

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop/school budget public hearing meeting on May 7, 2014, in the Media Center 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 April 28, 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 – 7:31 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 (arrived 7:37 P.M.)

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. President's Report

- No report.

VI. Buildings & Grounds

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that he was obtaining a quote from the district's phone carrier, Entel, to add an additional phone line in the gymnasium for building safety.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that NJSIG performed their annual playground & swing inspection. The facilities are properly maintained.
- Mrs. Gadaleta brought up that the paint on the baseball fences had started to chip. Mrs. Drogin said she would contact the vendor who painted them last year to see if they are still under warranty.

VII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the 3rd grade would be part of the PARCC Field Test taking place on May 27th.

VIII. Finance

- Mrs. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella presented the Public Hearing of the 2014-2015 School Budget.
- Mr. Lella pointed out to the Board the resolution regarding the End of Year Event Grant funds received from the PTA and Foundation.

IX. Business Resolutions

1. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education, after conducting a public hearing, adopts a school district budget for the FY 2014-2015 School Year as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$4,676,395.00	\$4,163,693.00
Special Revenue	39,877.00	0.00
Debt Service Fund	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
 Total Budget	 \$4,716,272.00	 \$4,163,693.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there should be raised for General Funds \$4,163,693.00 for the ensuing school year (2014-2015)

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
 Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Nays: 0

2. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Essex Fells Board of Education accepts a donation from the Essex Fells PTA in the amount of \$4,500 to be used for the End of the Year Event at Essex Fells School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following budget line be increased and that the Business Administrator be authorized to administer it:
 20-001-100-600-01 PTA Grant - EOY Event \$4,500.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Essex Fells Board of Education accepts a donation from the Essex Fells Foundation in the amount of \$4,500 to be used for the End of the Year Event at Essex Fells School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following budget line be increased and that the Business Administrator be authorized to administer it:
 20-001-100-600-03 Foundation Grant - EOY \$4,500.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
 Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Nays: 0

X. Policy

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had just received a package from Strauss Esmay for future readings.

XI. Personnel (Public Items only)

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had conducted 24 interviews for the open Kindergarten and Pre-School Inclusion positions for the 2014-2015 School Year. She stated she was very pleased with the quality of the candidates. Mrs. Gadaleta explained that she would bring in 6 applicants for demo lessons, then to meet with staff members.
- Dr. LoCascio asked how staff members for the review are chosen.
- Mrs. D'Alessandro asked about the experience level of the candidates.

XII. Old Business/Board Discussion

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the PSE&G Direct Install program was finally complete.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had met with Sgt. Schmunk about a traffic study for the district’s dismissal procedure. Mrs. Gadaleta stated to Sgt. Schmunk her to desire to be proactive and conduct her due diligence regarding the dismissal traffic. Sgt. Schmunk will review the current pick up procedure and list any concerns.
- Mrs. Drogin asked when Hawthorne Road became 1 way.
- Dr. Nitti stepped out of the meeting at 8:25, returned at 8:30.
- Mrs. D’Alessandro asked about the duties of the crossing guard at Roseland Avenue.

XIII. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta explained her plan for a first Parent Visitation Day, which will allow parents to come into district and view their child in the classroom or lunch environment. The date is scheduled for May 23rd.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of a request for home schooling. A meeting will be scheduled with the parent to explain the school policy.

XIV. Public Comment

- No public comment.

XV. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

- The Board convened in Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent’s Evaluation.
- Mr. Lella left the session and roll call for adjournment was noted by Mrs. Gadaleta.

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Nays: 0

XVI. Adjournment

At 9:33 P.M. the Board of Education came out of Executive Session and 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