on the district website."

**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, President – present  
 Mrs. Shani Drogin, Vice President – absent  
 Mrs. Kris Heugel – present  
 Dr. Steven LoCascio, – absent  
 Dr. Michele Nitti, – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; two members of the EFS 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 reviewed the 2014-15 HIB Grade Report results (69 out of 78). Mrs. Gadaleta stated that the Safety Team will continue to develop the self-assessment.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that based on the district's high achievement on the last NJASK testing, the district has been nominated as a Blue Ribbon recipient. The application is due March 18<sup>th</sup> and Mrs. Gadaleta will put together a team.
- Mrs. Gadaleta noted the resolution for the 2016-17 calendar. Dr. Nitti suggested tabling the resolution for the full Board to discuss at a future meeting. The resolution was tabled.

**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 payment of the following travel related expenses in accordance with the travel policy 6471 for Professional Development:

Staff Member(s): John Viggiano  
 Event: 2016 NJAHPERD Annual Convention  
 Location: Long Branch, NJ  
 Date: 2/21/16  
 Cost: \$60.00





**Enrollment Count: 2015-2016**

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Quinn/Ms. Burger	PS/AM	13	6	7
Mrs. Quinn/Ms. Burger	PS/PM	13	7	6
Mrs. Gann/Ms. Almeida	KG/A	17	9	8
Ms. Mitchell	KM	18	7	11
Mrs. Brutman	1B	16	9	7
Mrs. Massaro/Mrs. Hromoko	1M/H	16	9	7
Ms. McMahon	2M	14	9	5
Mrs. Roberts/Ms. Brower	2R/B	14	9	5
Ms. Cervino/Mrs. MacKenzie	3C/M	11	4	7
Mrs. Reynolds	3R	9	3	6
Mrs. Barshay/Ms. Franzi	4B/F	12	6	6
Mrs. Hacker	4H	12	6	6
Mrs. Banek	5B	11	3	8
Ms. Craveiro/Mrs. Fitzgerald	5C/F	12	2	10
Mrs. Buonomo/Mrs. Whitman	6B/W	11	5	6
Ms. Dalton	6D	10	5	5
Total		209	99	110
Out-of-District		4+		
<b>FINAL TOTALS</b>		<b>213</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>110</b>

+ Total includes 4 out-of-district students

**Fire Drills: 2015-2016**

Month	Fire Drill	Emergency Drill
September	9-15-15	Lockdown 9-10-15
October	10-27-15	Lockdown 10-22-15
November	11/2/15	Lockdown 11-23-15
December	12/4/15	Lockdown 12-18-15
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		

**HIB / V&V Report**

As of Date of BOE Meeting	9/16/15	10/21/15	11/18/15	12-16-15	1-20-16				
TOTAL # of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	0	0				
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0				
Number of Founded Incidents	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