

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Regular Meeting held in the Media Center on November 15, 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 4th 2023. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress, and the Star Ledger.

I. Call to Order – 7:30 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-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 Board Attorney; 1 Member of the Public; 2 Staff Members and 1 reporter from The Progress.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the flag salute.

IV. President's Report

Good evening and thank you for joining us tonight. I want to start by congratulating Mr. Mehta on being elected to serve for another term with our Board of Education. Your continued commitment to the district is admirable and appreciated. While not always an easy role, your dedication adds value to the entire community. I look forward to our board continuing to work together to achieve our goals as we enter into our new year.

I would like to recognize our staff members that were recognized on Monday for their years of service to our school district. With 5 years of service, we thank Rory Duarte, Rebecca Alpert, Tracie Wiczorek. With 10 years of service Patricia Pakonis, and Kimberly Trafford. And with an outstanding 25 years of service, Dorotea Banek and Lisa Massaro. Your longevity with the district allows for a continuum of learning that best serves our students. As you grow as educators, our students benefit from your knowledge and experience. While we are recognizing staff on their milestone years, we want to recognize all of our staff for working towards a common goal of student success.

On behalf of the Board I want to wish everyone a safe, healthy and Happy Thanksgiving.

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Gadaleta reported that parent attendance visiting the children for American Education Parent Visitation Week has been well attended.

- Dr. Gadaleta noted that the EFFEE sponsored Variety Show is this Friday at 7 pm, and all are welcome to attend. The children have been practicing very hard and are excited for the show. Dr. Gadaleta thanked the EFFEE.
- Dr. Gadaleta recognized staff members on Monday and their years of service. Dr. Gadaleta thanked all the staff for their efforts.
- The 6th grade vs. Faculty volleyball game will be next week, and outdoors weather permitting.
- Dr. Gadaleta explained the Holiday Shopping Shoppe that is being hosted by the PTA.
- Dr. Gadaleta wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Mr. Toth asked about the safety team, and Dr. Gadaleta explained.

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01–08.

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): Stefania Focarino
 Event: Increase All Your Students Learning with Practical, Timesaving Workstations, PK and Kindergarten
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 11/17/23
 Cost: \$159.00

Staff Member(s): Jessica Lodato
 Event: Motivating the Unmotivated
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 12/8/23
 Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Jessica Lodato
 Event: Improving Emotional Well-Being of Your Students to Increase Challenging Behavior and Increase Learning
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 1/12/24
 Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Jessica Scoras
 Event: Differentiated Instruction in Guided Reading
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 12/4/23
 Cost: \$159.00

Staff Member(s): Jessica Scoras
 Event: Differentiating Instruction in Whole Group Instruction
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 1/23/24
 Cost: \$159.00

Staff Member(s): LeeAnn Smith
 Event: Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Best Practices for A Defensible Process and

Special Education Considerations

Location: Randolph, NJ
 Date: 11/17/23
 Cost: \$19.36

Staff Member(s): LeeAnn Smith
 Event: Comprehensive Assessment for Intervention
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 1/25/24 & 1/26/24
 Cost: \$275.00

Staff Member(s): Nicole Axentiou
 Event: Increase All Your Student’s Learning with Practical, Timesaving Workstations, Pk-Kindergarten
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 11/20/23
 Cost: \$159.00

Staff Member(s): Kristen Kowalski
 Event: Strengthening Students Writing Skills
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 1/18/24
 Cost: \$279.00

Moved by: Mrs. Lavoie Seconded by: Mrs. Burke
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the EFS Remote Learning Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

Moved by: Mrs. Lavoie Seconded by: Mrs. Burke
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2023-2024 Safety Team/Culture Climate Committee:

Michelle Gadaleta	Superintendent/Principal
Rebecca Santin	HIB Representative
Laura Quinn	Teacher Representative
Katie MacKenzie	Teacher Representative
Sue Hacker	Teacher Representative
Lisa Massaro	Teacher Representative
Dorotea Banek	Teacher Representative
Tracie Wiczorek	Teacher Representative
Mary Renz	Nurse/Teacher Representative
*Ilyse Negrin	PTA Representative
Paige Daniels	Foundation Representative
*Updated panel member	

Moved by: Mrs. Lavoie Seconded by: Mrs. Burke

- Mr. Lella explained the additional Business Resolutions.

IX. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01-06.

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

Regular Meeting Minutes	October 18, 2023
Executive Meeting Minutes	October 18, 2023

Moved by: Mr. Toth	Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie
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Ayes: 5	Nays: 0
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- RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for November in the amount of \$315,981.38, as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for October as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$379,117.48 including \$353,971.41 for the gross payroll, \$6,039.80 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$19,106.27 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Mr. Toth	Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie
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Ayes: 5	Nays: 0
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- WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has received the Reports of the Board Secretary (Secretary) and the Custodian of School Monies (Treasurer) for the Month of September;

WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)3, the 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 Secretary’s monthly financial report, and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its 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 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: Mr. Toth	Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie
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Ayes: 5	Nays: 0
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- RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the month of October as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

XIV. Adjournment

At 9 :00 P.M. the Board made a motion to adjourn. The next regular workshop meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, **November 29, 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