

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a public session on January 18, 2012 in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Board President Michele Nitti at 7:30 P.M. Dr. Nitti 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 on May 4, 2011. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress, the Star Ledger, and posted on the district web-site."

I. Call to Order – 7:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Alison Cirenza – present
Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro – present
Mr. Peter Hutchinson – absent
Dr. Steven LoCascio, Vice-President – present
Dr. Michele Nitti, President – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal, Mr. Ernie Turner, Business Office Consultant, 1 teacher, and several Essex Fells Families.

III. Flag Salute

The President led the salute to the flag.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

V. President's Report

VI. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported on the following items:

- New Jersey School Board Recognition Month
- Annual School Board Election
- Policy updates

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following field trip:

Grade 3 to County College of Morris Planetarium – 2/23/12

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
Nays: 0

2. **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 9250 for Professional Development:

Staff Member: Sara Dalton
Event: Life, Cells, and Genetics Workshop
Location: Montclair State University
Date: 2/24/12
Cost: \$100

Staff Member: Jeanine Whitman
 Event: Keys to Ensuring your School is Compliant in Section 504 Workshop
 Location: Toms River, NJ
 Date: 2/24/12
 Cost: \$75 plus \$77.70 mileage; total - \$152.70

Staff Member: Susan Hacker
 Event: Practical Strategies to Implement the New Common Core Math Standards Workshop
 Location: Best Western Plus, Fairfield, NJ
 Date: 3/20/12
 Cost: \$219.00

Staff Members: Laura Brutman, Kelly Mitchell
 Event: Writing Strategies That Work Workshop
 Location: Holiday Inn, Parsippany, NJ
 Date: 3/20/12
 Cost: \$225.00

Staff Members: Rosemarie Haberman, Emily Ziccardi
 Event: i-Pad in Your 3rd & 4th Grade Classroom Workshop
 Location: Bergen County ETTC
 Date: 5/2/12
 Cost: \$60 per person

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio
 Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
 Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the revised 2011-2012 school calendar.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio
 Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
 Nays: 0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the adoption of the *Language Arts Curriculum K-6 – Aligned to the Common Core Standards – Revised: 2011*.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio
 Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
 Nays: 0

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

Bylaw 0168
 Policy 5519
 Policy 6424
 Policy 6472
 Policy 8505
 Policy 9180
 Policy 9181

Recording Board Meetings
 Dating Violence at School (new)
 Emergency Contracts
 Tuition Assistance (new)
 School Nutrition
 School Volunteers
 Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity
 Advisors/Assistants (new)

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio
 Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
 Nays: 0

6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following additions to the substitute list for the 2011-2012 school year:

Jacquelyn Burke	Nurse @ \$109/day
Jody James	Teacher @ \$70/day

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
Nayes: 0

7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the agreement with the Essex County Educational Services Commission for the 2011-12 school year for the following services, as needed, and at the rates indicated:

Public School Nursing Services	\$40/hour not to exceed \$1,500.00
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NOTES: Contract attachment

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
Nayes: 0

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

Girl Scout Daisy Troop Meetings(1st Grade)
Media Center, 3:10-5:00pm
2/1/12 and the last Wednesday of the month

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
Nayes: 0

VIII. Business Administrator's Report

IX. Business Resolutions

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the following meetings:

Workshop Minutes	12/7/11
Regular Meeting Minutes	12/7/11

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. LoCascio
Nayes: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the bills and claims for January 18, 2012 in the total amount of \$127,491.99 as certified by the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for December 2011 as certified by the Interim Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$282,430.49 including \$263,221.88 for the gross payroll, \$3,631.39 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and \$15,577.22 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. LoCascio
Nayes: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the month of November 2011 as certified by the Interim Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. LoCascio
Nays: 0

4. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has received the Reports of the Interim Board Secretary (Secretary) and the Custodian of School Monies (Treasurer) for the month of November 2011; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Interim Secretary has certified that as of the date of the reports, no budgetary line item account, in accordance with the minimum chart of accounts as established by the New Jersey Department of Education, has obligations and payments which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Board of Education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that, after review of the Interim Secretary's monthly financial report, and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)4, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to P.L. 2004 C73, the Board certifies that after review of the Interim Secretary's monthly financial report and certification, that there are no budgetary transfers that cumulatively exceed 10% that would require the approval of the Commissioner of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the financial reports for the months be accepted and shall become a part of the official minutes of this meeting.

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. LoCascio
Nays: 0

5. **WHEREAS** P.L. 2011, c. 202 (Senate Bill 3148) authorizes a local board of education to change the election date of school board members from the third Tuesday in April to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (the General Election); and

WHEREAS, such action requires the adoption of a resolution by a majority vote of a quorum of the local board of education; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 (S-3148) requires that the change in election date remain in effect for four years; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 (S-3148) eliminates the annual voter referendum on the proposed general fund tax levy (i.e., the base budget which is at or below the statutory tax levy cap) in school districts where board of education members are selected at the General Election; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 (S-3148) requires that an additional general fund tax levy proposal (i.e., for an expenditure in excess of the tax levy cap) be presented to voters as a separate question at the General Election; and

WHEREAS, The Essex Fells Board of Education believes that the financial interest of its constituents is safeguarded by the state's tax levy cap and the thorough review of the proposed school budget by the Executive County Superintendent and the Executive County School Business Administrator; and

WHEREAS, The Essex Fells Board of Education believes that more citizens will participate in the selection of its members at the General Election than on the third Tuesday in April and that the higher level of participation will foster positive interest in our public schools; and

WHEREAS, The Essex Fells Board of Education is committed to the non-partisan status of school board membership and the non-partisan conduct of school elections, and believes this principle will not be compromised by conducting board member elections in November;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202 (S-3148), the Essex Fells Board of Education changes the annual election date for its members from the third Tuesday in April to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (the General Election), beginning in 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202 (S-3148), this change will remain in effect at least through November 2015;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202 (S-3148), the annual organization meeting of the Essex Fells Board of Education will take place in the first week of January following the November General Election and that the board of education's next organization meeting will take place on January 2, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202 (S-3148), members of the Essex Fells Board of Education whose terms would have expired by May 1, 2012 will continue to serve in office until the January 2013 organization meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to Governor Christopher Christie, Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of State Kimberly M. Guadagno; Richard E. Constable, III, Acting Commissioner, Department of Community Affairs; Robert F. Giles, Director, Division of Elections, Department of State; Christopher J. Durkin, Essex County Clerk; the Essex County Board of Elections; Christopher Cerf, Acting Commissioner of Education; the Division of Finance, New Jersey Department of Education; and Dr. Lawrence Feinsod, Executive County Superintendent for Essex County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Dr. LoCascio
Nays: 0

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

The Board discussed the following items:

- Aftercare research
- Senior Service Students from public and private schools
- Draft of the 2012-2013 school calendar
- Boiler Project

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

XII. Meeting Open for Public Comment

Fran Bunucci, owner of Tiny Treasures, made herself available for questions. She is aware of the incident and pledges that it will never happen again.

A resident commented on the curriculum, the public hearing on the budget, and the school calendar.

XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board of Education entered into Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss negotiations and legal issues. The matters discussed in executive session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain their confidentiality no longer exists. No formal action will be taken.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
Nays: 0

XIV. Adjournment

The public meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 9:26 P.M. The next **Workshop meeting** of the Board of Education will be **Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.** in the Superintendent's Office, and the next **Regular meeting** of the Board of Education will be **Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
Nays: 0

Student Enrollment: 2011-2012

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Gann/Ms. Almeida-AM	PS	6	4	2
Mrs. Emma	KE	12	5	7
Ms. McMahon/Ms. Almeida-PM	KM/A	12/14*	6/7*	6/7*
Mrs. Massaro	1LM	14	5	9
Ms. Mitchell	1KM	12	3	9
Ms. Belmont	2B	13	7	6
Mrs. Brutman/Mrs. Short	2B/S	13	7	6
Mrs. Haberman	3H	19	7	12
Mrs. Reynolds/Mrs. Hromoko	3R/H	19	7	12
Mrs. Barshay(Mrs. Quinn)/Ms. Ziccardi	4B/Z	12	7	5
Mrs. Hacker	4H	13	8	5
Mrs. Banek	5B	14	8	6
Ms. Craveiro/Ms. McLain	5C/M	14	7	7
Mrs. Buonomo	6B	15	6	9
Ms. Dalton/Mrs. Whitman	6D/W	14	6	8
TOTALS		202	93	109

*PM only

Fire Drills: 2011-2012

Month	Fire Drill	Emergency Drill
September	9-12-11	Lockdown 9-16-11
October	10-18-11	Evacuation to Bleachers 10-25-11
November	11-16-11	Shelter in Place 11-28-11
December	12-20-11	Lockdown 12-22-11
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Mark Resnick
Interim Business Administrator/
Board Secretary