

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Regular Public Meeting held on October 6, 2021. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Kris Huegel, at 7:35 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 – 7:35 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-Present

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; 4 Members of the Public and 1 Staff Member.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the salute to the flag.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

V. President’s Report

Good Evening Everyone-

Welcome to our first in-person board meeting since March 4, 2020. Thank you for joining us in-person and virtually this evening.

The first month of the new school year has started off without a hitch, and I would like to thank everyone in our school community for their efforts. EFS is lucky to have the support and cooperation of our teachers, students, administrators, staff members and families in achieving the goal of keeping the kids healthy and safe for in-person instruction. Thank you to the Essex Fells PTA and Foundation for their contributions to our school. Having in-person events like the first day of school breakfast, Back to School Night, the Book Fair, the parent get-together, enrichment and school lunch are things that were missed last year, and it is great to enjoy them again this year. It is also reassuring to feel the community atmosphere we are used to at Essex Fells School again. As always, please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

It is now time for the Superintendent’s Report.

VI. Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Gadaleta thanked the parents for their involvement with a smooth school re-opening.
- Dr. Gadaleta reported that the ADL training will be rescheduled due to storm IDA. The new date is October 12th for staff, parents will be virtual on October 14th, and grades 4-6 will be on October 15th.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted that we are currently participating in the Student Council Week of Respect; the EFFD will come to visit on October 22nd for Fire Prevention Month; Staff PD on October 12th will include ADL, Achieve 3000, NWP and Genesis; October 20th and 21st will be in person Teacher/Parent Conferences.

VII. Superintendents Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01 –7

- 1. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the payment of the following travel related expenses in accordance with the travel policy 6471 for Professional Development:

Staff Member(s): Jackie Castellano
 Event: The New Jersey Education Computing Cooperative
 Location: Montclair State

Date: 9/17/21 – 10/15/21 – 11/19/21 - 12/10/21 – 1/21/22 – 2/18/22
 3/7/22 – 3/8/22– 4/22/22 – 5/20/22 – 6/9/22
 Cost: \$0.00

Staff Member(s): Steven J. Lella
 Event: Essex County Association of School Business Officials
 Location: Nanina's In the Park
 Date: 9/22/21 – 10/20/21 – 11/17/21 – 12/10/21– 1/26/22 – 2/16/22 –
 3/23/22 –4/27/22 – 5/18/22
 Cost: \$300.00

Staff Member(s): LeeAnn Smith
 Event: Essex County Special Education Roundtable
 Location: The Taphouse, Wayne
 Date: 9/28/21
 Cost: \$6.79

Staff Member(s): LeeAnn Smith
 Event: Essex County Special Education Roundtable Meetings
 Location: West Orange
 Date: 10/19/21 – 11/16/21 – 12/21/21– 1/18/22 – 2/15/22 – 3/15/22 –
 4/19/22 – 5/17/22 - 6/14/22
 Cost: \$32.13

Staff Member(s): LeeAnn Smith
 Event: Hot Issues in Special Education
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 12/2/2021
 Cost: \$125.00

Staff Member(s): Rosalie Takkel
 Event: Dyslexia – Best Targeted Interventions to Accelerated Greater Literacy Success
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 11/12/2021
 Cost: \$279.00

Staff Member(s): Katie McNish
 Event: NAEA Conference
 Location: Virtual
 Date: TBD
 Cost: \$70.00

Staff Member(s): Laurie Fischer
 Event: Phoncik – Back to School
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 9/21/21
 Cost: \$0.00

Staff Member(s): Laurie Fischer
 Event: Child Study Team Training Series Inservice 1&2
 Location: New Providence, NJ
 Date: 10/20/21 and 11/3/21
 Cost: \$216.80

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Haber
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Use of Facilities Request for the following:

Essex Fells Cub Scouts Pack 321 Interest Meeting
 9/23/21 – 3:30pm to 4:30pm

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Haber
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Use of Facilities Request for the following:

Essex Fells Foundation for Educational Excellence
 Fall Enrichment Programs

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Haber
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Use of Facilities Request for the following:

EFRD - Youth Basketball Program Grades 3-6
 Nov. 8th – March 14th (M – F 5pm-8pm)
 Saturday's (9am-12pm)

12/11, 12/18, 1/8, 1/22, 2/5, 2/12
 EFRD will pay for custodian

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Haber

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

5. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the second reading of the following bylaws/regulations/policies:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| P 1648.11 | The Road Forward COVID-19 – Health and Safety (New) |
| P 0131 | Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations (Revised) |
| P 2421 | Career and Technical Education (Revised) |
| P 3134 | Assignment of Extra Duties (Revised) |
| P & R 3142 | Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member (Revised) |
| P & R 3221 | Evaluation of Teachers (M) (Revised) |
| P & R 3222 | Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators (M) (Revised) |
| P & R 4146 | Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member (Revised) |
| P & R 6471 | School District Travel (M) (Revised) |

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Haber

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

6. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the first reading of the following bylaws/regulations/policies:

- | | |
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| P 1648.13 | School Employee Vaccination Requirements (New) |
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Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Haber

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

7. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the submission of the ARP - IDEA application for Fiscal Year 2021-22, and accepts the grant award of the funds upon subsequent approval of the FY 2021-22 ARP IDEA application in the following amounts:

Basic (ages 3-21)	\$10,615
Preschool (ages 3-5)	<u>\$ 907</u>
Total	\$11,522

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mrs. Haber

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

VIII. Buildings & Grounds

- Dr. Gadaleta reported that the exterior steps leading to the Art Room entrance are showing signs of the edging popping up and some sinking. Two contractors looked at the steps and deemed the area to be safe and it does not appear to be a sink hole. Mr. Lella will obtain quotes for future repair.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted that she and Mr. Lella had spoken with the architect regarding the roofing project, and we are awaiting the NJDOE project number.

IX. Curriculum & Instruction

- Dr. Gadaleta noted that the staff would be utilizing District Baseline Assessments to review student data.
- Dr. Gadaleta reported that NJSS testing would begin next week for grades 4-6, Reading and Math, and Science for Grade 6.
- Dr. Gadaleta will be contacting Social Studies Resources vendors for anticipated curriculum revision.

X. Finance

- None

XI. Policy

- Will be discussed at a future meeting

XII. Business Administrator’s Report

- Mr. Lella noted that the 2020-21 Audit would be starting soon.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board that the district again received a Health Insurance Premium Rebate as part of the Affordable Care Act, which would go back eligible staff members.

XIII. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01-9.

1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the following meeting(s):

Regular Meeting Minutes	August 18, 2021
Executive Session Minutes	August 18, 2021
Workshop Meeting Minutes	September 1, 2021
Executive Session Minutes	September 1, 2021
Moved by: Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by: Mr. Skopak
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for September in the amount of **\$292,471.65** as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for August as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$65,330.75, including \$60,805.54 for the gross payroll, \$2,729.51 for the Board’s share of FICA/Medicare and \$1,795.70 for the State’s share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio	Seconded by: Mr. Skopak
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

2. WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received the Reports of the Board Secretary (Secretary) and the Custodian of School Monies (Treasurer) for the Month of June - Final;

WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Secretary has certified that as

of the date of the reports, no budgetary line-item account, in accordance with the minimum chart of accounts as established by the New Jersey Department of Education, has obligations and payments which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Board of Education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that, after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial report, and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)4, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to P.L. 2004 C73, the Board certifies that after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial report and certification, that there are no budgetary transfers that cumulatively exceed 10% that would require the approval of the Commissioner of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the financial reports for the months be accepted and shall become a part of the official minutes of this meeting.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mr. Skopak
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

- 3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the month of August as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mr. Skopak
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

- 4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the award for two Classroom Sinks and two touchless water fountains at Essex Fells School to Tri-Plex Industries Inc, 933 Route 9, South Amboy NJ, in the amount of \$34,000 as per the attached proposal dated 8-20-2021.

NOTE: Amounts are for construction services only and do not include Architectural Engineering Fees. A portion of the funding will be with CARES ACT ESSER II Funds.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mr. Skopak
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

- 5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following contract with the Caldwell-West Caldwell Board of Education for the 2021-2022 School Year:

Transportation of Special Education student

NOTE: Contracts with BA

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mr. Skopak
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

- 6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves an additional 6.75 hours for LeeAnn Smith as ESY Child Study Coordinator, for Summer 2021 at the contracted rate.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, contracting with Delta T/Precision HR for Custodial Services for the 2021- 2022 school year at a rate of up to \$27.00 per hour.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

8. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the disposal of the following obsolete equipment:

Tractor

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

9. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves proposal #11730 from EI Associates to provide services with regard to roof replacement and pre-referendum services including authorization to update the District’s LRFP as necessary.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

XIV. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta informed the Board that additional State Funding will be made available for School Employee Covid testing. EFS has elected for Option #1, in which a vendor comes to the district to test unvaccinated staff. We are currently waiting to hear on the test type and scheduling.
 - Dr. LoCascio asked how billing would be handled. It appears billing will go to the state
 - Mr. Mehta asked how many staff were unvaccinated, there are currently 7.

XV. New Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta noted that although Culturally Responsive Teaching is not yet required, EFS does provide. The Board briefly discussed. Mrs. Haber noted that she had taken a course over the summer on how to present to children.

XVI. Public Comment

- Mayor Davis noted a suggestion from the community regarding CRT, to keep doing what we are doing and not focus on political issues.
- Mayor Davis said it was great to see everyone in person. He thanked the Administration and teachers for all of their hard work over the last 18 months. In his experience hearing about other towns and schools he feels EFS has handled the situation very well, and again thanked everyone for their efforts.
- Dr. Gadaleta addressed a question received via email regarding CRT.

XVII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

At 8:03 P.M. the Board made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss 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: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

XVIII. Adjournment

At 8:26 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn. The next meeting of The Board of Education will held on **Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 7:30 PM** in the Gymnasium.

Moved by: Dr. LoCascio

Seconded by: Mr. Skopak

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary