THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ESSEX FELLS, NJ
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBUARY 21, 2024

REGULAR MEETING – 7:30 P.M. – MEDIA CENTER

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 3rd, 2024. 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.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Flag Salute

IV. President's Report

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

VI. Superintendent's Report

- Impact Parent Presentations

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01–04.

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): Rosalie Takkel
Event: Guided Math Strategies to Differentiate Your Math Instruction
Location: Virtual
Date: 2/8/24
Cost: $279.00

Staff Member(s): Rebecca Alpert
Event: Art Therapy: Creative Interventions for Kids with Trauma, Anxiety, ADHD and More!
Location: Virtual
Date: 2/9/24
Cost: $141.61

Staff Member(s): Erika Pilato
Event: Powerful Strategies to Improve SEL
Location: Virtual
Date: 2/14/24 – 2/15/24
Cost: $595.00

Staff Member(s): Jaclyn Carroll
Event: Differentiated Instuction Across All Content Areas (6-12)
Location: Virtual
Date: 2/28/24
Cost: $279.00

Staff Member(s): Erika Pilato
Event: Evidence Bases School Counseling
Location: Virtual
Date: 3/8/24 – 3/9/24
Cost: $275.00

Staff Member(s): Lauren Brzostowski
Event: NJECC
Location: Montclair State University
Date: 3/12/24
Cost: $6.40

Staff Member(s): Candice Fitzgerald
Event: Grades K-12-Dealing Effectively with Disruptive Students: Practical, Proven Techniques
Location: Virtual
Date: 3/27/24
Cost: $159.00

Staff Member(s): Patricia Pakonis
Event: Differentiated Instructions: Increasing Student Success While Decreasing Teacher Prep Time (Grades K-6)
Location: Virtual
Date: TBD
Cost: $279.00

Staff Member(s): Katie MacKenzie
Event: Using AI Tooks to Enhance Student Learning and Increase Teacher Productivity
Location: Virtual
Date: 4/16/24
Cost: 279.00

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

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

EFRD Baseball/Recreation and Travel
March 1st – August 1st, 2024
3:15pm – Dusk / Saturday's 8am - Dusk
Fields

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Lifespan Psychiatry, for the 2023-2024 school year, for the following evaluations:

Psychiatric Evaluation at consultant location	$1.000.00 each
Psychiatric Evaluation at BOE location	$1,250.00 each
Phone Consultation	$100.00 (11-30 mins) $200.00 (30-60 mins)
Classroom Consultation – virtual	$350.00 per hour
Classroom Consultation – BOE location	$$500.00 per hour

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

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

P 1140	Educational Equity Policies/Affirmative Action (M) (Revised)
P 1523	Comprehensive Equity Plan (M) (Revised)
P 1530	Equal Employment Opportunities (M) (Revised)
R 1530	Equal Employment Opportunity Complaint Procedure (M) (Revised)

P 1550	Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices (M) (Revised)
R 2200	Curriculum Content (M) (Revised)
P 2260	Equity in School and Classroom Practices (M) (Revised)
R 2260	Equity in School and Classroom Practices Complaint Procedure (M) (Revised)
P 2411	Guidance Counseling (M) (Revised)
P 3211	Code of Ethics (Revised)
R 5440	Honoring Student Achievement (Revised)
P 5570	Sportsmanship (Revised)
P 5750	Equitable Educational Opportunity (M) (Revised)
P 5755	Equity in Educational Programs and Services (M) (Abolished)
P 5841	Secret Societies (Revised)
P 5842	Equal Access of Student Organizations (Revised)
P & R 7610	Vandalism (Revised)
P 9323	Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition (Revised)
P & R 2423	Bilingual Education (M) (Revised)
P & R 2431.4	Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries (M) (Revised)

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

VIII. Business Administrator's Report

- 2022-23 Audit Resolution
- 2024-25 Budget Update

IX. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01-04.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the following meeting(s):

Regular Workshop Minutes	January 3rd, 2024
Executive Workshop Minutes	January 3rd, 2024

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for February in the amount of $200,042.37, as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for January as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of $387,643.03 including $361,256.34 for the gross payroll, $6,620.33 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and $19,766.36 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

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

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and accepts the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of the Essex Fells School District and the Auditors' Management Report, prepared by the auditing firm of Samuel Klein and Company for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

XII. Public Comment

XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

WHEREAS the following subject is not appropriate to be discussed in a public meeting and is within the exemptions which may be discussed and acted upon and,

WHEREAS only the following subject(s) shall be discussed in private recess by the Board and the minutes made available to the public as soon as the reason for exemption no longer exists, it is therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED at the Public Meeting of the Essex Fells Board of Education on this day Wednesday, February 21, 2024, pursuant to Sections 7 & 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the following subject(s) shall be discussed in a session of the Board closed to the public:

Please be advised that the Board will be going into executive session for approximately thirty minutes for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

XIV. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this public meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at ____ P.M. The next workshop meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 7:30 P.M**. in the Media Center.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

2023-2024

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Burger/Ms. Wiezcorek	PS/AM	14	5	9
Mrs. Burger/Ms. Wiezcorek	PS/PM	11	4	7
Mrs. Focarino/Scoras	KFS	19	11	8
Mrs. Axentiou	KA	18	11	7
Mrs. Brutman/Mrs. Hromoko	1BH	13	7	6
Ms. Anderson	1A	13	7	6
Ms. Duarte	2D	16	7	9
Mrs. Quinn/Mrs. Takkel	2QT	16	7	9
Mrs. Fitzgerald	3F	20	8	12
Ms. Kowalski/Mrs. MacKenzie	3KM	19	8	11
Mrs. Banek/Mrs. Lodato	4BL	15	11	4
Mrs. Hacker	4H	14	10	4
Ms. Jaworski	5J	15	6	9
Mrs. Latino/Mrs. Brzostowski	5LB	15	6	9
Mrs. Santalla/Mrs. Carroll	6SC	15	8	7
Ms. Katsios	6K	15	8	7
TOTAL		**248**	**124**	**124**
Out-of-District	*	3		
FINAL TOTALS		251		
***Total includes 3 out-of-district students.**				**2/21/2024**

Fire Drills: 2023-2024

Month	Fire Drill	Emergency Drill
August	August 17, 2023 – Fire Extinguisher Training MVG/SL	August 31, 2023 – 911 call
September	September 13, 2023	September 14, 2023 – Shelter in Place with EFPD
October	October 17, 2023	October 16, 2023 – Lockdown with EFPD via Share 911
November	November 7, 2023	November 16, 2023 – Shelter in Place with EFPD
December	December 12, 2023	December 4, 2023 – Shelter in Place – Medical Emergency December 12, 2023 – Shelter in Place – Police Activity
January	January 29, 2024	January 8, 2024 – Shelter In Place – Silent Alarm with EFPD
February		February 21, 2024- Shelter In Place to Lockdown with EFPD
March		
April		
May		
June		
July	July 31, 2023	July 31, 2023 – Silent Alarm Drill with EFPD

HIB / V&V Report

As of Date of BOE Meeting	9/6	9/20	10/4	10/18	11/1	11/15	11/29	12/13	1/3	1/17	2/7	2/21			
TOTAL# of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Number of Founded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Violence & Vandalism Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

ESSEX FELLS SCHOOL
DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Essex Fells School is a very special public elementary school enrolling boys and girls in preschool through the sixth grades. Pupils enjoy small classes and a total school population of approximately two hundred and fifty.

The size of the school is a wonderful asset as it allows a strong sense of community and offers teachers and pupils many opportunities to form bonds of collegiality, identification and support. It also supports the concept that every adult in the school is responsible for every child.

The comparatively small faculty is also a benefit. The faculty as a whole are the decision-making body on all questions of teaching and learning. Teachers find it easy to share experiences and act consistently across pupils' entire academic program. The combined efforts of the staff work to support a pupil centered approach to education.

Essex Fells teachers are encouraged to try new ideas, to work collaboratively with colleagues, and to participate fully in all aspects of schooling.

The mission of the school is etched in the mortar of the original schoolhouse with the words Studies Pass Into Character.

The primary goals of an Essex Fells education include:

1. Developing in all pupils the capacity to think critically and communicate effectively through a mastery of written and spoken English.
2. Motivating all pupils to recognize and develop their academic abilities in order to build character and to achieve their full potential.
3. Teaching children to value themselves, their peers and their teachers.
4. Establishing a respect for and a strong sense of responsibility to the physical, social, and aesthetic world around them.
5. Nurturing a love of country and a pride in our American heritage and citizenship.
6. Communicating a love of scholarship and continued interest in life-long learning.
7. Ensuring all pupils will achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all levels.

To secure these common goals, the Essex Fells staff of professional educators recognizes that the collaborative engagement of the children in the learning process is the key to intellectual development. Dedicated teachers create classrooms that are alive with cooperative learning activities and child-centered problem-solving routines. Children are encouraged to explore, to question, to make decisions, and to express opinions in a supportive learning environment. Teachers also model their own commitment to learning by continuing to earn advanced degrees. On-going professional development is acknowledged as the foundation for promoting outstanding pupil achievement.