

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop session on March 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 7:30 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 February 24, 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 – 7:30 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 member of the press.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board Secretary led the salute to the flag.

IV. Public Comment

- None

V. Buildings Grounds

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with an updated timeline for the AC installation project. The drawings were dropped off yesterday to the Borough for review. March 20th the documents will be available for the bidders to pick up at the architect's office. March 22nd will be the walk thru. Bids will be read April 18th.

VI. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board the Science, Language Arts & Math curriculums are all going through ongoing revisions to make sure we are maintaining the Essex Fells criteria.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of an unanticipated home instruction. The district is working with the family and the doctor to set a start state. There will be a 30-day segment followed by a re-evaluation. Mrs. Gadaleta noted the resolution on the agenda for the two fifth grade teachers that will provide the instruction.
- Mrs. Gadaleta reported to the Board we will be celebrating Read Across America this week, with author Wendy Mass coming in on Friday to speak to the students.
- Mrs. Gadaleta publicly thanked Mrs. Tedesco for a great day for the mock trial. Mrs. Gadaleta was very appreciative of Mrs. Tedesco and Mayor Abbott for their involvement.

VII. Finance

- Mr. Lella reviewed the 2017-18 Budget with the Board and the release of State Aid.
- Mr. Lella updated the Board on the recent Essex County School Board Association School Funding Meeting he attended. Districts voiced their concerns regarding being underfunded and dealing with rising costs not limited to a two percent cap such as Out of District Tuition & Transportation, charter school tuition and insurance costs.

VIII. Policy

- The Board briefly discussed policies and updates from Strauss Esmay.

IX. Personnel

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of a notification of retirement as of 7/1/17 that was received from the NJDOE Pensions Department. The matter will be discussed in executive session.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the NJSBA portal for the Superintendent evaluation was open.

X. Old Business/Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta addressed the Board's questions regarding the testing/placement of new students. Mrs. Gadaleta spoke with Strauss Esmay, and it is the district's prerogative to place the students where appropriate.
- Mrs. Gadaleta spoke about her merit goals for 2016-17.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that their packages included the QSAC Equivalency Approval letter.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta suggested to the Board combining the April meetings due to the spring break. The Board agreed to cancel the April 5th meeting.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the annual appointments meeting for the 2017-18 school year would be at the May 31st meeting rather than in June.
- The Board discussed potential dates for snow day givebacks. The Board agreed with the Monday after Easter Sunday and the Friday before Memorial Day Weekend. The dates are subject to change in the event of another snow day, with the Friday before Memorial Day as the day that would be removed.
- Mrs. Gadaleta asked the Board if they would be ok with allowing the rec program to use the electric scoreboard in the gymnasium. The Board was ok with this request.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the National Blue Ribbon Sign had been installed on the sign outside of the gymnasium.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that Mrs. Sarto was working hard to update the Essex Fells job descriptions and she hopes to have them re-adopted at a future meeting.

XII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolution #01.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the approval of the following teachers to provide home instruction to student #240158 for 5 hours weekly, at the contracted rate of \$50 per hour, beginning on or after Thursday, March 2, 2017, for 30 days:

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| Monica Craveiro | 2.5 hours |
| Katelyn Brower | 2.5 hours |

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| Moved by: | Dr. LoCascio | Seconded by: | Mrs. Drogin |
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| Ayes: | 5 | Nays: | 0 |
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XIII. Public Comment

- None

XIV. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 8:14 P.M. to discuss personnel matters. The Board exited the Executive Session at 8:20 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.

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

XV. Adjournment

At 8:20 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary