

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 February 1, 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 4, 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-Present
 Mr. John Toth, Vice-President-Present
 Mr. Raj Mehta-Absent
 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 Members and (1) Member of the Public.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. President's Report

- None

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Gadaleta informed the Board we will be having our QSAC review on March 30 th . Dr. Gadaleta explained the Data waiver which we will not be accepting as she feels it is not necessary since our district data was maintained through the pandemic.
- Preschool and Kindergarten registration enrollment took place last week. For the first time in a few years, the preschool is not filled, with only 21 of 28 places taken. Dr. Gadaleta noted we would be opening to EFS staff. The low enrollment will affect budgeted revenue in the 2023-24 budget. Kindergarten has 36 registered, 18 and 18.
- Dr. Gadaleta provided the Board with the Mid-Year Attendance Report. There are 43 students with a high number of absences. 18 are considered chronic.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted that tomorrow is the 6 th Grade LEAD Ceremony.

VII. Buildings & Grounds

- Dr. Gadaleta provided an update on the lift, as we are waiting on additional parts as the lift

cannot be mounted to the wall as originally planned. The railing in the middle will be removed.

VIII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Dr. Gadaleta explained the upcoming Cyber Security presenter who will be coming in. There will be two sessions for the children and an evening session for the parents.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted curriculum revision updates will be discussed later in the meeting.

IX. Finance

- Mr. Lella noted that the auditors are waiting on the GASB 75 information from the NJ Treasury Department to complete the 2021-22 audit. The ACFR audit due date has been moved from February 6th to March 17th.
- Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella provided an update to the 2023-24 budget. Mr. Lella noted that he and Dr. Gadaleta would be meeting again to continue to make updates and cuts to balance the budget, which at the moment is 25k short. Mr. Lella reminded the Board that the district has banked cap in the amount of 69k available to use to exceed the 2% tax levy cap. He also noted that he and Dr. Gadaleta are working on being at the 2% cap. State Aid figures will be received at the end of the month. The budget does include the full-time School Counselor and the Class III Officer.

X. Personnel

- Dr. Gadaleta updated the Board as to the status of the Class III Officer that will be in place for the 2023-24 School Year. The Board is absorbing the full cost.
- Dr. Gadaleta also spoke about the need for the full time School Counselor

XI. Policy

- Dr. Gadaleta explained policy with the Board. The Board tabled discussion on P2425 and R2425.

XII. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta provided an update on the 1 st Curriculum drafts for Math, Language Arts, Social Studies and Science.
- Dr. Gadaleta informed the Board that Policy 8601 – Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal, is being updated by the attorney.
- Mr. Lella reminded the Board of the BOE Ethics Training that will take place at the February 15th meeting. Stephen Fogarty will be presenting. This training was originally planned for March of 2020, and has been attempted to be rescheduled.

XIII. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mr. Lella noted that the Board will be donating a computer to the EFPD to have better access to viewing the district's cameras. The laptop is valued at approximately \$1,900. The Board discussed donating a laptop while we are being charged for all the Class III Officer costs.
- Dr. Gadaleta updated the Board as to recent activity on the school grounds that the police were notified of. There was damage to the railing along the bleachers, broken glass and other items of garbage.
- Dr. Gadaleta discussed with the Board the meeting that took place today at WEHS with the School Superintendent's, Police Chief's, and Mayor's. The discussion focused on the recent incidents involving school buses and the miscommunication that had taken place. Safety procedures were discussed as well as improving the communication between the district's and towns.

XIV. Public Comment

- None

XV. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

At 8:49 P.M. the Board made a motion to enter into Executive Session discuss personnel and legal matters. 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: 3

Nays: 0

XVI. Adjournment

At 9:08 P. M. the Board made a motion to adjourn. The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mrs. Lavoie

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary