

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on October 1, 2014, in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Board President Dr. Steven LoCascio at 7:30 P.M. Dr. LoCascio 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 8, 2014. 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.**

**II. Roll Call**

Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro, Vice-President – present  
Mrs. Shani Drogin – present  
Mrs. Kris Huegel – present  
Dr. Steven LoCascio, President – present  
Dr. Michele Nitti – absent

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; three members of the public (two arrived at 7:35 P.M.)

**III. Flag Salute**

The President led the flag salute.

**IV. Public Comment**

- One member of the public stated she was in attendance to hear the discussion of the EFFEE item listed under the New Business / Board Discussion section.

**V. President's Report**

- No report.

**VI. Buildings & Grounds**

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the Boiler Project had been completed and that the Architect would prepare his punch list for final payment and closeout of the project. Mr. Lella reminded the Board of the cost of the project.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that playground mulch would be delivered to all 3 playgrounds as a top off for the upcoming school year. A portion of the charge would be funded by the Safety Grant Funds received from NJSBIG. He was looking to schedule for a Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> delivery, as no school would be in session for students.
- Mrs. D'Alessandro asked about the feedback regarding the new nurse's office and lunch room. Mrs. Gadaleta responded by saying that the response has been positive.

**VII. Curriculum & Instruction**

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the Consortium will revise their curriculum to have all districts at the same level in regards to Science and Social Studies and the Common Core. Dr. LoCascio asked about feedback from West Essex in regards to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from Essex Fells and their levels of preparedness when arriving at West Essex. Mrs. Gadaleta stated she had received positive feedback about the Essex Fells Students upon arrival.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that NJASK Science 2015 will still be administered to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade as part of PARCC.

- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board as to the PARCC Testing procedure. When the students have completed testing, the staff will bring the students back to their classrooms so they do not have to sit and wait in the testing room. Mrs. D'Alessandro asked if students with an IEP get any extra time or accommodations. Mrs. Gadaleta stated yes they do if it's needed and part of the student's IEP. Mrs. Gadaleta also stated that each child throughout the district will be using the same device for testing.

**VIII. Finance**

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that we had just been informed that for the 14-15 School Year, one of our out of district placements was in a school that had not yet been approved for NJ Accreditation, thus allowing no Extraordinary Aid reimbursement. The district will work with the Board Attorney to have this placement approved to qualify.

**IX. Policy**

- Mrs. Gadaleta and the Board discussed tabled policy that needed discussion with the Board Attorney. Mrs. Gadaleta stated she would address the Private Tutoring Services Policy with those staff members affected. Mrs. Gadaleta reiterated that no teacher/student electronic communication is permitted per the Electronic Communications Policy.

**X. Personnel (Public Items only)**

- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board as to the Status of the Administrative Assistant Interviews during the week. Two interviews were remaining at which time a decision would be made.

**XII. Old Business/Board Discussion**

- No report.

**XIII. New Business / Board Discussion**

- The Board discussed the canceling of the November 5<sup>th</sup> Workshop due to attendance.
- Mrs. Gadaleta explained the approved Foundation Grants for the month and asked if the Board had any questions. Dr. LoCascio asked if there were any Board funds available for items not approved by the Foundation.

**XIV. Public Comment**

- No public comment.

**XVI. Adjournment**

At 8:07 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro  
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin  
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary