

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ESSEX FELLS, NJ
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

WORKSHOP MEETING – 7:30 P.M. – MEDIA CENTER

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 September 3, 2024. 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.

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Amanda Haber, President
Mr. John Toth, Vice-President
Mr. Raj Mehta
Mrs. Caragh Lavoie
Mrs. Jacquelyn Burke

III. Flag Salute

IV. President's Report

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

VI. Superintendent's Report

- Back to School 9/5/24
- Back to School Night 9/11/24

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

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

1. **WHEREAS**, the Essex Fells Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") and the Essex Fells Teachers' Association (hereinafter referred to as "the Association") have negotiated a successor Collective Negotiations Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "CNA") for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years; and

WHEREAS, the Association has, by a majority vote of its membership, ratified the CNA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby ratifies and approves of the terms of the CNA for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years, which is attached to this Resolution and made a part hereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute, on behalf of the Board, the CNA by and between the Board and the Association.

**Revised for contract language.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of the following stipend positions for the 2024-2025 school year at the contractual rate:

Lori Sink

Sixth Grade Event - \$250

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

VIII. Buildings & Grounds

- Summer Projects

IX. Curriculum & Instruction

- Professional Development

X. Finance

XI. Personnel

- SGO Changes

XII. Policy

- Policy Discussion:

P 0141	Board Member Number and Term (Revised)
P 0141.1	Board Member Number and Term – Sending District (Revised)
P 0141.2	Board Member Number and Term – Receiving District (Revised)
P 0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency (M) (Abolished)
P 2200	Curriculum Content (M) (Revised)
P & R 3160	Physical Examination (M) (Revised)
P & R 4160	Physical Examination (M) (Revised)
R 5200	Attendance (M) (Revised)
P 5337	Service Animals (Revised)
P 5350	Student Suicide Prevention (M) (Revised)
P 7231	Gifts From Vendors (M) (Abolished)

P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations (M) (Revised)
P & R 8467	Firearms and Weapons (M) (Revised)
P 9181	Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants (Revised)

XIII. Old Business / Board Discussion

XIV. New Business / Board Discussion

- October Workshop Date

XV. Public Comment

XVI. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

WHEREAS the following subject is not appropriate to be discussed in a public meeting and is within the exemptions which may be discussed and acted upon and,

WHEREAS only the following subject(s) shall be discussed in private recess by the Board and the minutes made available to the public as soon as the reason for exemption no longer exists, it is therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED at the Public Meeting of the Essex Fells Board of Education on this day Wednesday, September 4, 2024, pursuant to Sections 7 & 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the following subject(s) shall be discussed in a session of the Board closed to the public:

Please be advised that the Board will be going into executive session for approximately thirty minutes for the purpose of discussing legal matters. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

XVII. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this public meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at ____ P.M. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

AGENDA

September 4, 2024

2024-2025

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Axentiou/Mrs. Fornini	PS/AM	10	0	10
Mrs. Axentiou/Mrs. Fornini	PS/PM	13	8	5
Mrs. Mauro	KM	15	7	8
Mrs. Brutman/Mrs. Takkel	KBT	15	7	8
Mrs. Fitzgerald	1F	18	11	7
Mrs. Gann/Mrs. Hromoko	1GH	19	11	8
Mrs. Quinn	2Q	13	8	5
Ms. Duarte/Mrs. Focarino	2DF	14	7	7
Ms. Kowalski	3K	16	7	9
Ms. Anderson/Mrs. MacKenzie	3AM	16	7	9
Mrs. Banek	4B	20	8	12
Mrs. Lodato/Mrs. Ennis	4LE	20	9	11
Mrs. Fogarty	5F	15	11	4
Mrs. Jaworski/Mrs. Brzostowski	5JB	15	11	4
Mrs. Santalla	6S	16	6	10
Mrs. Hacker/Mrs. Sink	6HS	16	9	7
TOTAL		251	127	124
Out-of-District	*	3		
FINAL TOTALS		254		

*Total includes 3 out-of-district students.

8/19/2024

Fire Drills: 2024-2025

Month	Fire Drill	Emergency Drill
August	8/27/24	August 23, 2024 – 911 call
September		
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July	July 31, 2024	July 31, 2024 – Walkie-Talkie Check

HIB / V&V Report

As of Date of BOE Meeting	8/21	9/4													
TOTAL# of Reported Incidents	0	0													
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0													
Number of Founded Incidents	0	0													
Violence & Vandalism Incidents	0	0													

ESSEX FELLS SCHOOL
DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Essex Fells School is a very special public elementary school enrolling boys and girls in preschool through the sixth grades. Pupils enjoy small classes and a total school population of approximately two hundred and fifty.

The size of the school is a wonderful asset as it allows a strong sense of community and offers teachers and pupils many opportunities to form bonds of collegiality, identification and support. It also supports the concept that every adult in the school is responsible for every child.

The comparatively small faculty is also a benefit. The faculty as a whole are the decision-making body on all questions of teaching and learning. Teachers find it easy to share experiences and act consistently across pupils' entire academic program. The combined efforts of the staff work to support a pupil centered approach to education.

Essex Fells teachers are encouraged to try new ideas, to work collaboratively with colleagues, and to participate fully in all aspects of schooling.

The mission of the school is etched in the mortar of the original schoolhouse with the words Studies Pass Into Character.

The primary goals of an Essex Fells education include:

1. Developing in all pupils the capacity to think critically and communicate effectively through a mastery of written and spoken English.
2. Motivating all pupils to recognize and develop their academic abilities in order to build character and to achieve their full potential.
3. Teaching children to value themselves, their peers and their teachers.
4. Establishing a respect for and a strong sense of responsibility to the physical, social, and aesthetic world around them.
5. Nurturing a love of country and a pride in our American heritage and citizenship.
6. Communicating a love of scholarship and continued interest in life-long learning.
7. Ensuring all pupils will achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all levels.

To secure these common goals, the Essex Fells staff of professional educators recognizes that the collaborative engagement of the children in the learning process is the key to intellectual development. Dedicated teachers create classrooms that are alive with cooperative learning activities and child-centered problem-solving routines. Children are encouraged to explore, to question, to make decisions, and to express opinions in a supportive learning environment. Teachers also model their own commitment to learning by continuing to earn advanced degrees. On-going professional development is acknowledged as the foundation for promoting outstanding pupil achievement.