

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop/school budget public hearing session on May 6, 2015, in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the Board Vice President, Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro, at 7:32 P.M. Mrs. 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 April 23, 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 – 7:32 P.M.

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

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro, Vice-President – present
Mrs. Shani Drogin –present
Mrs. Kris Heugel – present
Dr. Steven LoCascio, President – absent
Dr. Michele Nitti – present

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

III. Flag Salute

- The Board Vice President led the salute to the flag.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items

- No comment.

V. President's Report

- No report.

VI. Buildings & Grounds

- Mr. Lella notified the Board of the Boiler Kick-off meeting which took place on April 23rd. CJ Vanderbeck will begin minor demo and prep work after school hours in the upcoming weeks. They will provide ample notice.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that he was in the process of obtaining quotes for the parking lot railing installation.

VII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that Mrs. Castellano and Mr. Pannullo attended the NJAC Conference for Google classroom. Mrs. Gadaleta explained to the Board that this would require the 5th & 6th grade students to have an EFS email address. Mrs. Gadaleta asked the Board if they felt parents would have an issue with the children having an EFS email. The Board did not think it would be an issue.

VIII. Finance

- Mrs. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella presented the Public Hearing on the 2015-2016 School Budget.

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with the Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors Insurance Consultant Service Proposal for 2015-16. Mr. Lella pointed out that B&B noticed incorrect information presented to the staff at the SEHBP April 27th Open Enrollment Meeting. B&B will continue to assist with the enrollment process as well as other required reporting throughout the upcoming school year.

IX. Superintendent’s Resolutions

- Mrs. Gadaleta noted that Mrs. Conway will not be returning in 2015-16 and that the district will miss her and the services she provided.

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: Lindsay Flanagan
 Event: Dyslexia, Dyscalculia & Dysgraphia Workshop
 Location: Parsippany, NJ
 Date: 5/15/15
 Cost: \$189.99

Moved by: Dr. Nitti	Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0

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

Danielle Heilweil
 Fall Semester, 2015
 117 hours over the semester
 Cooperating Teacher: Catherine Codella

Moved by: Dr. Nitti	Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0

3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the resignation of Velma Conway, OT, effective June 30, 2015.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti	Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0

4. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by The Superintendent, the following substitutes for the 2014-2015 school year, at \$80/day, pending the usual criminal history and background check:

Jackie Burke	Nurse (\$109/day)
Danielle Dully	Teacher
Melissa Sweeney	Teacher
Hanna Walkinshaw	Teacher
Marian Whelan	Teacher

Moved by: Dr. Nitti	Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0

5. BE IT RESOLVED by the Essex Fells Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Settlement Agreement and Release between the Board and the Parents of a student whose name is on file in the Superintendent’s office, which is annexed to this Resolution, are hereby adopted and approved by the Board. The Board Vice President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Settlement Agreement and Release, and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti	Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0

X. Business Resolutions

1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education, after conducting a public hearing, adopts a school district budget for the FY 2015-2016 School Year as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$4,881,741.00	\$4,317,282.00
Special Revenue	45,591.00	0.00
Debt Service Fund	0.00	0.00
 Total Budget	 \$4,927,332.00	 \$4,317,282.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there should be raised for General Funds \$4,317,282.00 for the ensuing school year (2015-2016).

Moved by: Dr. Nitti	Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0

XI. Policy

- Mrs. Gadaleta stated that policies will be reviewed at the June meeting.

XII. Personnel

- No report.

XIII. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Tiny Treasurers provided rates for a possible Before Care Program. Tiny Treasurers will offer the program if EFS parents are interested.
- Mrs. Gadaleta addressed the staff concern with the 2015-16 School Year Calendar and the August 31st start date. The EFTA has been advised by their NJEA representative that by beginning on August 31st they are considered 11 month employees and that would have an effect on their pensions. Mrs. Gadaleta has conferred with the Board Attorney, and his response was that it would not have an effect on the pensions. The staff does not want to start a precedent of returning in August and would rather stay an extra day in June. Mrs. Gadaleta pointed out that we prepared our calendar to align with West Essex, and that by making a change to the proposed calendar, the last day of school would need to be a professional development day rather than at the beginning of the school year. The Board feels it is ok to keep the calendar as is and feels it will not be setting a precedent. A calendar revision will be presented at the May 20th meeting.

XIV. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta received a request from a parent whose child missed the preschool cutoff date. The parent requested Preschool in the AM and Kindergarten in the PM. The Board feels they should adhere to the cutoff date.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she had received a second school registration inquiry via e-mail that appeared to come from a questionable source. Mrs. Gadaleta followed up with the EFPD. They will review the email address.
- The June workshop meeting will be combined with the Board Meeting on June 17th, as Mr. Lella will be at the NJASBO Conference on June 3rd.

XV. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- No public comment.

XVI. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board resolved to enter into Executive Session at 8:29 P.M. to discuss contractual negotiations, the Business Administrator’s contract and 2015-2016 staffing. The items discussed in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain confidentiality no longer exists.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin
Nays: 0

XVII. Adjournment

At 8:45 P.M. the Board of Education came out of Executive Session and made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Drogin
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary