

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Regular Workshop Meeting held in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School on December 1, 2021. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Kris Huegel, at 7:32 P.M. Mrs. Huegel 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 8th, 2021. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress and the Star Ledger, and posted on the district's website."

I. Call to Order – 7:32 P.M.

- The meeting was called to order by the Board President.

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Kris Huegel, President-Present
Dr. Steven LoCascio, Vice-President-Present
Mrs. Amanda Haber-Present
Mr. Raj Mehta-Present
Mr. Theodore Skopak-Absent

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and 10 members of the public.
(1 additional member of the public arrived at 8:55 P.M)

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. President's Report

- Good evening Everyone-

I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving. As you know, we have had a few COVID cases since our last board meeting. I would like to thank Mrs. Renz, Dr. Gadaleta, Dr. Nitti and the West Orange health dept. for all their hard work on how to safely handle the cases and determine the best way for our students to learn in each individual class. Thank you to the staff for all the modifications they are making to deal with travel and health related quarantines. Thank you to our students and their families for being understanding of the safety and health protocols that are in place. As always, our goal is to keep the students and staff at school in-person, if it is safe to do so.

Unfortunately, COVID is still an ongoing health concern. Please remember that un-vaccinated persons are the most at risk and need to be conscious of health and safety protocols, even when they are not in school. We understand that this situation is not easy and appreciate everyone's commitment to our school's success. Dr. Gadaleta will be sharing updated health guidance tonight. Now it is time for the Superintendent's Report.

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Gadaleta provided Health Update.
 - EFS has had 9 cases in the last 10 days, with a cluster in the 1st grade which caused the class closure. Others are being monitored and we are watching students that traveled.

- Dr. Gadaleta reported that at the Safe Return Committee Meeting she discussed the duration times of isolation vs. quarantine. Also a checklist will be prepared to provide the community with examples.
- Dr. Gadaleta explained about the possibility of student testing.
 - Mrs. Haber noted that we are handling the situation very well.

VII. Buildings & Grounds

- Dr. Gadaleta explained the addition of 2 small steps being added to the outdoor bleachers. Dr. Gadaleta thanked the W. Essex Soccer Club for covering this cost. Mr. Lella provided photos.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted the location of the new dumpster location. Mr. Lella provided photos.
- Dr. Gadaleta provided an update to the roofing project. The architect will come out tomorrow with a roofing manufacturer to survey the roofs.

VIII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Dr. Gadaleta explained that Dr. Severns would be the PD speaker for assessments.
 - Mrs. Haber noted she had worked with her before and was very excited to hear she would be working with EFS.

IX. Finance

- Mr.Lella reported that the ARP/ESSER III grant had been submitted on November 24th. The district was to receive 150k marked for B&G, but also received an additional 175k in funding. Funds are to be obligated by September 2023 and spend by October 2024.

X. Policy

- Dr. Gadaleta explained and discussed policy with the Board.

P 2422	Comprehensive Health and Physical Education (M) (Revised)
P 2467	Surrogate Parents and Resource Family Parents (M) (Revised)
P 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)
P 5116	Education of Homeless Children (Revised)
P & R 7432	Eye Protection (M) (Revised)
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations (M) (Revised)
R 8420.1	Fire and Fire Drills (M) (Revised)
P 8540	School Nutrition Programs (M) (Revised)
P 8550	Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Service Bill (M) (Revised)
P 8600	Student Transportation (M) (Revised)
P 6115.01	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls–Allowability of Costs (New)
P 6115.02	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls–Mandatory Disclosures (New)
P 6115.03	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Conflict of Interest (M) (New)
P 6311	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants (M) (Revised)
P 1648.11	The Road Forward COVID-19 – Health and Safety (M) (New)
P 1648.14	Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings–COVID-19(New)
P 2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program (M) (New)
P & R 5751	Sexual Harassment of Students (M) (Revised)

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta reported that she had met with the EFPD and discussed the crossing guard request. Chief Volker noted the following:
 - Currently \$18 per hour but could increase
 - Should consider PM as well as AM coverage
 - Additional cost for signs, painting, uniforms and training
 - Address for sick time, as EFPD can't commit/guarantee coverage if absent
 - Once the position is in place, the location must stay filled
 - The Board discussed. Funding could be addressed but coverage is the issue
- The Board discussed the wording of October 10th for the 2022-23 calendar. W. Essex has as PD / No school. The Board discussed.

XII. New Business / Board Discussion

- None

XIII. Public Comment

- Dr. Orsini asked about residency.
- Mrs. LoCascio asked about ADL programming.
- Dr. Orsini asked about the future of ADL programming.
- Dr. Gadaleta and the Board addressed.
- Dr. Nitti commented on the ADL and current health update.
- Mrs. Davis thanked Dr. Gadaleta for keeping the school open. She also thanked Dr. Nitti for her guidance and the efforts of Nurse Renz.

XIV. Adjournment

At 9:04 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn. The next meeting of The Board of Education **Wednesday, December 14, 2021, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mrs. Haber

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
 Business Administrator/
 Board Secretary