

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on April 17, 2013, at 7:30 P.M. in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Board Vice President Mrs. Alison Cirenza at 7:35 P.M. Mrs. Cirenza 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 2, 2013. 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 – 7:35 P.M.

II. Roll Call

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

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal, Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, one member of the public, and one staff member.

III. Flag Salute

The Vice President led the flag salute.

IV. Student Body Liaison Report to the Board of Education

- Quinn Delehanty reported to the Board what grades Pre K through 3rd grade, and 5th & 6th grade are currently studying.
- Mrs. Barshay reported to the Board what the 4th grade is currently studying.

V. Public Comment

- No public comment.

VI. Buildings & Grounds

- Mr. Lella informed the Board the Boiler project was approved by the DOE; the architect/engineer will be finishing up drawings for review; upon drawing approval, the project will be put out to bid.
- The Engineers required small additional samples be taken for asbestos testing.
- The Board decided to move forward with the replacement of one of the fire panels.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group (NJSBAIG) performed an inspection of the school buildings and grounds and reported the district is very clean, safe and well kept.

VII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta reported on NJASK: The test booklets have arrived; there was an issue with the way the 3rd grade's data was reported – the state was assisting to correct the error; Mrs. Gadaleta feels the staff has taken sufficient professional development and is well prepared.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported to the Board she completed and passed the certification requirements for Evaluation Teacher Training and that the staff will have a training next month as a shared service with North Caldwell.
- Mrs. Gadaleta explained to the Board how the EFS attendance software works.

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the 6th grade class was invited to visit the Bay Head School to show their appreciation for the donation made by the Essex Fells Students after Superstorm Sandy.

VIII. Finance

- Mr. Lella reported to the Board that TD Bank has announced an increase in fees and reduction in interest in the upcoming months and that he has already contacted North Caldwell, Roseland, Fairfield and West Essex Regional to see who they bank with and if they would possibly be interested in a joint proposal.

IX. Policy

- No report.

X. Personnel

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board about the positions that will be posted for the 13-14 School year and how she would like to include a demo lesson as part of the interview process.
- Mrs. Gadaleta explained to the Board she is still deciding on staff placement for next year, touching on the strength of the EFS Preschool program.
- Mrs. Gadaleta discussed what her goals as Superintendent will focus on.

XI. Old Business/Board Discussion

- Mr. Lella updated the Board on the status of the new cameras, PA system, new speakers, items being presented to the EFPD, new classroom doors for the intermediate building and the stucco repair to the outside area of the building.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that he met with the representative in regards to the PSE&G energy audit and that PSE&G will present their proposal to the Board at a future meeting.

XII. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mr. Lella notified the Board he was in receipt of correspondence from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding an oil tank that was removed in 1998 and possible soil contamination. The DEP stated they had no follow up information or records as to the outcome of the testing. Mr. Lella contacted the BA in office at the time and is researching archived files to meet the DEP's requirements.

XIII. Public Comment

- No public comment.

XIV. Adjournment

At 8:53 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn to the public meeting.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary