

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 September 04, 2024. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Amanda Haber, at 7:31 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 September 03, 2024. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress, and the Star Ledger.

I. **Call to Order – 7:31 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-Absent

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

III. **Flag Salute**

- The Board President led the flag salute.

IV. **President's Report**

Good Evening and thank you for joining us tonight.

Years ago, there was a funny commercial that aired that depicted a happy parent skipping through the aisles of the school supplies with "It's the most wonderful time of the year" playing in the background. The children didn't seem quite as enthused but that may be expected. That commercial was intended to show how the parents were excited for their children to return to their school routine after a summer off. However, I really do believe that it is in fact the most wonderful time of the year. My own child is at home tonight beyond excited to get back into her daily routine spending time with her teachers and peers at her most favorite place, EFS.

This time of year, is wonderful because it presents as a true marker for something new and exciting. It is a time to try new things and make new friends. It is a time to get smarter and kinder all at once. I am so excited to see what this year brings. The board is committed to providing excellent programming provided by our stellar staff. Thank you to everyone for their hard work in getting the wheels up tomorrow. I know that this will be our best year yet. I want to wish everyone a safe and happy return to school.

V. **Public Comment on Agenda Items Only**

- None

VI. **Superintendent's Report**

- Dr. Dr. Gadaleta explained the 2 staff orientation and professional development days, which were two busy full days for the staff which she felt was productive and successful
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- Dr. Gadaleta is looking forward to the opening of school tomorrow
- Back to School Night will be on September 11th.

VII. **Buildings & Grounds**

- Dr. Gadaleta and Mr. Lella provided an update on the summer B&G projects. The gym floor was completed, we are still waiting on the main gate to be replaced, the tree near the field was removed, stucco repair was completed, landscaping was completed, steps were added along the first base side of the baseball field and additional strobe lights were added in the technology room, teacher's lounge, gymnasium and the art room.

VIII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Staff Professional Development will continue throughout the year.

IX. Finance

- None

X. Personnel

- Dr. Gadaleta explained the changes to SGO's, as well as the purpose of the SGO's.

XI. Policy

- Mr. Toth asked if would be possible to review with the attorney the Board Member Number and Term policy before voting on at the next meeting.
- The Board reviewed policy.

XII. Old Business / Board Discussion

- None

XIII. New Business / Board Discussion

- The Board discussed moving the October 2nd workshop to October 1st to accommodate for the Jewish holiday. Mr. Toth will not be at the September 18th BOE meeting.

XIV. Public Comment

- None

XV. 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 04, 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. Lavoie

Seconded by: Mr. Toth

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XVI. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this public meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:03 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: Mrs. Lavoie

Seconded by: Mr. Mehta

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary