

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on February 6, 2013, at 7:30 P.M. in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Board President Dr. Steven LoCascio at 7:30 P.M. Dr. LoCascio 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 January 2, 2013. 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, Vice-President – present
Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro – present
Mr. Peter Hutchinson – absent
Dr. Steven LoCascio, President – present
Dr. Michele Nitti – present

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal, and Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

III. Flag Salute

The President led the flag salute.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

V. Buildings & Grounds

- Mr. Lella informed the Board that second and third quotes were being obtained for the file paneling/carbon monoxide project. The second quote came back significantly lower than the first quote, so more research is being done as to the difference in quotes.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that quotes have been obtained for additional cameras, recording devices and monitors. Additional camera purchases were discussed as well as wiring for exterior door windows and alarms on exterior doors.

VI. Curriculum & Instruction

- Mrs. Gadaleta updated the Board on the upcoming teacher evaluation implementation and how she is keeping the staff informed and addressing any concerns they may have. She has planned for a possible professional development day to provide the staff with an overview of what will take place in September 2013.
- Mrs. Gadaleta stated she, as well as other districts, are waiting on guidance from the state in regards to certain aspects of the evaluation program criteria.
- Mrs. D'Alessandro asked if the teachers are notified as to when they are being evaluated. Mrs. Gadaleta informed her there is a difference between tenure and non-tenured staff.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that MAP testing was concluding this week. She explained to the Board how EFS will be expanding the testing to Second Grade as a practice session to make the students feel more comfortable with future testings.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that Achieve 3000 will be expanding down to the Third Grade.
- Mrs. D'Alessandro asked about the teachers response to Achieve 3000. Mrs. Gadaleta responded saying the teachers do like Achieve 3000 but some minor technology issues have been frustrating. Mrs. Cirenza commented that some parents had voiced some frustrations about the system when using it at home.

- Dr. LoCascio asked about the feedback with Rosetta Stone. Mrs. Gadaleta stated last year the system was terrific, however this year there have been a high number of technical issues and how it cuts into the student’s time. The issues are being addressed by the Rosetta Stone Technical Department.
- Dr. LoCascio asked if the Spanish speaking students in the district were using Rosetta Stone to learn English. Mrs. Gadaleta stated they are.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of a professional development day in March for all faculty and the challenge of fitting the training in to 1 day.
- Mrs. Gadaleta discussed revisions to the current report card system, since Common Core is not reflected on the report cards. Updates and changes are to be made for September 2013.

VII. Finance

- Mr. Lella, along with Mrs. Gadaleta, presented a preliminary version of the budget.

VIII. Policy

- Mrs. Gadaleta and the Board discussed and reviewed new policy/regulations for the district.

IX. Superintendent’s Resolutions

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the resignation of Lindsay Mulligan, Paraprofessional, effective January 21, 2013.

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza	Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of the following Paraprofessional, from February 4 – June 30, 2013.

Jessica Kristiansen	6hr/day @ 18/hr	\$19,656
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Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza	Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the submission of *A Uniform Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials – 2011 Revisions* to the Essex County Office of Education.

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza	Seconded by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 4	Nays: 0

X. Business Resolutions

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the submission of the following Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program Waiver to the Essex County Office of Education:

WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district’s participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) program for the 2013-2014, and

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Essex Fells Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Essex an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2013-2014 school year.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Essex Fells Board of Education accepts a donation from the Essex Fells PTA in the amount of \$4,873.00 to be used for the purchase of picnic tables at Essex Fells School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following budget line be increased and that the Business Administrator be authorized to administer it:20-001-400-732 Essex Fells PTA Picnic Tables Fund \$4,873.00.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
Nays: 0

XI. Personnel (Public Items only)

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of an unemployment claim
- Staffing for the 13-14 School Year was addressed in the budget review
- Mrs. Gadaleta provided the Board with job description for the Teacher/Curriculum Coordinator position.

XII. Old Business/Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta asked the Board if there were any items from the survey results that required follow up. Mrs. Gadaleta stated she would bring any items specific to the PTA or Foundation to their attention.
- The Board and Mrs. Gadaleta discussed the teacher comments section on the report cards and that Mrs. Gadaleta will continue to encourage the staff to utilize the comment section.
- Mr. Lella followed up with the Board members to see if they received emails regarding on-line training.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that PSE&G requested a diagram of the school layout in order to proceed to the next step of the Energy Audit. The Board agreed that such information should not be made public and that Mr. Lella will follow up with PSE&G as to other alternatives.

XIII. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mrs. Gadaleta presented the Board with a letter from the Bay Head BOE thanking the EFS for the donation in response to Superstorm Sandy.
- Mr. Lella asked the Board who would be the 12-13 Delegate & Legislative Chairperson.
- Mr. Lella followed up with the Board members to see if they received their emails regarding the 2013 Ethics Disclosure Statements.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that Kindergarten & Preschool Registration had begun.

XIV. Public Comment

No comment.

XV. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

The Board of Education made a motion to enter into executive session at 9:55 P.M. to discuss personnel matters. The items discussed in executive session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain their confidentiality no longer exists. No action will be taken.

Moved by: Mrs. Cirenza
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
Nays: 0

XVI. Adjournment

At 11:14 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Mrs. D'Alessandro
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. Cirenza
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary