

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – 7:30 P.M.

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. – Board Secretary

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. Election Report

The annual School Election was conducted on Tuesday, November 5th, 2024 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

The results of the election, as reported and certified by the Essex County Clerk, are as follows:

Members of the Board of Education:	Mrs. Amanda Haber 684 Votes
	Mr. Christopher Pisacane 612 Votes

V. Reorganization of the Board of Education

- A. Oath of Office
- B. Roll Call: Board Secretary
 - Mrs. Amanda Haber
 - Mr. Raj Mehta
 - Mrs. Caragh Lavoie
 - Mrs. Jacquelyn Burke
 - Mr. Christopher Pisacane
- C. Election of President: Board Secretary
- D. Election of Vice President: Board Secretary

VI. Board Comments/President’s Report

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

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

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Visitor Sign In
- Allergy Policy

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- 2025 Board of Education Meeting Dates
- 2025 BOE Financial Disclosure Statement

XII. Reorganization Action Items

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Reorganization Action Items #01 - 02.

- 1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education adopts the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics.

NOTES: Code of Ethics/Bylaws

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

- 2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the following dates for its meetings in the ensuing year (*dates subject to change):

Wednesday	January 22, 2025	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	February 5, 2025	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	February 19, 2025	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	March 19, 2025	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	April 2, 2025	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	April 16, 2025	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	May 7, 2025	Workshop Meeting – Budget Presentation
Wednesday	May 21, 2025	Regular Meeting
Wednesday	June 11, 2025	Reappointment Meeting
Wednesday	August 13, 2025	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	September 3, 2025	Workshop Meeting

AGENDA

January 8, 2025

Wednesday	September 17, 2025	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	October 15, 2025	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	November 12, 2025	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	December 3, 2025	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday	December 17, 2025	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday	January 7, 2026 (TBD)	Reorganizational/Workshop Meeting

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

XIII. Public Comment

XIV. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act (“Act”), the Essex Fells Board of Education shall conduct a closed executive session pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 for the purpose of discussing: Legal Matters

It is anticipated that the length of time of this executive session will be 30 minutes and that action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the minutes of the executive session will be released when the need for confidentiality in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 no longer applies.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

XV. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this reorganizational/workshop 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, January 22nd, 2025, at 7:30 P.M.** in the media center.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

AGENDA

January 8, 2025

2024-2025

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Axentiou/Mrs. Fornini	PS/AM	11	0	11
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		252	127	125
Out-of-District	*	3		
FINAL TOTALS		255		

*Total includes 3 out-of-district students.

12/13/2024

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	10/31/24	October 16, 2024 - Shelter in Place w/EFPD
November	11/18/24	November 12, 2024 – Shelter in Place
December	12/12/24	December 17, 2024 - Lockdown
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	10/16	11/6	11/20	12/11	1/8							
TOTAL# of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
Number of Founded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
Violence & Vandalism Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	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.