

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on November 9 2011, at 7:36 P.M. in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Board President Michele Nitti at 7:36 P.M. Dr. Nitti 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 May 4, 2011. 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 – 7:36 P.M.

II. Roll Call

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

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal

III. Flag Salute

The President led the flag salute.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

V. Curriculum & Instruction

The Superintendent reviewed and discussed the following Curriculum & Instruction items with the members of the Board:

- The outcome of Consortium Curriculum Review Meeting is that it was the first meeting with the other districts. Roseland, North Caldwell and Essex Fells will go to *Everyday Math*. Fairfield is already using this program. This will help with buying power. Nancy Shultz is a math expert and developed curriculum based on NJCCCS. We would like to use her as a consultant with the consortium. If we go with a book series that is new (2012), the standards are already incorporated. For the K-12 Consortium Supervisor, Mrs. Gadaleta has sent representatives. It is going very smoothly. Essex Fells will host the next Consortium Meeting. The new West Essex administration is more in tune to the sending districts. For fifth and sixth grades, Essex Fells may use a little bit of both *Everyday Math* and *Connected Math*.
- Mrs. Gadaleta met with four families regarding Gifted & Talented. They feel the children can benefit from a Gifted & Talented program. Mrs. Gadaleta is looking at where the potential discrepancies are. She is looking at a committee on which students should take the Sages Test. Math/Science, Social Studies/Language Arts – As – Teacher recommendation – Advanced Proficient.
- The MAP Testing was not completed due to the storm and will be finished. An information session for parents will take place this winter to explain to parents where their children are and where they should be. Due to the storm, the results are not in for conferences.
- Next week is Public (American) Education Week.

VI. Finance

The Superintendent reviewed and discussed the following Finance item with the members of the Board:

- Each staff member was given a wish list (electronically) of what supplies they will need. This will be used in the formulation of a budget. The teachers are very conservative in what they buy.

VII. Buildings & Grounds

The Superintendent reviewed and discussed the following Buildings and Grounds items with the members of the Board:

- The fence around the playground broke and will be replaced.
- Due to the storm, a tree fell and damaged an awning by the gym. There is a hole in the roof over the preschool room and will be fixed "in house."

VIII. Policy

The Superintendent reviewed and discussed the following Policy items with the members of the Board:

- We received binders for the Policy Manuals.

IX. Personnel (Public Items only)

The Superintendent reviewed and discussed the following Personnel items with the members of the Board:

- On Monday, Paraprofessional interviews will take place. All candidates are teachers.
- The Administrative Assistant interviews will take place on Tuesday. Some candidates have school experience, and experience with Asbury Park ITC/Purchase Orders.
- 8-10 a year to have ADP do payroll.

X. Old Business/Board Discussion

The Superintendent reviewed and discussed the following Old Business item with the members of the Board:

- There is nothing more to report about the basketball backboards.
- The PTA and EFFEE will pay for the school trip to Medieval Times.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

The Superintendent reviewed and discussed the following New Business items with the members of the Board:

- One option for a calendar adjustment is to add 11 minutes to each school day from January to June to make up for the missed days. One problem would be that there is not continuity in learning.
- Dr. Nitti researched harassment/bullying and reported that the law requires investigation, but it does not have to be part of the permanent record. It is up to the school to decide if it should be part of the permanent record.
- Bullying issues will be placed in writing before being sent to the Superintendent.

XII. Public Comment

No public comment.

XIII. Adjournment

At 9:12 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. LoCascio
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle V. Gadaleta
Superintendent/Principal