

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on November 20, 2013, in the Media Center 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 October 18, 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 absent
 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. Election Report

- Mr. Lella read the results of the November 5th School Election, as reported and certified by the Essex County Clerk. Mrs. Shani Drogin received 48 votes and Mrs. Kris Huegel received 47 votes.

V. Public Comment

No public comment.

VI. Buildings & Grounds

- Mr. Lella informed the Board he was obtaining quotes for a tree removal project near the playground outside of the Kindergarten classroom.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that a courtyard speaker had been installed and was waiting for a quote for the PA system.
- Mr. Lella reported the closing of the current boiler project; that an allowance from the contingency was being applied and that the NJ SmartStart Rebate was received.

VII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta explained the Student Growth Objectives (SGOs), that teachers will be evaluated on the growth of their students and that the staff had developed an understanding of the results of the SGOs.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the staff had an HIB Training with the Board Attorney. The staff felt it was a very helpful training.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the district has met the requirements of the Common Core.

VIII. Finance

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the 14-15 Budget Process was underway and asked if the Board had any questions. A Draft Budget Calendar was provided in the Board Members packets.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the DRTRS report had been submitted.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board of a revision to the current FSA program (use it or lose it), which now allows for a \$500 carry over to next year's plan.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that Audit Draft copies would soon be available and the Auditor will present at the December 18th meeting.

IX. Policy

- Policy drafts would be discussed at December 4th Workshop Meeting (note New Business/Board Discussion)

X. Personnel (Public Items only)

- Mrs. Gadaleta noted the 4 new hires on the agenda.

XI. Old Business/Board Discussion

- The Board discussed parent substitutes and the roll of the substitute teacher. The sub policy will be revisited.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board of supplies purchased for the 3 AED Machines.
- Mr. Lella made the Board aware of any potential liability per the Board Attorney and Insurance carrier for the district pertaining to the PSE&G Direct Install Program. The Board will move forward with the program.

XII. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of an issue with one of the supervisors of the Tiny Treasures Program, which had been addressed by the head of Tiny Treasures.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the 6th Grade one-to-one computer pilot program had ended due to a security issue with the students work. The tech department was involved to review the issue. A result was the cancellation of the 6th grade volleyball game.
- Mrs. Gadaleta discussed the 2014-15 School Calendar with the Board.
- The Board discussed a combined December Workshop/Board Meeting due to the short turnaround from the November meeting due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

XIII. Public Comment

- 1 member of the public voiced her concern over the recent issue with the 6th grade one-to-one computer pilot program issue and the action that was taken. The Board discussed the situation and addressed the concerns.

XIV. Adjournment

At 9:05 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary