

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

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 March 24th, 2025. 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
Mrs. Jacquelyn Burke, Vice-President
Mrs. Caragh Lavoie
Mr. Raj Mehta
Mr. Christopher Pisacane

III. Flag Salute

IV. President's Report

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

VI. Superintendent's Report

- 2024-2025 Calendar Revision/ Emergency Days
- Take Your Child to Work Day
- School Performance Report

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01–05.

- 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): George Alexandris
Event: Improving Your Student's Behavior in PE Grades K-8
Location: Virtual
Date: 5/8/25
Cost: \$295.00

AGENDA

April 2, 2025

Staff Member(s): Susan FitzGibbon
Event: Motivating The Unmotivated-Teaching Hard to Reach Students
Location: Virtual
Date: 5/15/25
Cost: \$295.00

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2024-2025 calendar revision for Memorial Day Weekend to include school closed on May 23rd and June 20th for unused snow days.

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 for the following:

Essex Fells Town Hall
4/9/25 - 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Gymnasium

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance for school years 2025-2026 through 2027-2028.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education terminates, as recommended by the Superintendent, the contract with Alee Behavioral Health for special education services for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year effective April 17, 2025.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

VIII. **Buildings & Grounds**

- 4th Grade Floor Repair update

IX. **Curriculum & Instruction**

- Summer Alignment of Standards and State Format

X. **Finance**

- 2025-26 Budget
- 2025-26 State Funding Explanation
- April 16th BOE Meeting – NJSIG Training

XI. **Personnel**

- RIF
- Staff Assignments

XII. **Policy**

- P9205 Communication Between Parents and Staff Members

XIII. **Old Business / Board Discussion**

XIV. **New Business / Board Discussion**

- CST Evaluation Contract Fees

XV. **Public Comment**

XVI. **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 and Personnel.**

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:

XVII. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this public 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, April 16, 2025, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

AGENDA

April 2, 2025

2024-2025

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Axentiou/Mrs. Fornini	PS/AM	11	0	11
Mrs. Axentiou/Mrs. Fornini	PS/PM	12	7	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	19	8	12
Mrs. Lodato/Mrs. Ennis	4LE	21	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	126	125
Out-of-District	*	3		
FINAL TOTALS		254		

*Total includes 3 out-of-district students.

2/26/2025

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	1/7/25 (Smoke Alarm)	January 17, 2025 – Shelter in Place w/EFPD
February	2/24/25	February 20, 2025 – Shelter in Place
March	3/6/25	March 11, 2035 – Lockdown w/EFPD
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	1/22	2/5	2/19	3/19	4/2		
TOTAL# of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Number of Founded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Violence & Vandalism Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	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.