

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 May 17, 2023. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Amanda Haber, at 7:31 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 – 7:31 P.M.**

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

**II. Roll Call**

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

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

**III. Flag Salute**

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

**IV. President's Report**

Good evening and thank you for joining us.

I am happy to highlight on the agenda this evening that there has been an agreement made with the Borough for the Class III officer. Having this officer here at Essex Fells School will significantly improve the safety and security of the entire school community. I am proud of the work and dedication put into getting this done for the school and am happy to be a part of a board that values the safety of the school. In other news, I wish all of you a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend holiday. We look forward to the final stretch of the year and all of the showcasing of learning that will be happening in the upcoming weeks. Thank you.

**V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only**

- None

**VI. Superintendent's Report**

- Dr. Gadaleta shared the names of the children on the Student Council Ballot. The children will give speeches on Friday and the student body will vote throughout the day. Mr. Durkin from the Essex County Office will come in and explain the voting process. Dr. Gadaleta wished good luck to everyone who is running.
- Dr. Gadaleta reported that as we prepare for the Celebration of the Arts we will be having our Spring Concert and Art Show.
- Dr. Gadaleta wished everyone a happy and safe long Memorial Day Weekend.

- Dr. Gadaleta explained the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights resolution
- Dr. Gadaleta noted the Class III Officer Resolution
- Dr. Gadaleta informed the Board of the EFPD using the building for 2 dates in June for training.
- Dr. Gadaleta regretfully noted the resolution of the resignation of Mrs. Truchel, noting this is a travesty to students and the profession, also stating that Mrs. Truchel is exactly what a teacher should be. Dr. Gadaleta wished her well and the best in her future endeavors and this will be a big loss to the district.
  - Mrs. Burke asked about the hiring process
- Mr. Toth asked if the Class III Officer agreement was acceptable, and Dr. Gadaleta explained everything was.

**VII. Superintendent’s Resolutions**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01–07.

- 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): Nicole Criscione  
 Event: Motivating the Unmotivated  
 Location: Virtual  
 Date: 6/5/23  
 Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Steven Lella  
 Event: 2022-2023 Annual NJASBO Conference  
 Location: Atlantic City, NJ  
 Date: 6/6/23 – 6/9/23  
 Cost: \$951.32

Moved by: Mrs. Burke                      Seconded by: Mr. Mehta  
 Ayes: 4    Nays: 0

- 2. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2021-2022 District and School Grade Report for the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke                      Seconded by: Mr. Mehta  
 Ayes: 4    Nays: 0

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

Essex Fells Police Department  
 Active Shooter Training – Entire School  
 6/27/23 & 6/29/23  
 8:00am-4:00pm

Moved by: Mrs. Burke                      Seconded by: Mr. Mehta  
 Ayes: 4    Nays: 0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the resignation of Michelle Truchel, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher, with June 30, 2023, as the last day of employment.

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

Ayes: 4    Nays: 0

5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Class III Officer Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Essex Fells for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

Ayes: 4    Nays: 0

6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Statement of Assurance for Testing and Reporting of Lead in School Drinking Water for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

Ayes: 4    Nays: 0

7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the first reading of the following bylaws/regulations/policies:

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| P 0144     | Board Member Orientation and Training (Revised)                          |
| P & R 2520 | Instructional Supplies (M) (Revised)                                     |
| P 3217     | Use of Corporal Punishment (Revised)                                     |
| P 4217     | Use of Corporal Punishment (New)   |
| P 5305     | Health Services Personnel (M) (Revised)                                  |
| P & R 5308 | Student Health Records (M) (Revised)                                     |
| P & R 5310 | Health Services (M) (Revised)  |
| P 6112     | Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures (M) (Revised)      |
| R 6115.01  | Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability of Costs (M) (New) |
| P 6115.04  | Federal Funds – Duplication of Benefits (M) (New)                        |
| P 6311     | Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants (M) (Revised)   |
| P 7440     | School District Security (M) (Revised)                                   |
| P 9100     | Public Relations (Abolished)   |
| P 9140     | Citizens Advisory Committees (Revised)                                   |
| R 9140     | Citizens Advisory Committee (M) (Abolished)                              |

Moved by: Mrs. Burke                      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	March 29, 2023
Executive Meeting Minutes	March 29, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes	April 19, 2023
Moved by: Mr. Toth	Seconded by: Mrs. Burke
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for May in the amounts of \$209,791.20, as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for April as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$374,522.79 including \$348,985.56 for the gross payroll, \$5,991.87 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$19,666.60 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Mr. Toth	Seconded by: Mrs. Burke
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0

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

Moved by: Mr. Toth	Seconded by: Mrs. Burke
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0

**X. Old Business / Board Discussion**

- Dr. Gadaleta had noted that the Class III Officer was approved and she will contact Captain Jones.

**XI. New Business / Board Discussion**

- Dr. Gadaleta added that we had met with the Rotary Club of the Caldwell’s, who had reached out to inform the district about grants they are providing to school districts in the area. Dr. Gadaleta will provide them with such ideas as our security vestibule, computers, the track, books, replacement radios and possible para salary.

**XII. Public Comment**

- None

**XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session**

At 7:47 P.M. the Board made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the personnel and the Business Administrator's contract. The items discussed in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain their confidentiality no longer exists.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

**XIV. Adjournment**

At 8:10 P. M. the Board made a motion to adjourn. The next Re-Appointment meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mr. Toth

Seconded by: Mrs. Burke

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary