

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Reorganizational Public Meeting held in the Media Center on January 4, 2023. The meeting was called to order by the Board Secretary, Mr. Steven J. Lella, at 7:32 P.M. Mr. Lella 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 5, 2022. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress, and the Star Ledger.

**I. Call to Order – 7:32 P.M.** – Board Secretary; Mr. Steven J. Lella

**II. Roll Call**

- Mrs. Amanda Haber, President-Present
- Mr. John Toth, Vice-President-Absent
- Mrs. Kris Huegel-Present
- Mr. Raj Mehta-Present
- Mr. Theodore Skopak-Absent

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and 20 Members of the Public.

**III. Flag Salute**

- The Board Secretary led the salute to the flag.

**IV. Election Report**

The annual School Election was conducted on Tuesday, November 8th, 2022, between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

The results of the election, as reported and certified by the Essex County Clerk, are as follows:

Members of the Board of Education:	Caragh Lavoie 470
	Jacquelyn Burke 447
	Michael Diaco 445
	Joyce Candido 391

**V. Reorganization of the Board of Education**

- Mr. Lella administered the Oath of Office to elected members Mrs. Caragh Lavoie and Mrs. Jacquelyn Burke.
- Mr. Lella conducted roll call.
- Election of President: Mr. Mehta nominated Mrs. Haber.

Moved by: Mr. Mehta

Seconded by: Mrs. Burke

Ayes: 4

Nays:0

- Election of VP: Mr. Mehta nominated Mr. Toth.

Moved by: Mr. Mehta

Seconded by: Mrs. Burke

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- Mrs. Haber took over the meeting

**VI. Board Comments/President’s Report**

- Mrs. Haber and Dr. Gadaleta thanked Mrs. Huegel and Mr. Skopak for their years of service on the Board.

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

- Mrs. Criscione thanked Mrs. Huegel and Mr. Skopak for their time on the Board on behalf of the EFTA.
- Mrs. Hugel thanked the community for allowing her to serve as a Board Member.

**VIII. Superintendent’s Report**

- Dr. Gadaleta noted that January is School Board Recognition Month and thanked Mrs. Huegel and Mr. Skopak and welcomed new Board members Mrs. Lavoie and Mrs. Burke.
- Dr. Gadaleta provided a draft of the 2023-24 calendar to address the schedule of assessments.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted the changes to P9205 – Communication Between Parents and Staff Members.
- Dr. Gadaleta provided some curriculum working documents and noted that the staff is still working on development.

**IX. Old Business / Board Discussion**

- Mr. Lella reported that he will begin budget development and discussions with Dr. Gadaleta.

**X. New Business / Board Discussion**

- Dr. Gadaleta noted the 2023 Board of Education Meeting dates.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board to be on the lookout for the 2023 BOE Disclosure statement email from DOE.

**XI. Reorganization Action Items**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves Reorganization Action Items #01 - 2.

**1. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education adopts the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics.

**NOTES:** Code of Ethics Attached/Bylaws

Moved by: Mr. Mehta

Seconded by: Mrs. Burke

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

**2. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the following dates for its meetings in the ensuing year (\*dates subject to change):

Wednesday	January 18, 2023	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	February 1, 2023	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	February 15, 2023	Regular Monthly Business Meeting

Wednesday	March 1, 2023	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	March 15, 2023	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	March 29, 2023	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	April 19, 2023	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	May 3, 2023	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	May 17, 2023	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	May 31, 2023	Reappointment Meeting
Wednesday	June 14, 2023	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	August 16, 2023	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	September 6, 2023	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	September 20, 2023	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	October 4, 2023	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	October 18, 2023	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	November 1, 2023	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	November 15, 2023	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	November 29, 2023	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	December 13, 2023	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	January 3, 2024 (TBD)	Reorganizational/Workshop Meeting

Moved by: Mr. Mehta

Seconded by: Mrs. Burke

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

**XI. Public Comment**

- None

**XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session**

At 7:49 P.M. the Board made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss 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. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

**XIV. Adjournment**

At 8:27 P.M. the Board made a motion to adjourn. The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, January 18, 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