

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on April 9, 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 – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and 9 staff members. (left after Meet & Greet).

**III. Flag Salute**

The President led the flag salute.

**IV. Public Comment**

- No public comment.

**V. President's Report**

- No report.

**VI. Non-Tenured Meet & Greet**

- The Board members had an informal meet & greet with the Non-tenured staff.

**VII. Buildings & Grounds**

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the Annual Fire Inspection had taken place. 1 power cord needed to be removed and 2 covers placed over electrical panels in the custodial office, along with the outside storage of a propane tank which had been temporarily brought inside. The district has 30 days to comply, however the items were addressed immediately. The classrooms were approved.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board of notification received from the State of NJ Department of Environmental Protection. The state has no record of the removal of an underground storage tank (UST) from June 1998 being closed out properly. The state requires the district to obtain the services of a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) to conduct site investigation and issue a closure permit or no further action letter. Mr. Lella also informed the Board that the architect, engineer and excavating company for the project did not have any records available for our project, as they were no longer required to maintain them.
- Mr. Lella notified the Board of the Boiler kickoff meeting which took place on April 9<sup>th</sup>, with an anticipated start date of June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Work is to be complete by August 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the PSE&G direct install program had finally begun.
- Mrs. Gadaleta discussed future potential projects to the Board. A topographical survey for parking and ramps for access to the field, along with ideas for an extended parking lot. The Board discussed the

parking and traffic and pick up procedures and the idea for a traffic study with the EFPD. It was also noted that Hawthorne Road is the school's property.

**VIII. Curriculum & Instruction**

- Mrs. Gadaleta addressed a PARCC Opt Out Question. Opting out is not an option in NJ for either PARCC or NJASK. It is a Federal requirement that students must participate.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the State Board of Education passed a resolution stating that they would abide by the Common Core. The state mentions that the Common Core is not dictating how to teach, but preparing students for further education.
- Mrs. Gadaleta explained to the Board how challenging the Observation/Evaluation Timeline is along with SGO & professional development reviews. The second round of observations is complete, with the final round remaining. The Board discussed the evaluation process and Mrs. Gadaleta noted issues with My Learning Plan due to the learning curve and some technical issues.

**IX. Finance**

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with a draft letter to the Better Business Bureau for their review.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that he and Mrs. Gadaleta met with the County Business Administrator on March 27<sup>th</sup> for the Budget review. He also reminded them that the 2014-15 Budget Presentation and Hearing would be on May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Lella provided the Board with information regarding 2014-15 benefits for the staff, provided by Brown & Brown advisors.

**X. Policy**

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had received notification from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) citing the district's website being in violation of the State Board of Education's student residency regulations regarding requirement for registration. Mrs. Gadaleta will follow up with the district's attorney and make any necessary adjustments.

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

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she would begin advertising for open positions for the 2014-15 School Year.

**XII. Old Business/Board Discussion**

- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board on the NJQSAC Report Status. At this time the final review letter had not been received.

**XIII. New Business / Board Discussion**

- Mr. Lella asked the Board about moving the June 4<sup>th</sup> workshop because he will be at the NJASBO Convention and unable to attend the meeting. The workshop will be prior to the Meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the board that the pre-school program had a waiting list of 6.
- Mrs. Gadaleta notified the Board of some fence damage sustained over the winter to a neighbor's fence as a result of snow plowing. The Board discussed their options and would like for the resident to obtain a quote for repairs.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of a recent student safety concern regarding a student becoming separated from his class and being locked out of the building and the measures that will be taken immediately to address the situation.

**XIV. Public Comment**

- No public comment.

**XV. Adjournment**

At 10:30 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