

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

REGULAR 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 January 3rd, 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

- NJSLA Student Recognition
- Back to School Night/Book Fair
- Picture Day
- Lunch/Recess Schedule Modifications

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01–09.

- 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): Marco Pannullo
Event: ISC CC Exam
Location: East Orange, NJ
Date: 9/19/24
Cost: \$0.00

Staff Member(s): Marco Pannullo
 Event: NJECC
 Location: Montclair, NJ
 Date: 9/20/24, 10/18/24, 11/15/24, 12/16/24, 1/17/25, 2/7/25, 3/11/25, 3/12/25, 4/11/25, 5/16/25, 6/5/25
 Cost: \$0.00

Staff Member(s): Kimberly Trafford
 Event: NJECC
 Location: Montclair, NJ
 Date: 9/20/24, 10/18/24, 11/15/24, 12/16/24, 1/17/25, 2/7/25, 3/11/25, 3/12/25, 4/11/25, 5/16/25, 6/5/25
 Cost: \$0.00

Staff Member(s): Kristen Kowalski
 Event: Conquer Mathematics
 Location: Pompton Plains, NJ
 Date: 10/1/24, 11/6/24, 11/26/24
 Cost: \$570.00

Staff Member(s): Kristen Kowalski
 Event: IXL Live
 Location: Morristown, NJ
 Date: 10/17/24
 Cost: \$107.00

Staff Member(s): Mary Renz
 Event: School Nurses: Best Strategies for Success During School Medical Emergencies
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 10/28/24
 Cost: \$295.00

Staff Member(s): John Thomas
 Event: IPN and IAQ
 Location: Mahwah, NJ
 Date: 2/7/25 & 2/24/25
 Cost: \$20.68

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent the appointment of, Sophie Kearny, Substitute Teacher for the school year 2024-2025, pending the usual criminal history, background check and county approval.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

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

PTA Meetings – Media Center 8:45-9:45am

Dates: 9/19/24, 10/10/24, 11/14/24, 12/12/24, 1/9/25, 2/6/25, 3/6/25, 4/3/25, 5/8/25, 6/12/25

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

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

EFFEE Meetings – Media Center 7:00pm-9:00pm

Dates: 10/8/24, 11/12/24, 12/10/24, 1/14/25, 2/11/25, 3/11/25, 4/8/25, 5/13/25, 6/10/25

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

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

1st Grade Girl Scouts – Gymnasium 3:05pm-4:15pm

Dates: 10/18/24, 11/22/24, 12/13/24, 1/17/25, 2/7/25, 3/7/25, 4/11/25, 5/16/25, 6/6/25

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

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

3rd Grade Brownies – Gymnasium 3:05pm-4:15pm

Dates: 10/4/24, 12/6/24, 1/10/25, 2/28/25, 4/4/25, 5/2/25, 6/13/25

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

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

EFFEE - Fall 2024 Enrichment Programs
10/7/24 – 12/20/24
Gymnasium & Classrooms

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

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

6th Grade Car Wash
10/6/24 9:30am-1:30pm
Blacktop & Grounds

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

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

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)

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

VIII. Business Administrator's Report

- NJSBA BOE Training

IX. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01-06.

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

Regular Meeting Minutes	August 21 st , 2024
Executive Meeting Minutes	August 21 st , 2024

Moved by:	Seconded by:
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Ayes:	Nays:
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2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for September in the amount of \$370,693.85; 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 \$80,016.61 including \$74,502.59 for the gross payroll, \$3,344.40 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and \$2,169.62 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by:	Seconded by:
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Ayes:	Nays:
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3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the month of July and for August as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by:	Seconded by:
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Ayes:	Nays:
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4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves an additional 2 (two) 2024 summer hours for Judi Reynolds, Summer Lead Teacher at \$65 per hour.

Moved by:	Seconded by:
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Ayes:	Nays:
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5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves an additional 26.5 (twenty six and a half) 2024 summer hours for Kimberly Trafford, Summer Technology Support at \$65 per hour, for transition.

Moved by:	Seconded by:
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Ayes:	Nays:
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6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the 6th grade gift to Essex Fells School of a Digital Marquee in the amount of \$11,800.00.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

X. **Old Business / Board Discussion**

- BOE Workshop Date rescheduled for 10/1/24

XI. **New Business / Board Discussion**

XII. **Public Comment**

XIII. **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 18, 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 personnel and legal matters. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

XIV. **Adjournment**

RESOLVED that this public meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at ____ P.M. The next workshop meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

AGENDA

September 18, 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	9/16/24	September 12, 2024
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	9/18											
TOTAL# of Reported Incidents	0	0	0											
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0											
Number of Founded Incidents	0	0	0											
Violence & Vandalism Incidents	0	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.