

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a reorganizational/workshop session on January 6, 2016, in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the Board Secretary, Mr. Steven Lella, at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Lella 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 December 21, 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 Secretary.

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; and Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

III. Flag Salute

- The Board Secretary led the salute to the flag.

IV. Election Report

- The annual School Election was conducted on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 between the hours of 6:00 A.M and 8:00 P.M.

The results of the election, as reported and certified by the Essex County Clerk, are as follows:

Members of the Board of Education:	Dr. Steven LoCascio	148
	Dr. Michelle Nitti	159
	Write-ins	1

V. Reorganization of the Board of Education

- Mr. Lella administered the Oath of Office to elected members Dr. LoCascio & Dr. Nitti.
- Mr. Lella conducted roll call.
- Election of President: Dr. LoCascio nominated Mrs. D'Alessandro.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by: Dr. Nitti	
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0	Abstain: 1

- Mrs. D'Alessandro took over the meeting.
- Election of VP: Dr. LoCascio nominated Mrs. Drogin.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by: Dr. Nitti	
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0	Abstain: 1

VI. Board Comments

- Mrs. D'Alessandro thanked Dr. LoCascio for his term serving as the Board President.

VII. Public Comment

- No comment.

VIII. Reorganization Action Items

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Reorganization Action Items # 01 - 04.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education adopts the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics.

NOTES: Attachment A

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the following dates for its meetings in the ensuing year:

Wednesday	January 20, 2016	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	February 3, 2016	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	February 17, 2016	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	March 2, 2016	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	March 16, 2016	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	April 6, 2016	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	April 20, 2016	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	May 4, 2016	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	May 18, 2016	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	June 1, 2016	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	June 15, 2016	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	August 17, 2016	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	September 7, 2016	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	September 21, 2016	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	October 5, 2016	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	October 19, 2016	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	November 2, 2016	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	November 16, 2016	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	December 7, 2016	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	December 21, 2016	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	January 4, 2017	Reorganizational/Workshop Meeting

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

3. **WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Educational Services Commission of Morris County, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency," has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System known as the "Educational Cooperative Pricing System" for the purchase of work, materials and supplies; and

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells School District within the County of Essex, New Jersey, desires to participate in the Educational Cooperative Pricing System;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Essex Fells Board of Education as follows:

AUTHORITY

As directed by N.J.S.A.18A:18A-11 et seq. and pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), the Board President is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

CONTRACTING UNIT

The Lead Agency shall advertise for and receive bids from vendors who will make school supplies, equipment and other related goods and services available to participating members of the said Cooperative Pricing System at the agreed upon price; and

The Lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the Essex Fells Board of Education shall be responsible for complying with the 54 provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall continue to be effective as of January 1, 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve payment of a \$500.00 annual fee for participation in the Cooperative Purchasing System, and an additional fee of \$250.00 to Educational Data Services, Inc. for participation in the Cooperative Purchasing System for various Time and Materials bids awarded in accordance with statute.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

- 4. **WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency," has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2016, the governing body of the Essex Fells Board of Education, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

TITLE

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Essex Fells Board of Education.

AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), the Board President is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

CONTRACTING UNIT

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

IX. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolution #01.

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): Candice Fitzgerald, Jessica Krakowski
Event: Interventions for Students with Dyslexia and Other Reading Differences
Location: Morris-Union Jointure Commission, New Providence, NJ
Date: 2/9/16
Cost: \$135 per person

Staff Member(s): Laura Brutman
Event: BER – Improving Behavior and Increasing Learning
Location: Fairfield, NJ
Date: 2/29/16
Cost: \$239

Staff Member(s): Steven Lella
Event: ERIC North Meeting
Location: Somerset, NJ
Date: 1/8/16
Cost: \$0
Mileage: \$20.58

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

X. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that no parents came to the PARCC Information session. Mrs. Gadaleta briefly explained the PARCC testing and noted that the PowerPoint presentation would be on the district's website.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had met with all staff members regarding 2016-17 staffing. Mrs. Gadaleta will also reach out to the two staff members out on leave and their plans for the upcoming year.

XI. Finance

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the Affordable Care Act Cadillac Tax implementation had been delayed from January 1, 2018, until January 1, 2020. Mr. Lella also discussed the new health care coverage reporting that has been implemented for the 2015 tax year. Mr. Lella explained how he will utilize Brown & Brown to

assist with the new reporting requirements as well as the additional reporting since the district moved to the SEHBP mid-year.

- Mr. Lella reviewed the district's 2015-16 audit.

XII. Buildings & Grounds

- No Report.

XIII. Policy

- Mrs. Gadaleta provided the Board with the transgender policy from the Board attorney. The Board reviewed and discussed the language of the policy.

XIV. Personnel

- No Report.

XV. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the rolling pick is here to stay, with the caveat that Mrs. Gadaleta does not need to be out there each day. The program will continue also as long as there are no complaints to the EFPD.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the speech case was nearing a final decision for settlement.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the 2015-16 Calendar case was set to be heard on January 15th, and that all Board paperwork had been refiled by the attorney. Mrs. Gadaleta hopes to have a further report at the next meeting.
- Mrs. Gadaleta presented the Board with the 2016-17 calendar.

XVI. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta noted that January is School Board recognition month. Mrs. Gadaleta stated how she appreciates the team attitude of the Board and how well everyone works together. Mrs. Gadaleta thanked the Board for their time and service.

XVII. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- Mrs. Emma thanked the Board of Education members for their service.

XVIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 8:15 P.M. to further 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: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Board exited Executive Session at 8:38 and returned to regular public meeting.

XIX. Adjournment

The reorganizational/workshop meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary