

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a special session on June 29, 2017, in the Superintendent’s Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. D’Alessandro at 9:05 A.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 June 27, 2017. 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 – 9:05 A.M.**

- The meeting was called to order by the Mrs. D’Alessandro.

**II. Roll Call**

- Mrs. Carol D’Alessandro, President –present
- Mrs. Shani Drogen, Vice President–present
- Mrs. Kris Heugel – present
- Dr. Steven LoCascio, –present
- Mrs. Deborah Tedesco – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

**III. Flag Salute**

- Mrs. D’Alessandro led the salute to the flag.

**IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

- None

**V. Superintendent’s Report**

- Mrs. Gadaleta explained Superintendent Resolutions #1-3 regarding new hires for the 2017-18 school year. Mrs. Gadaleta felt there were strong nurse candidates and felt the district made an excellent decision. Mrs. Gadaleta explained the new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and her experience. Mrs. Gadaleta feels very confident with the placement. Mrs. Gadaleta explained the WL / Para placement.
- Dr. LoCascio asked about the new out of district placement that was moving in and residency in the past years. The Board’s decision was as long as they were paying taxes the Board was ok with residency and adjusted policy to reflect this. The Board will continue to review the policy to be current and perhaps add a tuition clause regarding moving into town.

Mrs. Drogen left the meeting at 9:35 am and returned at 9:37 am.

**VI. Superintendent’s Resolutions**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01-04.

- 1. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Katherine Vetere, Teacher, at MA, Step 5, at a salary of \$62,536, for the 2017-2018 school year.

Moved by:	Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogen
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Ashley Messer, School Nurse, at BA+30, Step 4, at a salary of \$60,665, for the 2017-2018 school year.

Moved by:	Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Patricia Pakonis, World Language Teacher, at BA (.4), Step 1, at a salary of \$21,812, and Paraprofessional (.6), at a salary of \$15,456, for the 2017-2018 school year,

Moved by:	Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Out-of-District Program Costs at Reed Academy – Bridge Program for additional ABA Services (Student 230166) for the period April 2017 –April 2018, at the following daily/yearly rates:

- 200 hours of 1:1 therapy at \$60/hour
  - 50 hours for Case Manager at \$85/hour
  - 30 hours BCBA Supervision at \$125/hour
  - Administrative Services \$300/month
- Total school year cost not to exceed:                   \$23,600.00**

Moved by:	Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0

**VII. Business Administrator’s Report**

- Mr. Lella explained to the Board the reason for the Business Office Resolution, as Mr. Lella has officially obtained his QPA status for the district.

**VIII. Business Office Resolutions**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves Business Office Resolution #01.

1. **RESOLVED**, that the Board appoints the Steven J. Lella as the Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) for the Essex Fells School District for the 2017-2018 school year in accordance with N.J.S.A.18:18A-2b as revised, and assigned the authority, responsibility, accountability for purchasing on behalf of the Board, and having the power to prepare advertisements, advertise for and receive bids, and to award contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:18A-3a(Bid Threshold) at a bid threshold up to \$40,000, 18A:18A-37a-c (quotations), and 18A:18A-7 (Emergency Purchases), and prepare and issue all purchase orders in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:18A et. seq. and applicable Board policies and regulations.

Moved by:	Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0

**IX. Buildings & Grounds**

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with updates regarding the following summer projects: AC installation; window security film/tinting; PA system upgrade; paving projects and tree trimming quotes.

**X. Old Business / Board Discussion**

- The Board discussed the report card revisions and the parent portal. The Board feels the system should be kept as is.

**XI. New Business / Board Discussion**

- Mrs. Gadaleta brought to the Board’s attention a student injury that happened on the last day of school. Mrs. Gadaleta explained the timeline of the situation and let the Board know that she had been in contact with the parent. The Board discussed protocol and head injuries.

Mrs. Drogin left the meeting at 9:45 am.

- Mrs. D’Alessandro asked if the NJSBA could do a review of the current CBA, as offered by NJSBA. The Board agreed to have NJSBA review the current 2015-18 agreement.

**XII. Meeting Open for Public Comment**

- None

**XIII. Adjournment**

The special meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 9:50 A.M.

Moved by:	Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by:	Mrs. Tedesco
Ayes:	4	Nays:	0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella  
 Business Administrator/  
 Board Secretary

