

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a regular session on November 18, 2015, in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the 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 October 22, 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.

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

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro, Vice-President – present
 Mrs. Shani Drogin –present
 Mrs. Kris Heugel – 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; 4 members of the EFS staff; and no members of the public.

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 stated that the Parent Academy on November 11th which took place after the PTA Meeting and covered anxiety was very well attended and very informative. Mrs. Gadaleta was very pleased with Dr. Eisen's presentation.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the parent visitation on November 16th was once again very successful, with a greater presence in the lower grades. Mrs. Gadaleta was pleased with the feedback she had received.
- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board as to Assessment Bill A-3079, which was signed by the Governor, which prohibits standardized testing in Kindergarten through second grade. Per the County Office, Mrs. Gadaleta contacted the Board's Attorney to confirm this bill is not targeted to MAP, which it is not.
- Mrs. D'Alessandro asked about the resolution regarding the teacher contract. Mrs. Gadaleta explained that some of the language had not been updated on the final version.

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions # 01-06.

- 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): Michelle V. Gadaleta

Event: Various Conferences

Location: Various

Dates: 8/28/15, 9/30/15, 10/9/15, 10/15/15, 10/22/15, 10/23/15, 10/26/15

Cost: \$40.58 mileage

Staff Member(s): Nicole Aramando, Sarah Fernandes

Event: Tienet User Group Meeting

Location: Courtyard Marriott, Whippany, NJ

Date: 11/20/15

Cost: \$0

Staff Member(s): Jaclyn Franzi, Susan Hacker

Event: Inclusion Classes – Numbers & Operations: Fractions

Location: Conquer Math, Fairfield, NJ

Date: 11/30/15

Cost: \$135 per person

Staff Member(s): Jackie Castellano, Michelle V. Gadaleta

Event: NJ MLP Team Talk

Location: Orange Township BOE

Date: 12/1/15

Cost: \$0

Staff Member(s): Marisa Burger, Laura Quinn

Event: Observation

Location: Monarch Montessori School, Little Falls, NJ

Date: 12/2/15

Cost: \$0

Staff Member(s): Michelle Barshay, Jaclyn Franzi

Event: Powerful Strategies to Help Struggling Readers

Location: Best Western Plus, Fairfield, NJ

Date: 12/7/15

Cost: \$239 per person

Staff Member(s): Jackie Castellano

Event: Google Administrators Console Training

Location: 28 West Grand Avenue, Montvale, NJ

Date: 12/8/15

Cost: \$295

Staff Member(s): Katie MacKenzie

Event: Help Your Students Develop Self-Regulation Skills to Improve Behavior and Increase Learning

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Fairfield, NJ

Date: 1/5/16

Cost: \$239

Staff Member(s): Deana Hromoko

Event: Assistive Tech Tools to Support Dyslexia & Reading Disabilities Workshop

Location: ETTC Bergen County, Paramus, NJ

Date: 1/7/16

Cost: \$75

Staff Member(s): Monica Craveiro, Candice Fitzgerald

Event: Data

Location: Conquer Math, Fairfield, NJ

Date: 3/9/16

Cost: \$135 per person

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

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

EF Recreation Department – Basketball Program for Grades 3-6 – Gym
 4:30-7:45pm – Monday-Friday: **11/23/15 – 3/4/16**

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Preschool Tuition rate of \$2,500 for the 2016-2017 school year.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Essex Fells Board of Education (“the Board”) hereby adopts and approves the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Addendum to the Collective Negotiations Agreement between the Board and the Essex Fells Teachers’ Association, which is incorporated herein by reference, and agrees to be bound thereby. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached Addendum and any other documents necessary to effectuate said Addendum.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

5. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the submission of the NCLB (No Child Left Behind) application for Fiscal Year 2016 to the County Office of Education and accepts the grant award in the amount of \$20,545.

Title I	\$17,808
Title IIA	2,737
Title III	<u>237</u> refusal
Total Funds Accepted	\$20,545

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

6. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, a two-hour speech/language pathology observation for the following student from Marywood University, Scranton, PA:

Madison Emma – Student Intern
 Mary Hybl – Cooperating Teacher
 Date of observation: TBD

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

VIII. Business Administrator’s Report

- Mr. Lella reported to the Board that the GASB 68 Pension Reporting information that was holding up the completion of the district’s audit had just been released. Audit due dates have been extended from December 7th until December 21st. Mr. Lella reported he hoped to have a draft shortly and he reported that the district continues to be financially healthy. Mrs. Gadaleta added that since the boilers have all been replaced, other projects such as the roof, sidewalks/paving, and possible phone system upgrades will be explored.

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 meetings:

Regular Meeting Minutes	9/16/15
Workshop Meeting Minutes	10/7/15

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the bills and claims for November in the total amount of **\$125,973.41** as certified by the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for October as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$295,158.90 including \$275,299.70 for the gross payroll, \$5,343.72 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$14,515.48 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the months of September & October as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

4. **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 August & September;

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: Mrs. D’Alessandro Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

5. **WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1, *et seq.*, enables school districts to cooperate with each other to make the most efficient use of their powers and resources on a basis of mutual advantage in the areas of insurance and self-insurance and related services; and

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells Board of Education desires to secure protection, services, and savings relating to insurance and self-insurance for itself and its departments and employees; and

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells Board of Education finds that the best and most efficient way of securing this protection and services is by cooperating with other school districts across the State of New Jersey;

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells Board of Education, under its obligations as a member of the New Jersey School Insurance Group does allow for safety inspections of its properties, to pay contributions in a timely fashion and to comply with the bylaws and standards of participation of this Group.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ESSEX FELLS BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT the Essex Fells Board of Education joins with other school districts in organizing and becoming members of the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group; and

THAT, by adoption and signing of this resolution, the Board of Education is hereby joining the New Jersey School Insurance Group in accordance with the terms of the attached Indemnity and Trust Agreement for the following types of insurance:

- Property
- EDP
- General Liability
- Umbrella/Excess
- Equip Breakdown
- Crime/Bonds
- Automobile Liability
- Errors Omissions
- Auto Physical Damage
- Workers’ Compensation

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta reported that she had received 81 responses, or 60%, to the Dress Code Survey. Mrs. Gadaleta shared the results with the Board, noting the strong support for a school uniform. The Board will discuss the results further at the December workshop.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had contacted the Board Attorney for guidance on which Transgender Policy the district should be following.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that 3 notifications had gone out to the parents regarding the proposed rolling pick up pilot program.

- Mrs. Gadaleta explained to the Board that the Safety Committee has been meeting and discussing potential End-of-Year Trip/Party locations. At the moment, the PTA & Foundation are not in agreement. Potential options will continue to be discussed.
- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board as to the status of the 2015-16 Calendar Case. There was a scheduled hearing of facts for this past Monday, however the NJEA was not prepared to present, and therefore the facts will need to be refiled for a December hearing.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported that the Speech Litigation case was still on-going.
- Mr. Lella will contacted vendors for sidewalk repair quotes. In the meantime, the district maintenance staff will repair any cracks for the winter.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that a draft of the 2016-17 School Calendar with West Essex is a work in process.

XII. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- No public comment.

XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board resolved to enter into Executive Session at 8:15 P.M. to discuss the Superintendent's Contract. The items discussed in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain confidentiality no longer exists.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro Seconded by: Dr. Nitti

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

XIV. Adjournment

At 9:18 P.M. the Board of Education came out of Executive Session and made a motion to adjourn. The next Workshop Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro Seconded by: Dr. Nitti

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Enrollment Count: 2015-2016

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Quinn/Ms. Burger	PS/AM	13	6	7
Mrs. Quinn/Ms. Burger	PS/PM	12	7	5
Mrs. Gann/Ms. Almeida	KG/A	18	9	9
Ms. Mitchell	KM	17	7	10
Mrs. Brutman	1B	15	9	6
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	10	4	6
Mrs. Reynolds	3R	10	3	7
Mrs. Barshay/Ms. Franzi	4B/F	11	5	6
Mrs. Hacker	4H	11	5	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		205	97	108
Out-of-District		4+		
FINAL TOTALS		209	97	108

+ 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	
December		
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					
TOTAL # of Reported Incidents	0	0	0					
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0					
Number of Founded Incidents	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