

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 November 29, 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 January 4th 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; 1 Member of the Public and 1 Staff Member.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the flag salute.

IV. President's Report

Good evening and thank you for joining us. I hope that everyone had a happy and healthy Thanksgiving weekend. I just wanted to acknowledge the wonderful job done at both the variety show and for the Treps Marketplace. The collaborative efforts of the Foundation, the students, staff and families made for 2 memorable experiences that make the student experience at EFS unforgettable. These types of opportunities shape our children to become critical thinkers and allows them to tap into their creative potential. Thank you to all of those individuals who worked so hard to make these experiences a success.

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Buildings & Grounds

- We have applied for a permit from the town for the gates project and are awaiting an update from the vendor.

VII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Dr. Gadaleta noted the 3 programs for the new math series that will be included in 2024-25.

VIII. Finance

- Mr. Lella noted that the auditor had certified the 2023-24 audit, and I will do my certification by December 5th. This is the online submission of revenue, expenses and fund balance to the DOE. Actual hard copy audits to follow. And as the due dates of future audits may be extended, we plan on keeping to the original submission dates as not to carry into budget season.
- Mr. Lella noted that preparations for the 2024-25 budget are now underway.

IX. Personnel

- Dr. Gadaleta noted that there will be 2 resolutions on the next agenda for maternity leave. We are also obtaining resumes for the BCBA coverage beginning in January.
- Dr. Gadaleta welcomed our new paraprofessional who started on Monday.
- Dr. Gadaleta will be meeting with the new 6th grade math and science teacher, Ms. Katsios tomorrow. Ms. Katsios will begin in January.
- Dr. Gadaleta will address staffing for 2024-25 as part of the budget process.

X. Policy

- Dr. Gadaleta reviewed policy P&R 5200 with the Board. They agreed to revise the policy as needed.

XI. Old Business / Board Discussion

- None

XII. New Business / Board Discussion

- Preschool and kindergarten registration will open up in January. The BOE discussed the tuition rate and agreed to keep at the same amount for the upcoming school year.
- Marking period 1 ends on December 8th and report cards will be available December 15th.
- Dr. Gadaleta informed the Board of the change to the 6th grade camp location.

XIII. Public Comment

- Mr. Lyniuk just noted he attended to see how the BOE meeting operates.
- Mrs. Franzi commented on the new camp location.

XIV. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The following Resolution was called at 8:04 P.M.

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 subjects 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, November 29th, 2023, pursuant to Sections 7 & 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the following subjects 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 30 to 45 minutes for the purpose of discussing litigation regarding special education and negotiations. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

XV. Adjournment

At 8:36 P.M. the Board made a motion to adjourn. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 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