

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on December 2, 2015, 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 November 30, 2015. 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. Carol D'Alessandro, Vice-President – present  
Mrs. Shani Drogin – present  
Mrs. Kris Huegel – present  
Dr. Steven LoCascio, President – present  
Dr. Michele Nitti – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and 3 staff members.

**III. Flag Salute**

- The President led the flag salute.

**IV. Public Comment**

- Mrs. Codella spoke about the current classroom color, which she stated feels a little institutional, and that perhaps some color could be added to some of the rooms. Mrs. Gadaleta agreed she would like a warm feeling for the classrooms to help lower stress and make the children feel comfortable. The Board agreed they would be open to 3 or 4 basic colors for the rooms. Mrs. Gadaleta will work on a schedule.

**V. Buildings & Grounds**

- The classroom painting was discussed with the public.
- Mr. Lella informed the board that the boilers replaced last year in the upper building failed to start one morning, leaving a section of the building without heat. The vendor came out later that day to fix the issue. The student's classrooms weren't affected.

**VI. Curriculum & Instruction**

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the district had received recognition for the accomplishments of the student's in last year's Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth program.
- Mrs. Gadaleta stated to the Board that the District Level PARCC scores had been received, and she was very pleased with the results. Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she would meet with the Testing Team to review and prepare a presentation to the Board, but she provided the Board with a brief explanation of one of the sets of scores, showing Essex Fells School had met or exceeded expectations.
- Mrs. Gadaleta pointed out, that as the population is growing she is noticing a greater need for BSI, and will consider that for the 2016-17 budget.

**VII. Finance**

- Mr. Lella informed the Board he was still waiting for the hard copy of the audit for their review.
- Mr. Lella notified the Board that the ASSA had been submitted.

**VIII. Policy**

- Mrs. Gadaleta reviewed the results of the Dress Code Survey with the Board and the Board discussed the policy. The Board feels it's important to make the parents feel comfortable that situations are being addressed appropriately. The list in the Code of Conduct will be updated and the policy will mention the Code of Conduct.

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the district attorney would be revising the Transgender policy for the district.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that Straus Esmay does not have a bus driver policy for district's that do not have bussing but utilize busses for out of district placement and field trips. They will provide one specifically for us.

**IX. Personnel (Public Items only)**

- Mrs. Gadaleta explained how she was still reviewing 2016-17 grade staffing. Mrs. Gadaleta also explained that the STEAM program has gone well and that there will be further review and discussion about keeping it for the upcoming school year.

**XII. Old Business/Board Discussion**

- Mrs. Gadaleta had no further update to report on the status of the 2015-16 School Calendar Case.
- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board as to an error that was corrected on the 2016-17 draft due to incorrect dates for the NJEA Convention. The Board agrees to keep the calendar aligned with West Essex.

**XIII. New Business / Board Discussion**

- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board on the number of Discipline Reports vs. Bengal Pride Awards that had been given out.
- Mr. Lella reminded the Board that a new Board President and Vice President would need to be selected for the 2016 calendar year.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had received positive feedback from those families participating in the rolling pick-up.

**XIV. Public Comment**

- Mrs. Codella and Mrs. Reynolds provided some feedback on the rolling pick up line.
- Mrs. Codella and Mrs. Reynolds commented on the Dress Code and Code of Conduct, stating that some staff have noticed dress code issues in the spring. The Board once again agreed that calling the parent rather than pointing out the child is the proper procedure.

**XV. Resolution to Enter Executive Session**

The Board convened in Executive Session at 9:08 P.M. to further discuss the Superintendent's Contract. The items discussed in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain confidentiality no longer exists.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro  
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti  
Nays: 0

**XVI. Adjournment**

At 9:50 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro  
Ayes: 5

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin  
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary