

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ESSEX FELLS, NJ
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022

REGULAR MEETING – 7:30 P.M. – MEDIA CENTER

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 as of January 5th, 2022. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress, and the Star Ledger.

I. Call to Order – 7:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Amanda Haber, President
Mr. John Toth, Vice-President
Mrs. Kris Huegel
Mr. Raj Mehta
Mr. Theodore Skopak

III. Flag Salute

IV. President's Report

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

VI. Superintendent's Report

- Code of Conduct/SEL Needs
- Share 911 Update
- Water Fountain Access
- 23-24 Budget Development/Staffing
- Safety Team Meeting & SCIP Committee Meeting 12/12/22
- Holiday Concert 12/22/22 1:30pm
- Thank you: Mrs. Huegel & Mr. Skopak

VII. Superintendents Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01 –05.

- 1. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the payment of the following travel related expenses in accordance with the travel policy 6471 for Professional Development:

Staff Member(s): Judi Reynolds
Event: Section 504 Law in New Jersey
Location: Virtual
Date: 2/3/2023
Cost: \$219.99

Staff Member(s): Molly Fornini
Event: Improving the Emotional Well-Being of Your Students to Reduce
Challenging Behaviors and Increase Learning
Location: Virtual
Date: 3/24/2023
Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Katie MacKenzie
Event: Restorative Discipline: Decrease the Need for Traditional
Discipline and Increase Instructional Minutes
Location: Virtual
Date: 2/16/2023
Cost: \$279.00

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Use of Facilities Request extension for the following:

2nd Grade Cub Scouts
2/24/23 – 4/21/23 (3:05pm – 4:15pm)
Gymnasium/Fields

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Use of Facilities Request extension for the following:

EFFEE - Winter 2023 Enrichment Programs
1/24/23 – 3/30/23 (3:05pm – 4:30pm)
Gymnasium & Classrooms

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2022 Health & Physical Education Curriculum Revision:

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2022 Library Curriculum:

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

VIII. Business Administrator's Report

- ACES – Gas & Electric Resolutions
- HVAC Audit Update
- Budget Update
- BOE NJSBA Mandated Training

IX. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01-06.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the following meeting(s):

Regular Meeting Minutes	November 2, 2022
Executive Session Minutes	November 2, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes	November 16, 2022
Executive Session Minutes	November 16, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes	November 30, 2022
Executive Session Minutes	November 30, 2022

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for December in the amount of \$138,866.51 as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for November as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$355,880.40 including \$332,540.05 for the gross payroll, \$6,134.23 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and \$17,206.12 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the month of November as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

4. **WHEREAS**, the Alliance For Competitive Energy Services (hereinafter referred to as “ACES”), an alliance composed of the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as “NJSBA”), the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, will from time to time during the Effective Period as defined below solicit bids from electric power suppliers for electric generation services through an energy aggregation program in which NJSBA will act as Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS in accordance with the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq., and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 et seq. (“EDECA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells School District is a Participating member of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System and is eligible thereby to obtain electric generation services for its own use through one or more contracts to be awarded to electric power suppliers following said bids for electric generation services pursuant to the aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will from time to time during the Effective Period (from date of adoption through May, 2028 hereinafter referred to as “Effective Period”) issue one or more Requests for Bids for electric generation services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law and EDECA; and

WHEREAS, due to significant volatility and the potential for price increases in the wholesale electric market, Participating Members will preauthorize the Lead Agency to award contracts for Electric Generation Service in each service territory to one or more electric power suppliers that submit bids which are reasonably forecasted to provide estimated savings to the Participating Member based upon its previous electric usage and utility provided Basic Generation Service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will only award contracts for said electric generation services to electric power suppliers that submit bids with pricing reasonably estimated to be lower than the utility-provided basic generation service; and

WHEREAS, the District agrees to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period through any electric power supplier(s) awarded a contract, it being understood that the term of any one contract shall be subject to the provisions of Public School Contracts Law;

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will notify the Department of Community Affairs’ Division of Local Government Services by mail prior to the issuance a Request for Bids for electric generation services, with the understanding that if the Division of Local Government

Services does not respond within 10 business days, it will be deemed to have approved the issuance of the Request for Bids or the Request for Rebids.

NOW, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System ##E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period from the electric power supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for electric generation services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase electricity at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the participating members of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings to the Districts relative to the price charged for basic generation service by the electric public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain electric generation services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.) shall be valid until May, 2028 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission or expiration of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

5. **WHEREAS**, the Alliance For Competitive Energy Services (hereinafter referred to as “ACES”), an alliance composed of the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as “NJSBA”), the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, will from time to time during the Effective Period as defined below solicit bids from natural gas suppliers for retail natural gas supply services including interstate transportation to the local natural gas distribution utility company (Natural Gas Supply Services) through an energy aggregation program in which NJSBA will act as Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS in accordance with the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et

seq., and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 et seq. (“EDECA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells School District is a Participating member of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System and is eligible thereby to obtain natural gas services for its own use through one or more contracts to be awarded to natural gas suppliers following said bids for natural gas services pursuant to the aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will from time to time during the Effective Period (from date of adoption through May, 2028, hereinafter referred to as “Effective Period”) issue one or more Requests for Bids for natural gas services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law and EDECA; and

WHEREAS, due to significant volatility and the potential for price increases in the wholesale natural gas market, Participating Members will preauthorize the Lead Agency to award contracts for Natural Gas Supply Service in each service territory to one or more natural gas suppliers that submits bids which are reasonably forecasted to provide estimated savings to the Participating Member based upon its previous natural gas usage and utility provided Basic Gas Supply Service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will only award contracts for said Natural Gas Supply Services to natural gas suppliers that submit bids with pricing reasonably estimated to be lower than the utility-provided basic gas supply service; and

WHEREAS, the District agrees to purchase all Natural Gas Supply Services for its own use during the Effective Period through any natural gas supplier(s) awarded a contract, it being understood that the term of any one contract shall be subject to the provisions of Public School Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will notify the Department of Community Affairs’ Division of Local Government Services by mail prior to the issuance a Request for Bids for natural gas supply services, with the understanding that if the Division of Local Government Services does not respond within 10 business days, it will be deemed to have approved the issuance of the Request for Bids or the Request for Rebids.

NOW, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System ##E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all natural gas supply services needed for its own use during the Effective Period from the natural gas supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for natural Gas supply services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase natural gas at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the participating members of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings

to the districts relative to the price charged for basic gas supply service by the natural gas public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain natural gas services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.) shall be valid until May, 2028 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

- 6. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP – ESSER II) Funds in the amount of \$18,750 to be used as salary reimbursement for paraprofessional salary (Caroline King) for the 2021-22 School Year to account 20-484-200-100.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- 1st Draft STEAM Curriculum
- 1st Draft Spanish Curriculum
- 1st Draft Visual and Performing Arts
- Curriculum Working Documents
 - Language Arts
 - Math
 - Social Studies
 - Science
- P9205 Communication Between Parents and Staff Members
- MVG Contract/Pension
- Roof Completion

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- 1st Reading Policy 7446 School Security Program
- Policy 8601 Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal
- Health Update/Procedures/Safe Return Plan

XII. Public Comment

XIII. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this public meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at ____ P.M. The next workshop meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

AGENDA

December 14, 2022

2022-2023

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Burger/Ms. Wiezcorek	PS/AM	14	11	3
Mrs. Burger/Ms. Wiezcorek	PS/PM	14	6	8
Mrs. Focarino	KF1	11	6	5
Mrs. Fornini	KF2	13	7	6
Mrs. Brutman	1B	15	8	7
Mrs. Gann/Mrs. Hromoko	1GH	15	6	9
Ms. Duarte/Mrs. Takkel	2DT	20	9	11
Mrs. Quinn	2Q	19	7	12
Mrs. Fitzgerald/Mrs. MacKenzie	3FM	14	10	4
Ms. Kowalski	3K	15	11	4
Mrs. Banek	4B	15	6	9
Mrs. Hacker/Mrs. Lodato	4HL	15	6	9
Ms. Butler/Mrs. Brzostowski	5BB	16	9	7
Mrs. Truchel	5T	15	7	8
Mrs. Criscione	6C	16	9	7
Mr. Manlapid/Mrs. Carroll	6MC	15	7	8
TOTAL		242	125	117
Out-of-District		4		
FINAL TOTALS		246		

*Total includes 3 out-of-district students and 1 unilateral placement.

11/28/2022

Fire Drills: 2022-2023

Month	Fire Drill	Emergency Drill
August	Fire Alarm System Test 8/1/22 12:25pm with Haig	Silent Alarm & 911 Button Test 8/1/22, 9:35am with Entel/EFPD
September	9/20/22	Shelter In Place 9/22/22, 2:40pm
October	Real Fire Alarm 10/12/22	Shelter In Place 10/24/22, 1:05pm (Share 911 Test)
November	Fire Drill 11/23/22	Shelter In Place 11/28/22, 1:08pm (Share 911 Test)
December		Bus Evacuation Drill 12/5/22 / Shelter in Place 12/7/22m 9:31am (Share 911)
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July	7/26/22	Silent Alarm – 7/29/22

HIB / V&V Report

As of Date of BOE Meeting	9/7	9/21	10/6	10/19	11/2	11/16	11/30	12/14									
TOTAL # of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Number of Founded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Violence & Vandalism Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									

ESSEX FELLS SCHOOL
DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Essex Fells School is a very special public elementary school enrolling boys and girls in preschool through the sixth grades. Pupils enjoy small classes and a total school population of approximately two hundred and fifty.

The size of the school is a wonderful asset as it allows a strong sense of community and offers teachers and pupils many opportunities to form bonds of collegiality, identification and support. It also supports the concept that every adult in the school is responsible for every child.

The comparatively small faculty is also a benefit. The faculty as a whole are the decision-making body on all questions of teaching and learning. Teachers find it easy to share experiences and act consistently across pupils' entire academic program. The combined efforts of the staff work to support a pupil centered approach to education.

Essex Fells teachers are encouraged to try new ideas, to work collaboratively with colleagues, and to participate fully in all aspects of schooling.

The mission of the school is etched in the mortar of the original schoolhouse with the words Studies Pass Into Character.

The primary goals of an Essex Fells education include:

1. Developing in all pupils the capacity to think critically and communicate effectively through a mastery of written and spoken English.
2. Motivating all pupils to recognize and develop their academic abilities in order to build character and to achieve their full potential.
3. Teaching children to value themselves, their peers and their teachers.
4. Establishing a respect for and a strong sense of responsibility to the physical, social, and aesthetic world around them.
5. Nurturing a love of country and a pride in our American heritage and citizenship.
6. Communicating a love of scholarship and continued interest in life-long learning.
7. Ensuring all pupils will achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all levels.

To secure these common goals, the Essex Fells staff of professional educators recognizes that the collaborative engagement of the children in the learning process is the key to intellectual development. Dedicated teachers create classrooms that are alive with cooperative learning activities and child-centered problem-solving routines. Children are encouraged to explore, to question, to make decisions, and to express opinions in a supportive learning environment. Teachers also model their own commitment to learning by continuing to earn advanced degrees. On-going professional development is acknowledged as the foundation for promoting outstanding pupil achievement.