

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025

WORKSHOP MEETING – 7:30 P.M. – SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

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 November 20th, 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

- Academic Integrity and Readiness
- Digital Citizenship
- Character Education

VII. Superintendent’s Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01–03.

- 1. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Donna Phillips, 5th Grade Maternity Leave Replacement Teacher, BA, Step 1, for the 2025-2026 school year, beginning December 4, 2025, through May 1, 2026, at the at the pro-rated salary of \$30,195, pending the usual criminal history and background check for new hires.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Matthew Ippolito, Substitute Teacher, for the 2025-2026 school year, pending the usual criminal history and background check for new hires.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2024-2025 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying of Rights Act.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

VIII. Buildings & Grounds

- Storage Projects
- Snow Removal

IX. Curriculum & Instruction

- TREP\$
- Mock Trial
- Report Cards
- Winter Concert

X. Finance

- 2024-25 Audit
- 2026-27 Budget

XI. Personnel

- Maternity Leave Replacement Teacher
- Preschool Special Education Teacher

XII. Policy

XIII. Old Business / Board Discussion

XIV. New Business / Board Discussion

- BOE President & Vice President 2026

XV. Public Comment

XVI. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this public workshop of the Board of Education be adjourned at _____ P.M. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

AGENDA

DECEMBER 3, 2025

2025-2026

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Axentiou	PK	16	7	9
Ms. Matullo	KM	17	7	10
Mrs. Brutman	KB	17	7	10
Mrs. Fitzgerald/Mrs. Hromoko	1FH	15	7	8
Mrs. Gann	1G	15	7	8
Mrs. Quinn/Mrs. Takkel	2QT	19	12	7
Ms. Duarte	2D	20	12	8
Ms. Kowalski/Mrs. MacKenzie	3KM	15	9	6
Mrs. Focarino	3F	14	8	6
Mrs. Banek/Mrs. Ennis	4BE	18	8	10
Mrs. Lodato	4L	15	7	8
Mrs. Fogarty	5F	20	10	10
Mrs. Jaworski/Mrs. Brzostowski	5JB	20	8	12
Mrs. Santalla/Mrs. Banta	6SB	16	12	4
Mrs. Hacker	6H	14	10	4
TOTAL		251	131	120
Out-of-District	*	3		
FINAL TOTALS		254		
TOTAL FAMILIES		170		

*Total includes 3 out-of-district students.

10/27/2025

Fire Drills: 2025-2026

Month	Fire Drill	Emergency Drill
August	8/22/25	AED/Fire alarm Tests – August 22, 2025
September	9/15/25	Evacuation to Bleachers – September 12, 2025
October	10/24/25	Lockdown – October 29, 2025
November	11/24/25	Shelter in Place with EFPD - November 25, 2025
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July	7/17/2025	Silent Alarm Test – July 3, 2025

HIB / V&V Report

As of Date of BOE Meeting	8/13	9/3	9/17	10/15	11/12	12/3									
TOTAL# of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0									
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0									
Number of Founded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Violence & Vandalism Incidents	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.