

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on May 1, 2013, at 7:30 P.M. 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 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 – 7:30 P.M.**

**II. Roll Call**

Mrs. Alison Cirenza, Vice-President – present  
Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro – present  
Mr. Peter Hutchinson – absent  
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 public comment.

**V. Buildings & Grounds**

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the picnic tables had arrived and should be installed in the upcoming weeks. Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of the location of the tables.

**VI. Curriculum & Instruction**

- NJ ASK Score Presentation: Mrs. Gadaleta presented to the Board the results of scores from year to year and trends of the EFS students by grade level. Mrs. Gadaleta stated she is pleased with the results but hopes the new programs (Achieve 3000 down to Grade 3 and Reading A to Z) will help close the gap between the Math and English scores.
- Dr. LoCascio asked if the test results of out of district Special Education students come back to EFS. Mrs. Gadaleta responded yes.
- Curriculum Writing Revision Cycle: Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of a meeting of the West Essex Consortium and their discussion to continue to align to the Common Core through 2018.

**VII. Finance**

- Mr. Lella informed the Board of a retiring staff member's request to have her sick pay be deposited into her annuity account.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board of a correction to a typo on the Certified A4 Form (Tax Levy Certification).

**VIII. Policy**

- No report.

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

- Mrs. Gadaleta notified the Board of a possible increase in hours per week to the School Psychologist position.
- The Board discussed staffing impact as a result of potential out of district placements and actions that could be taken.

- Dr. LoCascio asked if the district is able to monitor the school results of our out of district placements. Mrs. Gadaleta informed Dr. LoCascio that the Child Study Team does extensively.

**X. Old Business/Board Discussion**

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that tree quotes were obtained and that a contractor would be obtained for hazardous tree removal/trimming.
- Boiler update: Mr. Lella informed the Board that the drawings should be completed by the end of next week for Building Department review. It was also discovered that due to drain pipes being clogged in both boiler rooms there was the possibility of having to cut/drill through ceilings that contained asbestos for the installation. Mr. Lella will look into the possibility of having the drainage pipes cleaned.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that he received notification/approval from the Pension Department of the final two staff members to be enrolled into the pension plan.

**XI. New Business / Board Discussion**

- The Board discussed the procedure of the distribution of diplomas at Graduation.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported to the Board the results of the Walk-a-Thon and what other efforts will be made to help reach their goal.
- The Board discussed a parent's request to have their pre-school down payment refunded.

**XII. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session**

The Board of Education made a motion to enter into executive session at 9:07 P.M. to discuss personnel matters. The items discussed in executive session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain their confidentiality no longer exists. No action will be taken.

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza  
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. D'Alessandro  
Nays: 0

**XIV. Adjournment**

At 10:25 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti  
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza  
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary