

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on December 7, 2011, at 7:30 P.M. in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Board President Michele Nitti at 7:30 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 November 29, 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 – 7:30 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, and Mr. Ernie Turner, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

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 Math Curriculum.
- The need for updated texts.
- Science is the next priority.

VI. Finance

The Superintendent and Interim Business Administrator reviewed and discussed the following Finance items with the members of the Board:

- The preliminary budget is underway.
- Negotiations status.
- The scattergram was completed and shared.

VII. Buildings & Grounds

The Superintendent and Interim Business Administrator reviewed and discussed the following Buildings and Grounds item with the members of the Board:

- Brown & Brown Insurance Company was contacted regarding the broken tree branches.

VIII. Policy

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

- HIB.
- School volunteers.

IX. Personnel (Public Items only)

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

- The new Business Administrator declined the position.
- The Interim Business Administrator contracts will be extended.
- Due to a change in a student IEP, one paraprofessional was terminated.

X. Old Business/Board Discussion

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

- A survey was sent out to the school community on rescheduling the school calendar. Over 50% approved of adding a week to the end of the year.
- The Board decided that they will add a week to the end of the year.
- The Board and the Criminal History Form.
- G&T Policy and whether to use a standardized test. We will keep the status quo.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

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

- The PTA Ski Club request for no homework on ski nights.
- The Board agrees not to change the homework policy.
- QSAC – SOA – files were submitted.

XII. Public Comment

- A parent spoke about the ski club.
- A parent spoke on the G&T program.

XIII. Adjournment

At 8:43 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn to the Public Meeting.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Mr. Hutchinson
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Resnick
Interim Business Administrator/
Board Secretary