

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a special session on March 2, 2011 in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Board President Michele Nitti at 8:00 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 11, 2011. 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 – 8:00 p.m.**

**II. Roll Call**

Mrs. Alison Cirenza – present  
Mrs. Birgit Criqui – present  
Mr. Peter Hutchinson – absent  
Mr. Steven LoCascio, Vice- President – present  
Dr. Michele Nitti, President – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal and Mr. Michael Davison, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and members of the public.

**III. Flag Salute**

The President led the salute to the flag.

**IV. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**V. Business Administrator's Report**

The Superintendent and the Business Administrator reported on the following:

The proposed 2011-2012 school budget reflects a 2% increase in the tax levy. In addition, the district has proposed appropriations that will include approximately \$170,000 of excess surplus. The Business Administrator noted that after entering all the information into the state budget software, there was a cap waiver adjustment for enrollment. However, as it was the Board's intention to stay within the 2% hard cap, the enrollment adjustment was not utilized.

The Business Administrator added that a withdrawal from Capital Reserves was included in the proposed budget as the Board is discussing implementing a boiler project. The Board was also informed that the State Aid for the 2011-2012 school year was in the amount of \$38,962.

The Superintendent discussed with the Board, changes in staffing and the timing to notify teachers who would not be renewed for the 2011-2012 school year.

**VI. Business Resolutions**

**1. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Essex County Board of Elections Polling Place Use Agreement.

Moved by: Mrs. Criqui  
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mr. LoCascio  
Nays: 0

2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Essex Fells Board of Education approve a preliminary school district budget for the 2011-2012 school year in the total amount of \$4,525,360, including:
- a) GENERAL FUND (Fund 10) appropriations in the amount of \$3,960,541.00, requiring a local tax levy of \$3,923,541.00, a withdrawal of \$50,000.00 from Capital Reserves, and an appropriation of \$170,194.00 from Fund Balance to support said General Fund;
  - b) SPECIAL REVENUE (Fund 20) appropriation budget with off-setting grant revenue in the total amount of \$53,750.00;
  - c) DEBT SERVICE (Fund 40) appropriation in the total amount of \$246,730.00 requiring a local tax levy of \$246,730.00; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board authorizes the Superintendent and Business Administrator/Board Secretary to submit the preliminary budget to the Essex County Executive Superintendent of Schools for review and approval, to advertise the preliminary budget in the district's official newspaper, and establish a public hearing and adoption of the final budget for the 2011-12 school year on March 23, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School.

Moved by: Mrs. Criqui  
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mr. LoCascio  
Nays: 0

**VII. Public Comment**

A member of the public inquired about State Aid and how the Board intended to appropriate the funds. The Business Administrator responded that the State Aid was categorical special education aid and the funds were appropriated within the guidelines of the specific aid type.

**VIII. Adjournment**

**RESOLVED** that this special meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Moved by: Mr. LoCascio  
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Criqui  
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Davison  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary