

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 and live streamed on February 2, 2022. 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 31, 2022. 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
 Mrs. Kris Huegel-Present
 Mr. Raj Mehta-Present
 Mr. Theodore Skopak-Absent

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and 2 Members of the Public. 27 Members of the Public logged in to live stream.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. President’s Report

- Good Evening Everyone-

Thank you for joining us tonight. We are happy to be meeting again in person with the option to tune in via our Live Stream.

I want to happily share with you that we are working on settling the contract between the Board of Education and Dr. Gadaleta. We look forward to the continued partnership with Dr. Gadaleta.

I additionally want to recognize the Board’s appreciation for expediting the process to hire the new sixth grade teacher. Continuity in instruction is a priority, especially for our sixth graders. We look forward to having Mrs. Lodato join the staff.

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- Dr. Nitti shared her perspective on a Board as a Whole vs. Committees and as to why Essex Fells operates this way due to past incidents that occurred within the district.

VI. Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. Gadaleta reported that we saw a surge in cases during January, but a decline in February. Dr. Gadaleta spoke about the student consent form and noted that the school nurse had received a CLIA license for testing.
- Dr. Gadaleta shared that there were 36 registrants for 28 pre-school slots with the majority being 4 year olds. There will be a lottery on February 3rd. Dr. Gadaleta also noted that there were 22 children registered for Kindergarten.

- Mr. Toth asked about the testing guidelines.

VII. Superintendents Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01-02.

1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Susan FitzGibbon as 6th Grade Temporary Teacher, BA Step 1, beginning February 7, 2022 through March 7, 2022 for the 2021-22 school year at a prorated salary of \$5,666.00.

Moved by: Mrs. Huegel

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the submission of the School Self –Assessment for Determining Grades Statement of Assurance for the 2021-2022 school year to the Essex County Office of Education.

Moved by: Mrs. Huegel

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

VIII. Business Resolutions

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

1. WHEREAS, the Essex Fells Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) advertised for bids for Roof Replacement at Essex Fells Elementary School Project (the “Project”);

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2022, the Board received bids for the Project;

WHEREAS, the lowest bid was submitted by VMG was withdrawn due to a missing Addendum which is a non-waivable material defect; and

WHEREAS, Laumar Roofing Co., Inc. was the next lowest bidder (“Laumar”), with a Bid Form A Base Bid in the amount of \$640,000; and Bid Form B Base Bid in the amount of \$405,000 for a total contract sum of \$1,045,000; and

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by Laumar is responsive in all material respects;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to award the contract for the Project in the total contract amount of \$1,045,000 to Laumar as the lowest responsive bidder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Board hereby awards the contract for the Project to Laumar as the lowest responsive bidder, for a total contract sum of \$1,045,000 for Bid Form A Base Bid and Bid Form B Base Bid.
2. This award is expressly conditioned upon the successful contractor furnishing the requisite insurance certificate and labor and materials/performance bonds as required in the project specifications, together with an AA201-Project Manning Report, an executed A-101-Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor and A-201-General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, as prepared by the Board Attorney, within ten (10) days of the date hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft the agreement with the successful bidder consistent with this Resolution and with the terms contained in the bid documents approved by the Board for the Project. The

Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

Moved by: Mrs. Huegel

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

IX. Buildings & Grounds

- Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella spoke about the roof project, bids were opened on January 27th and at today's meeting we were passing a resolution to award the bid. Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella shared some initial referendum analysis.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted that we are proceeding with the implementation of Share911, which is being added to our already fulfilled Alyssa's Law requirement.

X. Curriculum & Instruction

- Dr. Gadaleta noted that the staff would be utilizing Teacher Pay Teachers, where teachers share lesson plans.

XI. Finance

- Mr. Lella noted that the district had its Midyear Budget Review with the County BA and consortium district's. This is an opportunity for districts to discuss the current and upcoming school years.
- Mr. Lella that the information to complete the audit from the Treasury was now available and final audits are due by March 15th.
- Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella discussed the 2022-23 budget.

XII. Personnel

- Dr. Gadaleta shared that Mrs. Jessica Lotado would be the new 6th grade teacher and feels she will be a very good fit.

XIII. Policy

- None

XIV. Old Business / Board Discussion

- The Board will discuss legal questions/impacts of the crossing guard in executive session.
- We are awaiting the delivery of the outdoor tent, which will be purchased with ESSER III Funding.

XV. New Business / Board Discussion

- The Board discussed committees.

XVI. Public Comment

- None

XVII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

At 8:17 P.M. the Board made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss 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. Huegel

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XVIII. Adjournment

At 8:54P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn. The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary