

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a regular session on December 16, 2015, in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the Board Vice 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 7, 2015. 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 – 7:31 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 – absent
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; six 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 presented the Essex Fells School PARCC results to the Board. The Essex Fells School performed at an excellent level compared to the state averages. Mrs. Gadaleta stated that the teachers do an excellent job every day and is very proud of the teachers, students and parents.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the EF Police Department discussed concerns with her regarding the rolling pick up and their concerns about safety. Per the EFPD, they stated that Hilltop Way cannot be used and the traffic pattern will need to be changed. Mrs. Gadaleta informed the EFPD the parents like the procedure but there have been some safety concerns voiced. The residents had some safety concerns as well. The Board discussed options and the EFPD will review other options as well. The new program is being used by about 35 families on a daily basis.
- Mrs. Gadaleta discussed the NCLB/Every Student Succeeds Act.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board the EFS website will be redesigned in 2016. It will be kept simple, but with a more modern look.
- Mrs. Gadaleta notified the Board that the Electronic Report Card Parent Portal closed today. At the current time, 15 of 136 families did not access the system.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that January was School Board Recognition Month and if they had any requests for the upcoming meetings.

VII. Superintendent’s Resolutions

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

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): Jackie Castellano
Event: Google Administrators Console Training
Location: 28 West Grand Avenue, Montvale, NJ
Date: 12/8/15
Cost: \$25.80 mileage

Staff Member(s): Rosalie Almeida, Michelle Barshay, Marisa Burger,
Lisa Massaro, Laura Roberts
Event: Wilson Reading System Workshop
Location: TCNJ
Dates: 1/6-8/16
Cost: \$596.12 per person

Staff Member(s): Nicole Cervino,
Event: Wilson Reading System Workshop
Location: TCNJ
Dates: 1/6-8/16
Cost: \$596.12 + 113.10 mileage per day = \$709.22

Staff Member(s): Katelyn Brower
Event: Assistive Tech Tools to Support Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities
Location: ETTC Bergen County, Paramus, NJ
Dates: 1/7/16
Cost: \$75

Staff Member(s): Monica Craveiro, Sara Dalton, Sue Hacker
Event: PARCC Workshop
Location: Crown Plaza Monroe, Monroe Township, NJ
Dates: 1/14/16
Cost: \$199 conference cost + \$32.24 mileage = \$231.24 per person

Staff Member(s): Catherine Codella
Event: Executive Dysfunction Strategies for Home and School
Location: Sheraton Parsippany Hotel
Dates: 1/29/16
Cost: \$199.99

Moved by: Dr. Nitti Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the second reading and adoption of the following policy:

Approved with changes Policy 5511 - Dress and Grooming

Moved by:	Dr. Nitti	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	3	Nays:	0

3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following addition to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2015-2016 school year, at \$80/day, pending the usual criminal history and background check:

Farrah Carnahan Teacher

Moved by:	Dr. Nitti	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	3	Nays:	0

4. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following Teacher Intern/Assistants from Caldwell University for the Spring Term (1/26/16 – 5/10/16):

Nicole Ough - Teacher Assistant
 Candice Fitzgerald - Co-operating Teacher
 25 hours over the semester

Jennifer Westervelt - Teacher Intern
 Laura Brutman - Co-operating Teacher
 60 hours over the semester (approx. 5 hrs/wk)

Moved by:	Dr. Nitti	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	3	Nays:	0

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

EFFEE Enrichment Classes on Tuesdays:

All Sports with Mr. Viggiano – Grades 4-6, Gym 3:05-4:30pm –
 1/19/16, 1/26/16, 2/2/16, 2/9/16, 2/16/16, 2/23/16, 3/1/16, 3/8/16

Mad Science for Grades K-3, Science Room #105 3:25-4:30pm –
 1/19/16, 1/26/16, 2/2/16, 2/9/16, 2/16/16, 2/23/16, 3/1/16, 3/8/16

Story & Craft with Mrs. Barshay for Grades K-2, Room #109 3:25-4:30pm –
 1/19/16, 1/26/16, 2/2/16, 2/9/16, 2/16/16, 2/23/16

EFFEE Enrichment Classes on Wednesdays:

Cooking Class “Chef It Up” for Grades K-2, Science Room #105 3:15-4:30pm –
1/20/16, 1/27/16, 2/3/16, 2/10/16, 2/17/16, 2/24/16

Lego Robotics for Grades 1-4, Media Center 3:05-4:30pm –
1/20/16, 1/27/16, 2/3/16, 2/10/16, 2/17/16, 2/24/16, 3/2/16, 3/9/16

Moved by:	Dr. Nitti	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	3	Nays:	0

VIII. Business Administrator’s Report

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that hard copies of the 2014-15 Audit would be sent home to review over the holiday break and that they could be discussed in further detail at the January workshop meeting.
- Mr. Lella updated the Board as to the process for the 2016-17 Budget. Preliminary information for discussion will be provided at the January 20th Meeting.
- Mr. Lella explained to the Board the slight change in Health Benefits Waiver amounts by being in the SEHBP.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that he and Mrs. Gadaleta had attended the annual 2015-16 Mid-Year County Efficiency Review Meeting held at West Essex with the other districts in the consortium and shared some of the results.

IX. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01 – 04.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the following meetings:

Regular Meeting Minutes	10/21/15
Workshop Minutes	11/4/15

Moved by:	Dr. Nitti	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	3	Nays:	0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the bills and claims for December in the total amount of **\$150,980.08** as certified by the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for November as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$295,653.41 including \$275,961.28 for the gross payroll, \$4,225.56 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$14,297.80 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by:	Dr. Nitti	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	3	Nays:	0

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta asked the Board if they felt it necessary to RICE the staff as to permit free budget discussion per anticipated teaching changes. The Board felt they trust in Mrs. Gadaleta's placements and it would not be necessary to RICE the staff.

XII. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- No comment from the public.

XIV. Adjournment

At 9:03 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn. The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 in the Media Center.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 3

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin
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	18	7	11
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		206	97	109
Out-of-District		4+		
FINAL TOTALS		210	97	109

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