

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on September 5, 2012, at 7:31 P.M. in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Board President Michele Nitti at 7:31 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 August 27, 2012. 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. Alison Cirenza – present
Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro – present
Mr. Peter Hutchinson – absent
Dr. Steven LoCascio, Vice-President – present
Dr. Michele Nitti, President – present

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. Buildings & Grounds

- Mr. Lella informed the Board the locker installation is complete and we are awaiting final sign-off from the Architect.
- Mr. Lella advised the Board about doing the HVAC asbestos inspection along with the boiler inspection, saving the district \$1,500 and doing it at the same time rather than as two separate inspections.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the playgrounds were inspected and deemed safe for use. The only suggestions were to move the location of the benches and repair some damage to the fence.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the insurance check for the damages from the storm (fence & canopy) was received in the amount of \$3,353, which was less the 1k deductible.

VI. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta spoke about the two days of Professional Development for the teachers. Half of the teachers attended Everyday Math at North Caldwell while the other half attended "Time to Teach", which discussed teaching effectively in the time you have.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she will provide the parents with Everyday Math training on September 24, at 7:00 P.M.
- The Board and Mrs. Gadaleta discussed about the "School Digger" school rating site.

VII. Finance

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the 2011-2012 School Year Audit would begin on 9/10/12.

VIII. Policy

No discussion.

IX. Personnel (Public Items only)

- Mrs. Gadaleta and the Board confirmed the superintendent evaluation will be done next month.
- EFTA Contract Ratification: Discussed was the fact that the latest proposal would not be accepted, the issue being that the EFS top step is higher than the Essex County average and that a Step 0 would be presented to offset the average.
- The EFTA will have a meeting on 9/10/12.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that Mrs. Haberman will be retiring at year end, with formal notification to follow.

X. Old Business/Board Discussion

- Pre-School Reimbursement: Student withdrew from pre-school due to the fact that their home construction hasn't been completed and were requesting a refund. It was agreed that if the spots could be filled, the money could be returned.
- The Board discussed how to bill for next year in advance as to assure a child won't back out of the program, or attend while not having paid.
- Dr. LoCascio asked if a teacher waived her benefits for the 2012-2013 School Year.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- The Board members stated they would do their self evaluations during the month.

XII. Public Comment

No public comment.

XIII. Adjournment

At 8:10 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary