

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on March 4, 2015, in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Board President Dr. Steven LoCascio at 7:31 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 February 27, 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 – 7:31 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 – present

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

III. Flag Salute

The President led the flag salute.

IV. Public Comment

- No comment.

V. Superintendent's Resolutions

- Mrs. D'Alessandro asked for clarification of Superintendent Resolution #1. Mrs. Gadaleta explained that the district had confirmed with the Board Attorney that for a retired 10 month employee to return to the district, the 180 day separation of employment period commences from September 1st.

- 1. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the contract with Linda Costello as Language Arts Consultant, effective March 5, 2015 through June 30, 2015, at a rate of \$80 per hour, approximately 12 hours per month.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
 Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Nays: 0

- 2. 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: Steven Lella
 Event: NJASBO – Pensions Update
 Location: Rockaway, NJ
 Date: 3/3/15
 Cost: \$50.00
 Mileage: \$11.48

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
 Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Nays: 0

VI. Buildings & Grounds

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with a Boiler Project Timeline.

VII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta explained that the first couple of days of PARCC testing had gone well. There were some computer glitches on Pearson's side, however Mrs. Castellano and Mr. Panullo were on top of any issues. Mrs. Gadaleta felt the district was well prepared for the testing, however there was some minor frustration with the small system issues.
- Dr. Nitti asked if the district had any students opt out. Mrs. Gadaleta responded that no student's had opted out of the testing.
- The Board discussed PARCC compared to NJASK and MAP Testing in connection with The Common Core.

At 7:58pm Mrs. Huegel left the meeting. She returned at 8:02 pm.

VIII. Finance

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with a Budget update.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board of a small error that was discovered in the automatic dental calculation in the district's financial system for some employees. The error will be corrected in a future payroll. Mr. Lella will also inform the EFTA and the staff members affected.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board of an OPRA request that he had received from the Law Firm of Scarinci & Hollenbeck, representing the East Orange Board of Education. The firm requested a copy of the district's current collective bargaining agreement.

IX. Policy

- Mrs. Gadaleta stated that it has been recommended that the staff sign off and are aware of district policies on the district website. Mrs. Gadaleta does inform the staff of the policies on the website. The Board discussed further.

X. Personnel (Public Items only)

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she has updated the staff about the upcoming school year budget and that she plans to keep the current grade structure.

XI. Old Business/Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the New Program Initiative STEAM would require an additional 11k in funding and would be difficult to incorporate the full amount into the 2015-16 budget. Discussions with the Foundation will continue.
- Mrs. Gadaleta discussed the upcoming Parent Academies. 3 sessions will be offered, 2 following PTA Meetings. The topics covered will be Eating Disorders, Social Media and Substance Abuse.
- Mrs. Gadaleta shared with the Board a memo regarding the drop off and pick up procedures that was sent out and parent feedback. With limited parking the Board continued to discuss alternate roads/routes for drop off and pick up. The Board discussed the possibility of attending a Town Council meeting. Mrs. Gadaleta referenced a memo from 2000, where the Superintendent was attempting to address the parking situation with the town. Dr. LoCascio pointed out that the Board is attempting to address the situation and involve the town for further discussions.

XII. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta wanted to survey the community regarding a staff run Before and After Care Program, however the financial information provided showed the program would not be sustainable. Mr. Lella will review further with Mrs. Banek.

XIII. Public Comment

- No comment.

XIV. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 9:00 P.M. to discuss the contractual negotiations. The items discussed in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain confidentiality no longer exists.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Nays: 0

The Board exited the Executive Session at 9:55 P.M. and returned to the Workshop Meeting.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Nays: 0

XV. Adjournment

At 9:55 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary