

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on June 18, 2014, in the Media Center 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 April 9, 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 – absent  
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 15 staff members.

**III. Flag Salute**

The President led the flag salute.

**IV. Public Comment**

- No public comment.

**V. President's Report**

- No report.

**VI. Buildings & Grounds**

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of her discussions with the EFPD regarding a traffic study. The EFPD will place a plain clothes officer at drop off and dismissal to monitor traffic. The EFPD stated there has never been an accident to date. Dr. LoCascio feels we have done our due diligence in meeting with the police.
- The Board suggested inviting the police to the district's August Board meeting to discuss further options.
- Mr. Lella updated the Board as to the status of the boiler project. Demolition was set to begin Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that over the summer the district would have an updated building appraisal and fixed asset report completed. The last such report was completed in 2004.

**VII. Curriculum & Instruction**

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that 15 staff members were on the agenda for 2 days of LA Curriculum need assessment in the month of June.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the PARCC Field Test, monitored by Mrs. Castellano, had gone well. There was one system log off issue that arose, but it was able to be addressed. In all, Mrs. Gadaleta felt it was a good learning experience and the district was ready and well prepared.
- Dr. LoCascio asked about the content of the testing. Mrs. Gadaleta stated it was challenging, but it's part of the Core, and that we were awaiting results from the state.

**VIII. Finance**

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that since switching to Valley National Bank from TD Bank in August 2013, the district had received \$1,234 in interest while paying no fees. TD Bank had discontinued paying interest and was increasing fees from \$50 per month.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board of the retirement sick payout for Mrs. Costello.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board he was continuing to work with the LSRP, Tetra Tech, to set up any necessary testing regarding the oil tank removal project from 1998, and that the State was being notified of the progress.

**IX. Policy**

- Policy was tabled for August, to be approved in September.

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

- Mrs. Gadaleta noted that the 2 new hires for the 2014-15 School Year were on the agenda, and that she would be interviewing for 2 maternity leave replacements over the summer for the upcoming school year.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board, per the District's Attorney, that beginning in the 2014-15 School Year and going forward, Paraprofessionals will be eligible for 10 sick days per school year.

**XII. Old Business/Board Discussion**

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of a revision to the 2014-15 School Year Calendar, offering the Teachers an offsite lunch day during Teacher Appreciation Week.

**XIII. New Business / Board Discussion**

- The Board discussed having their pictures on the District Website. Mrs. Gadaleta will review options.
- The Board reviewed the Superintendent and District Goals for the 2013-14 School Year, and discussed Goals for the 2014-15 School Year.
- Mr. Lella asked the Board if they were in favor of continuing to record the meetings and workshops. The Board would like to continue the audio recordings.

**XIV. Public Comment**

- No public comment.

**XV. Adjournment**

At 8:33 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro  
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti  
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary