

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on March 2, 2011, immediately following the 8:00 p.m. Special Meeting in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Board President Michele Nitti at 8:26 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 February 11, 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 – 8:26 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Alison Cirenza – present
Mrs. Birgit Criqui – present
Mr. Peter Hutchinson – arrived at 9:10 p.m.
Mr. Steven LoCascio, Vice- President – present
Dr. Michele Nitti, President – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal, Mr. Michael Davison, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and members of the public.

III. Flag Salute

The salute to the flag took place during the Special Meeting which began immediately prior to the Workshop Session.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

V. Curriculum & Instruction

No report.

VI. Finance

The Business Administrator / Board Secretary reviewed and discussed the following Finance item with the Board:

- 2011-2012 State Aid.

VII. Buildings & Grounds

The Superintendent and the Business Administrator / Board Secretary reviewed and discussed the following Buildings and Grounds items with the Board:

- The Superintendent received correspondence inquiring whether the Board would consider placing an outside bathroom facility for recreation events on district grounds. The consensus of the Board was to allow the Recreation Department to implement such a facility so long as it was at no cost to the district.
- The Superintendent reported that she received correspondence requesting that recycling bins be placed on the district's fields for the Borough's Recreation Department's use. The Board felt this is an issue for the Recreation Department and not a school issue. However, the Board is not opposed to allowing the bins to be placed on the district's fields if it will not adversely affect the district's custodial routines.
- The Superintendent reported that she attended a meeting which detailed the procedure for applying for disaster relief funds resulting from a December 2010 winter storm. It was determined that the district did not incur the required cost threshold to file a claim. However, the Essex Fells Police did offer to place the costs the district incurred on the Borough's application.

- The Business Administrator reported he emailed the district's contact at PSEG regarding potential boiler replacement incentives. The Business Administrator also reported he contacted the architect and informed him that the Board is considering a tiered install and would like a proposal where the architect will provide a cost estimate for specification and state documentation submission. Finally, the Business Administrator spoke about his discussions with Lime Energy, the Essex County vendor for the Direct Install Program.

VIII. Policy

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

- The Superintendent reported that she received correspondence regarding a residency issue. The Superintendent will continue to bring these issues to the Board to maintain transparency between the administration and the Board of Education.
- Strauss Esmay Policies – 3000s Series.

IX. Personnel (Public Items only)

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

- New Evaluation Data Sharing Information
- Process of CSA Evaluation. The consensus of the Board was to prepare a narrative as was done last year for evaluating the CSA.

X. Old Business/Board Discussion

No Old Business.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

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

- Professional Growth Plan
- The Superintendent reported that a questionable note was found in the hallway. The Superintendent reported this note to the Essex Fells Police, who are investigating. In addition, the Superintendent reported that the police will speak with the third through sixth grades after their class meeting. A lengthy discussion ensued and the consensus of the Board was to include information regarding this incident in the "Week at a Glance."

XII. Public Comment

A member of the public commented regarding the questionable note, and suggested the Board consider hiring an expert to performing a handwriting analysis.

The same member of the public inquired whether the residency issue could be addressed in a more private setting.

A member of the public commented that the recycling bins for Recreation Department field use will be very useful.

XIII. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this workshop meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Moved by:	Mrs. Cirenza	Seconded by:	Mr. Hutchinson
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Davison
Business Administrator/Board Secretary