

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 March 2, 2022. 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 5th, 2022. 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
Mrs. Kris Huegel-Present
Mr. Raj Mehta-Absent
Mr. Theodore Skopak-Present

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and 1 Member of the Public.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. President's Report

- None

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Gadaleta provided a health update to the BOE addressing lunch and the musical, as well as the removal of the mask mandate on March 7th.
- Dr. Gadaleta informed the Board that we are updating/finalizing the safety plan with the police and implementing the Share911 system. Dr. Gadaleta also reported on the staff PD on safety and security, and new drilling guidance.

VII. Buildings & Grounds

- Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella reported that the vote on the referendum is next Tuesday, March 8th. Flyers were mailed out last week to the community. Mr. Lella noted that the proposed tax impact will not take effect until July 1, 2023, and there will not be an impact in the 2022-23 budget, but instead the 2023-24 budget.

- Dr. Gadaleta reported that the tents and heaters have been installed. Dr. Gadaleta admitted that she was a little disappointed because of all the mud, but we are making every attempt to find a solution. Mrs. Huegel noted that she is looking into a rubber flooring that is used in restaurants that may work.

VIII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Dr. Gadaleta reported on a successful day of staff PD. Tomorrow Dr. Severns will be in district training on assessments.

IX. Finance

- Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella discussed the current proposed budget cuts with the Board since the developments at the last meeting adding an additional out of district placement. Mr. Lella provided the tax impact based on information provided by the tax assessor. The Board discussed and agreed to an initial increase of 2.49% to account for the some of the cuts made due to the new OOD placement. Mr. Lella provided the Board with the new budget timeline due to the 2-week delay in the Governor’s budget address.

X. Personnel

- Personnel was addressed in the budget discussion

In an effort to accommodate the 1 member of public, the Board agreed to move up the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Public Comment

- The member of the public made a comment about the lunch and tents set up. She also asked if the Science Curriculum is up to standards as it related to the budget cuts. Dr. Gadaleta noted it is. She also commented on how an outside sub service might introduce the district to some new future candidates.

XI. Policy

- The Board of Education discussed Policy

XII. Old Business / Board Discussion

- None

XII. New Business / Board Discussion

- None

XIV. Public Comment

*See Above**

XV. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

At 9:17 P.M. the Board made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel. 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. Huegel

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XVI. Adjournment

At 9:43 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn. The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mrs. Huegel

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary