

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on October 2, 2013, in the Superintendent's Office 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 January 2, 2013. 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, Vice-President ó present
Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro ó present
Mr. Peter Hutchinson ó present
Dr. Steven LoCascio, President ó present
Dr. Michele Nitti ó present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and one member of the public.

III. Flag Salute

The President led the flag salute.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

V. Buildings & Grounds

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the current boiler project was complete, that just close out paperwork was required. He also informed the Board that he will look to beginning the third phase of the boiler project.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that they should keep in mind a roofing project in the next 3-4 years.
- Mrs. Gadaleta presented a request from the PTA for a wall sign and an offer to paint the bleachers.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the window caulking for the security project had been completed.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that he had received the official approval of the swings from NJSBAIG and that NJSBAIG had also recognized the district as a Safety Award Winner for their facilities.
- Dr. Nitti mentioned that she had briefly spoken to a contractor in town about the costs for HVAC in the gymnasium.

VI. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta presented information regarding The Common Core, PARCC and the Educator Evaluation for Student achievement, and that how all 3 components work together for positive student achievement. Mrs. Gadaleta also mentioned how at a Department of Education presentation, she voiced her concern that the EFS District, which performs extremely well currently, won't see a negative impact as we adjust to the new programs.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the Essex Fells District was recognized as a JerseyCAN Top 10 School Award winner, which recognizes the overall outstanding performance of the district.

VII. Finance

- Mr. Lella informed the Board of the status of the Audit.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the district's Long Range Facility Plan would not have to be updated until the DOE has rolled out the new software.

VIII. Policy

- The Board members discussed the current sub policy and how it may be updated in the future.
- The Board members reviewed policy

IX. Personnel (Public Items only)

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board on the status of the search for a new Speech Teacher and that she would be bringing back candidates for a second interview. Mrs. Gadaleta also mentioned that in the meantime the consultant hired by the district during the opening has worked out very well.

X. Old Business/Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board on the status of the potential out of district placements and that an agreement has not been reached at this time.
- Mr. Lella provided the Board some additional pictures and references regarding the PSE&G Direct Install Program.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- The Board discussed the possibility of partaking in a Demographic Study along with the Consortium.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board he was looking into the possibility of upgrading/trading in the districts 2 in-house AED machines to remain current with Janet's Law if necessary.
- Mrs. Gadaleta mentioned to the Board about the question of allowing benefits for part time employees and para's. Mr. Lella mentioned that per our insurance carrier, we were not permitted to offer a program allowing employees to pay the full amount for benefits. Those individuals are able to search for insurance benefits under the Affordable Care Act.
- Mr. Lella asked the Board Members if any would be interested in attending the NJSBA Convention in Atlantic City.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of a request for medical leave and that a contracted replacement would be needed.

XII. Public Comment

No public comment.

XIII. Adjournment

At 9:10 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary