

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on February 8, 2012, at 7:00 P.M. in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Board President Michele Nitti at 7:00 P.M. Dr. Nitti 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 February 6 2012. 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 – 7:00 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Alison Cirenza – present
Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro – present
Mr. Peter Hutchinson – present
Dr. Steven LoCascio, Vice-President – present
Dr. Michele Nitti, President – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal, Mr. Ernie Turner, Business Office Consultant, and 17 members of the public.

III. Flag Salute

The President led the flag salute.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

V. Preschool

The Superintendent reviewed and discussed Preschool offerings for the 2012-2013 school year with the members of the Board:

- Dr. Nitti said that enrollment was up to 28 for preschool.
- Mrs. Gadaleta presented to the BOE the possibility of having an AM and PM Preschool.
- Dr. LoCascio expressed concern regarding spending additional funds for Preschool.
- Dr. Nitti sees a benefit to having the students in the school at an earlier age. It should be offered at a small tuition.
- Mrs. D'Alessandro said that we already have Preschool in place. Originally, make it an integrated Preschool and round out the class. Preschool is not required. She is opposed to spending additional money.
- Mrs. Cirenza agrees with Mrs. D'Alessandro.
- Mr. Hutchinson likes the idea of having more students in the school. He likes one teacher for both classes. Offer Preschool at a tuition of \$2,000 per session.

XII. Public Comment

Members of the public made the following statements:

- Concern about planning for the cost.
- Preschool will allow Essex Fells to capture students before they go elsewhere.
- Concern was expressed about costs.
- Preschool was advertised as "free."
- They just moved here this summer. A \$4,000 tuition is acceptable.
- They liked the "bridge" from Preschool to Kindergarten.

- Two classes of 16 kids may be too large.
- Limiting to 10 would be sad for families that are left out.
- She has children in school. She liked that Preschool was free.
- It was noted that time is passing. It is very uncertain. Make a decision. You cannot appease everyone.
- The ads were not done properly.
- There is a tremendous benefit to having a Preschool.
- An informal poll was taken – unanimous that all would pay \$2,000.
- An informal poll was taken – Who would come in the PM? Most said “yes.”

- The Board asked the question regarding a \$2,000 tuition fee and two half-day programs.
Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

- The deadline is Friday to accept. An invoice for half of the tuition must be received to hold the spot.

XIII. Adjournment

At 8:20 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Mark Resnick
Interim Business Administrator/
Board Secretary