

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop session on February 1, 2017, in the Superintendent's office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro, at 7:31 P.M. Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro 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 30, 2017. 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.

- The meeting was called to order by the Board President.

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro, President – present
Mrs. Shani Drogin – Vice President - present
Mrs. Kris Heugel –present
Dr. Steven LoCascio, – present
Mrs. Debra Tedesco – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; and Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; 1 EFS staff member; 1 member of the public (arrived at 7:45).

III. Flag Salute

- The Board Secretary led the salute to the flag.

IV. Public Comment

- None

V. Buildings Grounds

- Mr. Lella reported that he had been meeting with the Architect and Engineer as they prepare the documents for the Gymnasium AC project. Mr. Lella also provided the Board with a timeline for the project.

VI. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta reported to the Board, that with the help of Mrs. Codella, we had received our first self-assessment of HIB Grades. The District scored 77 out of a possible 78. Mrs. Gadaleta also noted that the district is looking into a link for HIB Training for volunteers.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that their packages contained 2016 ESEA Accountability profiles. ESEA will be replacing NCLB. Mrs. Gadaleta also noted that EFS had met the PARCC participation rate.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of a donation of Woodcock Johnson 3 – Educational & Cognitive Assessments to Caldwell University. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that Dr. Maricle has been extremely helpful in assisting Mrs. Whitman and EFS wanted to show their thanks.

VII. Finance

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with an update on the 2017-18 Budget. Mr. Lella reported that he and Mrs. Gadaleta had worked on the line-by-line detail of the budget and are awaiting the State Aid figures. Mr. Lella also noted that due to an increase in enrollment, the DOE Budget Software provided the district with an enrollment adjustment allowance in the 2017-18 budget. Mr. Lella noted he would use this adjustment to offset for a new out of district placement the district was just made aware of. Mr. Lella would be meeting with Mrs. Gadaleta again later in the week to review the budget.

VIII. Policy

- Mrs. Gadaleta discussed policy with the Board.

IX. Personnel

- Mrs. Gadaleta noted to the Board that she had started at EFS on 2/1/10. Mrs. Gadaleta wanted to thank the Board, past and present, for her wonderful experience here at EFS. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that she has been so happy to be part of the journey with the parents and children of the community.

X. Old Business/Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta presented the Board with two possible EFS calendars for 2017-18. Mrs. Gadaleta asked the Board their feeling about a possible PM graduation. The Board prefers the AM graduation. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that W. Essex and NC would be having MLK Day off in 2017-18. Mrs. Gadaleta will present the changes to the EFTA as well as their thoughts for future negotiations.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta read a letter to the Board from the 6th grade regarding a delayed opening the Monday after the Super bowl. The BOE appreciated the idea, however, felt the too short notice to implement would be an inconvenience to parents and their schedules.
- Mrs. Gadaleta wanted to make the Board aware of a conflict of interest with a teacher and a tutor. Mrs. Gadaleta noted she would address the issue.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of the Bengal Break – July in January Luau – that had taken place the day before in the Gymnasium. Mrs. Gadaleta was very pleased and thought it was a big success. Mrs. Gadaleta thanked the PTA, parents of the Student Council and Mrs. Whitman for their donations of food, paper products and scenery.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that there were 23 registrations today for the 2017-18 Pre-School. The AM session will be full with current families. Mrs. Gadaleta also noted that there was a very nice turnout of parents for the tour. The parents seemed very happy and positive.
- The Board asked Mrs. Gadaleta about Superintendent Resolution #1. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that the EFPD was having a ceremony for Chief Kulik's retirement and a large number of promotions within the department and needed a larger area to host the evening.

XII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01 - 02.

1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following Use of Facilities requests for the 2016-2017 school year:

Essex Fells Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, 2/7/17, 7:00pm, Gym

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following student teacher from Caldwell University:

Field Observation/Teacher Assistant – Ashley Merritt
Cooperating Teacher – Candice Fitzgerald
Spring Semester 2017 – 50 hours over the semester

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

XIII. Public Comment

- A parent thanked the Board and Administration for their efforts. The parent also wanted to voice his opinion regarding the teaching of a second language. The parent felt that Rosetta Stone had not been too effective and just wanted to voice that he would like to see if it were possible to have a language teacher. The parent was very understanding as to the cost and also wanted to point out he loved all aspects of the district. Mrs. Gadaleta noted that we would be attempting to budget for a position in 2017-18. Mrs. D'Alessandro also noted that we would be looking into a staff member in order to be compliant with DOE requirements. The Board agrees a teacher would be beneficial to the district. The Board appreciated the parent's feedback.

XIV. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 8:36 P.M. to discuss personnel matters. The Board exited the Executive Session at 9:26 P.M. and returned to the Workshop Meeting. The items discussed in executive session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain their confidentiality no longer exists.

Moved by:	Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0

XV. Adjournment

At 9:26 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by:	Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by:	Mrs. Drogin
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary