

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 1, 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 October 27th, 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-Absent
 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 Staff Member and 1 Member of the Public who arrived at 7:40 P.M.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the flag salute.

IV. President’s Report

- None

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. Gadaleta reported that there would be increased SEL and Counseling support, with further tiers and smaller group sizes to address particular situations.
- School will be closed for the NJEA Convention on November 9th & 10th. This is an opportunity for staff to receive professional development in Atlantic City.
- American Education Week will be November 13th – 17th. EFS will be hosting parents in classrooms and will recognize teaching staff and their years of service.
- The 6th Grade vs. Faculty Volleyball game will Be November 22nd at 11:30 am between the buildings. All are welcome.
- Mrs. Burke asked about resolutions 2 and 3, and the difference between each of them. Dr. Gadaleta explained.

VII. Superintendent’s Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01–03.

- RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the resignation of Kristin Gates, Paraprofessional, for the 2023-2024 school year.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the services of Dr. Leonid Begun for the 2023-2024 school year for the following evaluations:

Psychiatric Evaluation	\$850.00 each
Clearance Evaluation	\$400.00 each

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the services of Bartky Healthcare Center, LLC for the 2023-2024 school year for the following evaluations:

Psychiatric Evaluation	\$1,500.00 each
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Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

VIII. Buildings & Grounds

- Dr. Gadaleta explained how the 2 gates at Hawthorne Road need to be replaced. 3 quotes will be obtained.

IX. Curriculum & Instruction

- Dr. Gadaleta explained that the 6th grade will be joining the Mayor at the Borough for a Veteran’s Day Ceremony on Monday, November 13th, as the district will be closed on the 11th for the teacher’s convention. Veteran’s will then address the 6th grade in the Media Center, joined by our own Mr. Wallace, who served as a Marine.
- Dr. Gadaleta explained the on-going staff PD.
- Dr. Gadaleta discussed the upcoming G&T event coming up for the 6th grade.
- Dr. Gadaleta reported that Mr. Pannullo is hard at work entering the student data profiles into the LinkIt system.

X. Finance

- Mr. Lella noted that he will be beginning the 2024-25 Budget in a few weeks
- Mr. Lella noted that the district will be purchasing ID badge printer ink for the EFPD.

XI. Personnel

- Dr. Gadaleta noted that the SGO’s and PDP’s are being set up by the staff.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted that Ms. Lipper will be going out on maternity leave in January, and we are currently looking for BCBA provider for January – June.

XII. Policy

- Dr. Gadaleta and the Board reviewed policy

XIII. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta noted that the 2024-25 district calendar will be discussed at the November 15th BOE meeting.

XIV. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mr. Lella will be confirming the Class III Officer billing with the auditor and attorney.

XV. Public Comment

- None

XVI. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

At 8:03 P.M. the Board made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss HIB, negotiations, and 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: Mrs. Lavoie

Seconded by: Mrs. Burke

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XVII. Adjournment

At 8 :47 P.M. the Board made a motion to adjourn. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 7:30 P.M. in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary