

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025

**SCHOOL BUDGET PUBLIC PRESENTATION
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 8th, 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

- 2025-2026 Budget Presentation

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

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

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

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

VIII. Business Administrator's Report

- 2025-2026 Budget Presentation

IX. Business Resolutions

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

- 1. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, after conducting a public presentation, adopts a school district budget for the FY 2025-2026 School Year as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund:	\$6,809,356.58	\$6,058,214.58
Special Revenue:	\$126,462.60	0.00
Debt Service:	<u>\$99,144.00</u>	<u>\$65,435.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$7,034,963.18	\$6,123,649.58

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there should be raised for the General Fund \$6,058,214.58 and \$65,435.00 for Debt Service Funds for the ensuing school year (2025-2026).

RESOLVED that the Essex Fells Board of Education approves the total travel expenditures for the District at a maximum of \$20,000.00 for the 2025-26 school year; and

RESOLVED that the Business Administrator keep an accounting of all expenditures to ensure compliance with the approved amount; and

BE IT RESOLVED that included in the preliminary budget is the use of the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$64,988. The funds will be utilized to address the additional increase in health benefit premiums.

BE IT RESOLVED that included in the preliminary budget is the use of the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$22,012. The funds will be utilized for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Essex Fells Board of Education accepts a donation from the Essex Fells PTA and the Essex Fells Foundation for Educational Excellence in the amount of \$40,000 and \$40,000 (for a total of \$80,000) to be used for the purchase of school devices on the district's 5-year technology replacement plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following budget line be increased and that the Business Administrator be authorized to administer it:

20-190-100-610 Essex Fells PTA & Foundation Technology Grant \$80,000

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- NA

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- NA

XII. Meeting Open for Public Comment

XIII. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this School Budget Public Presentation of the Board of Education be adjourned at ____ P.M. The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, May 21st at 7:30 P.M** in the Media Center.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

**AGENDA
2024-2025**

May 7, 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, 2025 – Lockdown w/EFPD
April	4/17/25	April 29, 2025 – Shelter in Place
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	4/16	5/7
TOTAL# of Reported Incidents	0	0	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	0	0
Number of Founded Incidents	0	0	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	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.