

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Regular Meeting held in the Media Center on August 21, 2024. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Amanda Haber, at 7:36 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 3, 2024. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress, and the Star Ledger.

I. Call to Order – 7:36 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
 Mr. Raj Mehta-Present
 Mrs. Caragh Lavoie-Present
 Mrs. Jacquelyn Burke-Present

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and one public.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the flag salute.

IV. President’s Report

Thank you for joining us for our first meeting for the 2024-2025 school year. While the summer months are often seen as a time for rest and rejuvenation, for our administrative team, it has been a period of planning and preparation. As a Board, we commend the work that has been done to prepare for what promises to be an extraordinary year of learning, growth, and achievement. Your commitment to excellence is truly inspiring, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated team leading our school.

I am happy to report that tonight the board will be voting to ratify and approve the successor Collective Negotiations Agreement with the Essex Fells Teachers Association for the 2024-2027 School years. We look forward to working together with enthusiasm and determination, always keeping the best interests of our students at the forefront of our efforts.

This year, we have the opportunity to build upon our successes and tackle new challenges with a spirit of collaboration and innovation. The Board is committed to fostering an environment where every student feels supported and empowered to reach their highest potential. Our focus will be on enhancing academic programs, embracing innovative teaching methods, and ensuring that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed. On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to extend a warm welcome to all of you—parents, students, teachers, and community members—as we prepare to embark on another year of educational excellence and growth.

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. Gadaleta reported that we will discuss goals later in the meeting.
- This year’s school theme is the GOAT. Dr. Gadaleta explained the initiative.
- Dr. Gadaleta was happy to report that we are approving the ratification of contract between the BOE and the EFTA and is looking forward to a happy working atmosphere for the 2024-25 school year.

- Dr. Gadaleta explained the resignation resolutions, wishing the staff members best of luck and the new appointments. The Board discussed.
- Dr. Gadaleta asked the Board to review Policy 141.1 regarding serving as a BOE member as a sending district.

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01–29.

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): John Thomas
 Event: CEFM Training
 Location: Mt. Olive, NJ
 Date: 07/16/24
 Cost: \$28.01

Staff Member(s): Marco Pannullo
 Event: Apple IT Tech Camps
 Location: New York, NY
 Date: 6/25/24 & 6/26/24
 Cost: \$61.96

Staff Member(s): Marco Pannullo
 Event: ISCZ NJ July Event
 Location: Virtual
 Date: 7/20/24 & 7/27/24
 Cost: \$0.00

Staff Member(s): Marco Pannullo
 Event: CompTIA Security
 Location: Online
 Date: 8/26/24-8/30/24
 Cost: \$0.00

Staff Member(s): Steven Lella
 Event: NJASBO
 Location: Whippany, NJ
 Date: 9/12/24, 10/17/24, 11/12/24, 12/10/24, 1/14/25, 2/23/25, 3/27/25, 4/10/25, 5/20/25
 Cost: \$1,402.29

Staff Member(s): Steven Lella
 Event: Essex County ASBO
 Location: Belleville, NJ
 Date: 9/25/24, 10/16/24, 11/13/24, 12/13/24, 1/22/25, 2/26/25, 3/26/25, 4/16/25, 5/14/25
 Cost: \$1,402.29

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

6th Grade Parent Representative Meeting
 9/6/24 – Media Center
 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

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:

EFFD Fire Hose Testing
7/24/24 – Exterior Grounds
8:00am – 2:00pm

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

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:

EFPD Testing
10/4/24 – Gymnasium
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

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

WEFC – Soccer Practice/Games
September 2024-June 2025 – Fields
Monday – Sunday 4:15pm – 6:25pm

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the resignation of Tracie Wiczorek, Preschool Teacher, with June 30, 2024, as the last day of employment.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the resignation of Stephanie Bavbek, Paraprofessional, with June 30, 2024, as the last day of employment.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

8. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by

the Superintendent, the resignation of Jaclyn Carroll, 6th Grade Teacher, with August 9, 2024, as the last day of employment.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke	Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

9. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Nicole Axentiou, Preschool teacher, BA Step 7 for the 2024-2025 school year, at the salary of \$63,635.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke	Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

10. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Dina Mauro, kindergarten maternity leave replacement teacher, BA Step 2 for the 2024-2025 school year, at the salary of \$59,035, pending the usual criminal history background check.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke	Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

11. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Lori Sink, 6th grade maternity leave replacement teacher, BA Step 1 beginning September 1, 2024 through January 17, 2025, at the prorated salary of \$26,910.00, pending the usual criminal history background check.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke	Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

12. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the services of Bergen County Special Services for the 2024-2025 school year.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke	Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

13. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the services of Alee Behavioral Health for special education services for the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$55.00 per hour.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke	Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

14. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the revised 2024-2025 school calendar.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke	Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

15. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance for the 2024-2025 school year.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

16. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the School District Professional Development Plan and Mentoring Plan Statement of Assurance for the 2024-2025 School Year.

NOTE: Copy in Superintendent's Office

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

17. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Emergency Operations Plan for the 2024-2025 school year for Essex Fells School:

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

18. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Remote Learning Plan for the 2024-2025 school year for Essex Fells School:

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

19. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Safety and Security Procedures for the 2024-2025 School Year.

NOTE: Copy in Superintendent's Office

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

20. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Brian Taylor, substitute teacher, for the 2024-2025 school year, pending the usual criminal history background check.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

21. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Mary Alice Carella, substitute teacher, for the 2024-2025 school year, pending the usual criminal history background check.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

22. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the submission of the ESEA application for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to the County Office of Education and accepts the grant award in the amount of \$2,858.

Title I-A	\$0
Title II-A	\$2,858
Title IV-A	<u>\$0</u>
Total	\$2,858

Moved by: Mrs. Burke
Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

23. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the submission of the IDEA application for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to the County Office of Education and accepts the grant award in the amount of \$61,284.

Basic	\$56,636
Preschool	<u>\$4,024</u>
Total	\$60,660

Moved by: Mrs. Burke
Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

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

- P 0141
 P 0141.1
 (Revised)
 P 0141.2
 (Revised)
 P 0164.6
 P 2200
 P & R 3160 Physical Examination (M) (Revised)
 P & R 4160 Physical Examination (M) (Revised)
 R 5200
 P 5337
 P 5350
 P 7231
 P 8420
 P & R 8467 Firearms and Weapons (M) (Revised)
 P 9181

Board Member Number and Term (Revised)
 Board Member Number and Term – Sending District

 Board Member Number and Term – Receiving District

 Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared
 Emergency (M) (Abolished)
 Curriculum Content (M) (Revised)

 Attendance (M) (Revised)
 Service Animals (Revised)
 Student Suicide Prevention (M) (Revised)
 Gifts From Vendors (M) (Abolished)
 Emergency and Crisis Situations (M) (Revised)
 Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity
 Advisors/Assistants (Revised)

Moved by: Mrs. Burke
Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

25. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following revised 12-month staff salaries for the 2024-2025 school year:

Tina Rivera	Administrative Assistant	\$67,999
John Thomas	Custodial	\$82,512
Santiago Galindo	Custodial	\$55,008
James Davis	Custodial	\$48,065
Marco Pannullo	District Technology Coordinator	\$85,449
Marie Criscuolo	Treasurer of School Monies	\$3,469
Moved by: Mrs. Burke Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie		
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0		

26. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Board of Education Goals for the 2024-2025 school year.

NOTES: Goals Attached		
Moved by: Mrs. Burke Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie		
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0		

27. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the District/Superintendent Goals for the 2024-2025 school year.

<u>NOTE:</u> Goals Attached		
Moved by: Mrs. Burke Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie		
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0		

28. **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.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke Seconded by: Mrs. Lavoie		
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0		

- 29. 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:

Erica Santalla	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
Susan Hacker	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
Mary Renz	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
Erika Pilato	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
John Trogani	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
George Alexandris	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
Marco Pannullo	Sixth Grade Event - \$250

VIII. Business Administrator's Report

- Mr. Lella, along with Dr. Gadaleta, provided an update on the status of the B&G projects. Completed were the following: Earthquake damage, paw print in the courtyard, ADA ramp on the baseball field, roof drain and the hallway and classroom floors. Still to be completed: the gymnasium floor, north gate, tree located near building #1 and the baseball field, stucco repair, mulch, fields maintenance, landscaping, steps along the first base side of the field and possible heat detector recall.
- Mr. Lella noted that Mrs. Haber and Mr. Christopher Pisacane are the two names listed on the November BOE Election ballot. Mrs. Haber thanked Mr. Toth for his years of service to date.
- Mr. Lella provided information regarding the Essex County School Districts and information from each district's 2024-25 budget submission such as tax levy increase, audit information and reserve accounts.

IX. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01-07.

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

Regular Meeting Minutes	June 12 th , 2024
Executive Meeting Minutes	June 12 th , 2024
Moved by: Mr. Toth	Seconded by: Mr. Mehta
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

- 2. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves additional bills and claims for June in the amount of \$26,215.49 & \$51,446; July in the amount of \$229,620.15; and August in the amount of \$227,643.19, as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for June as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$417,164.05 including \$388,536.62 for the gross payroll, \$10,486.14 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and \$18,141.29 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for July as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$86,522.88 including \$80,544.08 for the gross payroll, \$3,809.18 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and \$2,169.62 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Mr. Toth	Seconded by: Mr. Mehta
Ayes: 5	Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the month of June and one additional for May as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by: Mr. Toth

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

4. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has received the Reports of the Board Secretary (Secretary) and the Custodian of School Monies (Treasurer) for the Months of May & June;

WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11©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©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 N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11©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: Mr. Toth

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve appropriating additional fiscal year 2024 Extraordinary Aid funding to the 2024-25 school budget in the amount of \$143,336 to line account 11-120-100-101-01; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Essex Fells Board of Education acknowledges that it did not include an estimated Extraordinary Aid payment in the 2023-24 school budget and received an award of Extraordinary Aid in the amount of \$143,336; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NJAC 6A:23A2.13(d)6 provides that a district Board of Education may, at any time without commissioner approval, appropriate surplus generated from state revenue such as Extraordinary Aid, that has been excluded from the excess surplus calculation in the prior year.

Moved by: Mr. Toth

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve appropriating additional fiscal year 2024 Nonpublic School Transportation funding to the 2024-25 school budget in the amount of \$2,275 to line account 11-000-270-518; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Essex Fells Board of Education

acknowledges that it did not include an estimated Nonpublic School Transportation payment in the 2023-24 school budget and received a reimbursement of Nonpublic School Transportation costs in the amount of \$2,275; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NJAC 6A:23A2.13.3(d)6 provides that a district Board of Education may, at any time without commissioner approval, appropriate surplus generated from state revenue such as Nonpublic School Transportation, that has been excluded from the excess surplus calculation in the prior year.

Moved by: Mr. Toth

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

7. WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1, et seq., enables boards of education to join with other boards of education in school board insurance trusts for the purpose of forming self-insurance pools;

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group (“NJSIG”) is a joint insurance fund authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1, et seq. to provide insurance coverage and risk management services for its members;

WHEREAS, the [Essex Fells Board of Education, herein after referred to as the “Educational Institution,” has resolved to apply for and/or renew its membership with NJSIG;

WHEREAS, the Educational Institution certifies that it has not defaulted on a claim, and has not been cancelled for non-payment of insurance premium for a period of at least two (2) years prior to the date of its application to NJSIG;

WHEREAS, the Educational Institution desires to secure protection, services, and savings relating to insurance and self-insurance for itself and its departments and employees; and,

WHEREAS, the Educational Institution finds that the best and most efficient way of securing this protection, and services is by cooperating with other boards of education in the State of New Jersey.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

- 1) This agreement is made by and between NJSIG and the Educational Institution;**
- 2) The Educational Institution joins with other boards of education in organizing and becoming members of NJSIG pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-3(a), for a period of three years, beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending July 1, 2027 at 12:01 a.m.;**
- 3) In consideration of membership in NJSIG, the Educational Institution agrees that for those types of coverage in which it participates, the Educational Institution shall jointly and severally assume and discharge the liabilities of each and every member of NJSIG to such agreement arising from their participation in NJSIG. By**

execution hereof the full faith and credit of the Educational Institution is pledged to the punctual payment of any sums which shall become due to NJSIG in accordance with the bylaws thereof, the plan of risk management, this Agreement and any applicable statute or regulation;

- 4) The Educational Institution and NJSIG agree that NJSIG shall hold all monies paid by the Educational Institution to NJSIG as fiduciaries for the benefit of NJSIG claimants all in accordance with applicable statutes and/or regulations;
- 5) NJSIG shall establish and maintain Trust Accounts in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1, et seq. and such other statutes and regulations as may be applicable;
- 6) By adoption and signing of this resolution, the Educational Institution is hereby joining NJSIG in accordance with the terms of this Indemnity and Trust Agreement and Resolution to Join / Renew Membership, effective the date indicated below, for the types of insurance as indicated in the Insurance Binder issued by NJSIG;
- 7) The Educational Institution hereby ratifies and affirms the bylaws and other organizational and operational documents of NJSIG, and as from time to time amended by NJSIG and/or the State of New Jersey, Department of Banking and Insurance, in accordance with the applicable statutes and regulations as if each and every one of said documents were re-executed contemporaneously herewith;
- 8) The Educational Institution agrees to be a participating member of NJSIG for the period herein provided for and to comply with all of the rules and regulations and obligations associated with said membership, including, but not limited to the NJSIG's Plan of Risk Management;
- 9) The Educational Institution under its obligations as a member of NJSIG agrees to allow for safety inspections of its properties, to pay contributions in a timely fashion and to comply with the bylaws and standards of participation of NJSIG including the plan of risk management;
- 10) If NJSIG, in the enforcement of any part of this Agreement, shall incur necessary expense or become obligated to pay attorney's fees and/or court costs, the Educational Institution agrees to reimburse NJSIG for all such reasonable expenses, fees and costs on demand;
- 11) The Business Administrator is hereby authorized in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1, et seq., to execute such contracts and documentation with NJSIG as is necessary to effectuate this resolution; and,

12) The Business Administrator is directed to send a certified copy of this Indemnity and Trust Agreement and Resolution to Join / Renew Membership to NJSIG.

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta explained the BOE District and Superintendent Goals for 2024-25.
- Mr. Lella provided information to the Board regarding potential costs and challenges of gymnasium expansion. The estimated preliminary budget is 1 million dollars, and the district is currently in year 2 of 7 for the roof referendum. Mr. Lella also noted that additional strobe lights were added to the gymnasium along with the art room, media center, teachers' lounge and IT room.
- Dr. Gadaleta reported that at this time Mr. Finnegan's license had been revoked by the state for 1 year.

X. New Business / Board Discussion

- Mr. Lella noted to the Board the dates for the NJSBA Convention.
- Dr. Gadaleta addressed the request for a Before Care Program. Tiny Treasures requires 10 children. The Board discussed and felt unfortunately at this time there is not enough demand to support a district program.
- The Board discussed the history of the 6th Grade Student Representative to the BOE.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted that NJSLA had replaced NJASK and that in the past we have recognized children as high performers. This year we have 3 children who attained the highest score and we will recognize them at a future meeting once the scores have become final.
- Dr. Gadaleta reported that the consortium Superintendent's had already met to discuss the 2025- 26 school year calendar and drafts were provided to the Board.
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XII. Public Comment

- Mrs. Daniels thanked the Board for all of the discussions that take place at BOE meetings and appreciates the Board for all they do.

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, August 21, 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 one hour for the purpose of discussing legal matters. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

Moved by: Mrs. Burke

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

XIV. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this public meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at

9:10 P.M. The next workshop meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mr. Mehta

Seconded by: Mr. Lavoie

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary