

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a public workshop session September 15, 2010 in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by, Board President Michele Nitti at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Davison 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 June 1, 2010. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress and the Star Ledger, and posted on the district web-site."

**I. Call to Order -- 7:00 p.m.**

**II. Roll Call**

Mrs. Alison Cirenza - present  
Mrs. Birgit Criqui -- present(arrived at 7:23 p.m.)  
Mr. Peter Hutchinson -- present  
Mr. Steven LoCascio, Vice- President - present  
Dr. Michele Nitti, President -present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal, Mr. Michael Davison, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. Phil Nacastro of Strauss Esmay.

**III. Flag Salute**

The President led the salute to the flag.

**IV. Curriculum & Instruction**

The Superintendent reviewed and discussed the following Curriculum & Instruction items with the members of the Board.

- School Opening.
- Adjustments to arrival and dismissal procedures.
- District NJASK test results compared other "J" Districts.
- Back to School Night split session.

**V. Finance**

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary reviewed and discussed the following Finance items with the Board.

- Business Administrator Transition.
- Position of Treasurer of School Monies -- after discussion the consensus of the Board was to continue to maintain the position of Treasurer of School Monies for the 2010-2011 school year.

**VI. Buildings & Grounds**

The Superintendent and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary reviewed and discussed the following Finance items with the Board.

- Smart Board Installation.
- Summer Projects Status.
- Safety Grant.

**VII. Policy**

The Superintendent and Board President reviewed and discussed the following Policy items with the members of the Board.

- Strauss Esmay Presentation – Mr. Phil Nacastro of Strauss Esmay gave a presentation to the Board on the background of his company and the services he will be providing to the district for updating the district's policy manual. Mr. Nacastro provided a timeline for the policy manual update. The Board President commented that the Essex Fells Board of Education acts as a committee of the whole and that all Board members will be involved with the policy manual update.

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

The Superintendent reviewed and discussed the following item with the Board.

- Paraprofessional Update.

**IX. Board Discussion Items/Issues**

- The Board discussed the results of its self evaluation.
- The Board discussed the need to implement Board and District Goals. The consensus of the group was to set these goals at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.
- There was an inquiry whether the County Superintendent had approved the Essex Fells Superintendent's salary increase. The Superintendent reported to the Board that the increase in salary was denied. The consensus of the Board was to consult with the Board attorney to determine the appropriate course of action.
- The Superintendent informed the Board that the District will be going through QSAC on January 14, 2010.
- The Board reviewed the residency policy as it relates to a resident moving out of Essex Fells and requesting to keep their child enrolled within Essex Fells School.

**X. Adjournment**

**RESOLVED** that this workshop meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Moved by: Mr. Hutchinson

Seconded by: Mrs. Criqui

Ayes: 5 in favor

Nays: none

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Davison  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary