

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Workshop Meeting held in the Media Center on March 1, 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 February 21, 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-Present
 Mrs. Jacquelyn Burke-Present

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, (2) Staff Members and (3) Members of the Public.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. President’s Report

- Mrs. Haber thanked Dr. Gadaleta for setting up the Cyber Security Program.

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. Gadaleta wished a Happy Read Across America Week and noted that the author visit would be on Friday.
- Dr. Gadaleta explained the Cyber Safety Programs Assembly that was presented to the children and the parents, noting that the parent program was a highlight as it was very well attended. The student portion was also very involved. Dr. Gadaleta noted what a great opportunity this was for discussion with parents to address out of school distractions that are coming into school.

VII. Superintendent’s Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01 –06.

- 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): Michelle Barshay
Event: Implementing Reading Interventions Aligned with State Dyslexia
Mandates

Location: Virtual

Date: 2/22/23

Cost:\$0.00

Staff Member(s): Candice Fitzgerald

Event: NJECC

Location: Montclair State University

Date: 3/7/23

Cost:\$0.00

Staff Member(s): Rory Duarte

Event: NJECC

Location: Montclair State University

Date: 3/8/23

Cost:\$0.00

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2023 SEL Curriculum:

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2023 Preschool Curriculum:

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Cionna Lane as Kindergarten Paraprofessional for the 2022-2023 school year at a prorated salary of \$11,088.00, beginning March 6th, 2023 through June 30th, 2023

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

5. **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 Boy Scouts
 Meeting Grades 1 & 3: 3/6/23 - 3:05pm - 5:00pm
 Pinewood Derby: 3/31/23 - 5:00pm - 7:00pm
 Gymnasium

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

6. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent the appointment of, PeggyAnne Reinhardt, Substitute Teacher for the school year 2022-2023, pending the usual criminal history, background check and county approval.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

VIII. Buildings & Grounds

- Mr. Lella noted that he was obtaining quotes for the bleacher railings that were damaged. He is also working with the insurance company to see if this can be submitted through insurance as it appears there was some mischievous activity that caused the damage. The EFPD were notified and noted the damages.

IX. Curriculum & Instruction

- Dr. Gadaleta was pleased to report that the curriculum revision was complete. Kudos to all the staff for their efforts and they should be proud. Dr. Gadaleta noted that the new curriculum will be part of the QSAC review. The Board thanked everyone for their hard work.

X. Finance

- Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella provided an update on the 2023-24 budget. Dr. Gadaleta was hoping for an increase in State Aid to add an additional paraprofessional.

XI. Personnel

- Dr. Gadaleta noted the potential current need for an IEP driven paraprofessional.

XII. Policy

- Dr. Gadaleta explained the changes to Policy 8601 – Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal.
- The Board discussed the Attendance Policy – 5200. Mr. Toth noted the unfairness to the potentially limited students in a class.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted the revised and new Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction – 2425.

- The Board discussed the revised HIB Policy – 5512.

XIII. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta reported that the district has provided the Borough with an updated contract to include the compensation amounts provided by the Borough. We will await their approval to move forward.

XIV. New Business / Board Discussion

- Vacation Absence / Student Work Procedures and Discipline Reporting / Grades was already covered in Policy.
- Mr. Lella reported a staff slip and fall from ice on the school grounds. Mr. Lella followed the WC procedure and additional salting will be done as needed.

XV. Public Comment

- None

XVI. Adjournment

At 8:32 P. M. the Board made a motion to adjourn. The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mrs. Lavoie

Seconded by: Mrs. Burke

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary