

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Regular Meeting held in the Media Center on June 14, 2023. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Amanda Haber, at 7:30 P.M. Mrs. Haber 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 as of January 4th, 2023. 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.

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

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Amanda Haber, President
Mr. John Toth, Vice-President
Mr. Raj Mehta-Present
Mrs. Caragh Lavoie-Present
Mrs. Jacquelyn Burke-Absent

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, (2) Staff Member and (1) Members of the Public.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. President's Report

Good evening everyone-

Thank you for joining us for the last Board meeting of the 2022-2023 school year. I am proud of the work that the board has done to help support the goals of the Superintendent and community. We look forward to the year ahead where many of these improvements will come to fruition, most notably, the addition of our security measures. I would like to recognize the work and dedication of my fellow board members, Mr. Toth, Mr. Mehta, Mrs. Lavoie and Mrs. Burke. Your dedication and commitment to the students and community are honorable and important. Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella, thank you for all that you do. We appreciate the partnership that allows us to bring to you the concerns of the community while always putting the needs of the students first. As the year ends the board wants to acknowledge many different people. First, each and every one of our teachers, and staff members. You are the heart of the school and we value all that you contribute to the school. We also want to recognize the work done by our PTA and Foundation. You add the extra something special to our school, and pick up where we end. Thank you to the Essex Fells Police, Mayor Davis and the town council for working with us this year as well. We hope you all have a safe, healthy and fun summer. We look forward to seeing you in September.

And now it is time for the Superintendent's Report.

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. Gadaleta echoed Mrs. Haber’s Year End Thank You’ s, and invited everyone to attend the Year End events. The Olympics date will TBD.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted we had a successful West Essex Senior Service, with 2 WE Senior’s serving.
- Dr. Gadaleta explained the process for preparing the Class Lists, which will be posted in mid-July.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted the ESY/Beyond the School Year Classes that will be available after July 4th, running through August 9th.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted that W. Essex has a new math series, and that we will switch as well.

VII. Superintendent’s Resolutions

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

1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent and approves the employment of the following student assistants in the IT/custodial departments for the 2023 summer, for a total of 50 hours each.

Connor Coughlin	\$14.13/hr
Ronan Davis	\$14.13/hr

Moved by: Mrs. Lavoie Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following stipend positions for the 2023-2024 school year at the contractual rate:

Tina Rivera	Substitute Coordinator - \$3,000
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Moved by: Mrs. Lavoie Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2023-2024 Board of Education Goals.

NOTE: Documentation Attached

Moved by: Mrs. Lavoie Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

4. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2023-2024 Superintendent/District Goals.

NOTE: Documentation Attached

Moved by: Mrs. Lavoie Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

5. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, contracting with Kaleidoscope Education Services for Speech Therapist Services for the Extended School Year (Summer 2023) Program at a rate of up to \$92.00 per hour.

Speech Therapist: Ritu Walia

Moved by: Mrs. Lavoie

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

VIII. Business Administrator's Report

- None

IX. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01-03.

- 1. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the following meeting(s):
Regular Meeting Minutes May 3rd, 2023

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 17th, 2023

Executive Meeting Minutes

May 17th, 2023

Moved by: Mr. Toth

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 2. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for June in the amounts of \$141,387.59, as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for May as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$386,060.38 including \$350,418.36 for the gross payroll, \$5,980.22 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and \$19,661.80 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Mr. Toth

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

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

Moved by: Mr. Toth

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Mr. Lella noted that there is a 3-year open seat beginning in 2024 for the BOE. Mr. Mehta noted he will be running.
- Dr. Gadaleta provided an update on the Teacher Candidate Status. The top 2 applicants came in for demo lessons and will meet & greet with the 5th grade team.

- Dr. Gadaleta discussed the Preschool enrollment numbers, which are currently 13 am and 9 pm. St. Peter's is piloting a full day program, do we want to consider for 24-25?
- K screening was completed today. Dr. Gadaleta noted we have a such a great group of children, 18 and 18 class sizes.
- The Board discussed policy.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta noted we are waiting on our QSAC scores.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted the upcoming B&G projects we are targeting: vestibule, thermostats, gym floor, track paving, possible rotunda repair, bleacher railing, garage paving, and Kelly's Corner.

XII. Public Comment

- Mrs. Daniels had heard about St. Peter's going to a full day program, but she enjoys the ½ day program we currently provide.

XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

At 8:18 P.M. the Board made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation. The items discussed in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain their confidentiality no longer exists.

Moved by: Mr. Toth

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XIV. Adjournment

At 8:35 P. M. the Board made a motion to adjourn. The next Regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, August 16th, 2023, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mr. Mehta

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary