

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a regular session on April 15, 2015, in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Dr. Steven LoCascio, at 7:35 P.M. Dr. LoCascio 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 March 30, 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 – 7:35 P.M.

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

II. Roll Call

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

Also present: Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and 1 member of the EFS staff. Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal, phoned in.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items

- No comment.

V. President's Report

- No report.

VI. Superintendent's Report

- No report.

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

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: Katie McLain
 Event: Out-of-District PARCC Testing
 Location: Whippany, NJ
 Date: 3/23-25/15
 Cost: \$17.49 travel reimbursement (18.8 miles/day x \$0.31 x 3 days)

Staff Member: Candice Fitzgerald
 Event: Out-of-District PARCC Testing
 Location: Oakland, NJ
 Date: 3/23-25/15
 Cost: \$29.76 travel reimbursement (32 miles/day x \$0.31 x 3 days)

Staff Members: Rosalie Almeida, Stacey Perry
 Event: Conquer Mathematics – Geometry; Measurement & Data Workshop
 Location: Fairfield, NJ
 Date: 4/29/15 (re- scheduled from 3/4/15 due to flood)
 Cost: \$125 per person

Staff Members: Rosalie Almeida, Laura Brutman, Deana Hromoko
 Event: Learning to Love Learning - Annual Early Childhood Conference
 Location: Caldwell University
 Date: 5/29/15
 Cost: \$75 per person

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro
 Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Nays: 0

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

Essex Fells Recreation Department Summer Camp 2015
 6/29/15 – 8/4/15 (closed 7/3/15); 8:30am-12:30pm
 Gymnasium, Fields and Primary Building Classrooms

Kindergarten Daisy Troop Meetings
 5/15/15 and 6/12/15; 3:10-4:30pm
 Gymnasium

Farrell Family Event (copy of homeowner’s insurance received)
 4/23/15; 7:00-10:00pm (approximate)
 Use of EFS Parking Lot

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro
 Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Nays: 0

VIII. Business Administrator’s Report

- Mr. Lella provided the Board with a budget review.

IX. Business Resolutions

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the bills and claims for April in the total amount of \$46,146.99 as certified by the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for March as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$288,964.68 including \$269,365.84 for the gross payroll, \$4,498.50 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$15,100.34 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro
 Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Nays: 0

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

Moved by: Mrs. D’Alessandro
 Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
 Nays: 0

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta asked the Board if they are still considering a 1 year pilot of the STEAM program and if the Board would like Mrs. Gadaleta to see if the Foundation is willing to split the cost of the program. The cost is estimated at 12k.
- Dr. LoCascio asked if there were any logistical issues. Mrs. Gadaleta responded there will be some difficulties/challenges in scheduling but she will work with the staff. Mrs. Gadaleta also asked the Board their opinion of the STEAM program vs. potential Buildings & Grounds projects. Mrs. D'Alessandro asked if there were any pressing B&G issues. Mrs. Gadaleta stated the potential projects include installing a railing in the parking lot walkway, the Nurse's Office upgrades (estimated 14k) and stucco repair on the wall of the Administrative parking area. The Board agreed STEAM is instructional and will take precedence over the B&G projects as long as there are no safety concerns. Mrs. Gadaleta stated sharing the costs of the STEAM program with the Foundation is preferable and she will discuss with the Foundation. Mrs. Gadaleta also said she would speak with Mrs. McNish at a later time.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board he is obtaining further quotes for the railing in the parking lot. The Board did agree the railing is a priority.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she has not heard anything further from the Teachers since the last discussion regarding the Before Care Program. Mrs. Gadaleta asked the Board if they would like for her to inquire with Tiny Treasurers about a Before Care Proposal. The Board discussed and agreed with exploring the idea further with Tiny Treasurers.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- No report.

XII. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- No public comment.

XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board resolved to enter into Executive Session at 7:58 P.M. to discuss contractual negotiations and personnel. The items discussed in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain confidentiality no longer exists.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Nays: 0

The Board exited the Executive Session at 8:07 P.M. and returned to the regular public meeting.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Nays: 0

XIV. Adjournment

The public meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 8:07 P.M. The next Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education will include the Public Hearing and Adoption of the Final Budget for the 2015-2016 School Year and will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 in the Media Cener. The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Nays: 0

Enrollment Count: 2014-2015

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Quinn/Ms. Burger	PS/AM	13	8	5
Mrs. Quinn/Ms. Burger	PS/PM	13	4	9
Mrs. Gann	KG	15	9	6
Ms. Mitchell/Mrs. Short	KM/S	13	6	7
Mrs. Brutman/Mrs. Hromoko	1B/H	14	9	5
Mrs. Massaro	1M	14	9	5
Ms. McMahon/Ms. Almeida	2M/A	12	5	7
Mrs. Perry	2P	9	4	5
Ms. Cervino	3C	11	6	5
Mrs. Reynolds/Ms. McLain	3R/M	10	5	5
Mrs. Barshay	4B	13	3	10
Mrs. Hacker/Mrs. Calistri	4H/C	11	3	8
Mrs. Banek/Ms. Belmont	5B/B	11	5	6
Ms. Craveiro	5C	12	7	5
Mrs. Buonomo	6B	19	8	11
Ms. Dalton/Mrs. Whitman	6D/W	20	8	12
Total		210	99	111
Out-of-District		4+		
FINAL TOTALS		214	99	111

+ Total includes 4 out-of-district students

Fire Drills: 2013-2014

Month	Fire Drill	Emergency Drill
September	9/8/14	Lockdown 9/16/14
October	10/8/14	Shelter in Place 10/2/14
November	11/12/14	Lockdown 11/19/14
December	12/15/14	Lockdown 12/9/14
January	1/29/15	Lockdown 1/20/15
February	2/25/15	Shelter in Place 2/27/15
March	3/11/15	Lockdown 3/13/15
April	4/15/15	
May		
June		

HIB / V&V Report

As of Date of BOE Meeting	9/17/14	10/15/14	11/19/14	12/17/14	1/21/15	2/18/15	3/18/15	4/15/15	5/20/15	6/17/15
TOTAL # of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0		
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0		
Number of Founded 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. Insuring all pupils will achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary