

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026

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 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. – Board Secretary

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. Election Report

The annual School Election was conducted on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, 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. Jenna Maffucci	673 Votes
	Mr. Shaun Kessler	617 Votes

V. Reorganization of the Board of Education

- A. Oath of Office
- B. Roll Call: Board Secretary
 - Mrs. Amanda Haber
 - Mr. Shaun Kessler
 - Mrs. Jenna Maffucci
 - Mr. Raj Mehta
 - Mr. Christopher Pisacane
- C. Election of President: Board Secretary
- D. Election of Vice President: Board Secretary

VI. Board Comments/President's Report

VII. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

VIII. Superintendent's Report

- January – School Board Recognition Month
- Administrative Internship

IX. 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 payment of the following travel related expenses in accordance with the travel policy 6471 for Professional Development:

Staff Member(s): Marco Pannullo
 Event: Microsoft AI World Tour
 Location: New York, NY
 Date: 1/21/26
 Cost: \$16.00

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Enrollment

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- 2026 Board of Education Meeting Dates
- 2026 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:

AGENDA

January 7, 2026

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

Wednesday January 21, 2026	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday February 11, 2026	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday February 25, 2026	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday March 18, 2026	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday April 22, 2026	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday May 6, 2026	Workshop Meeting-Budget Presentation
Wednesday May 20, 2026	Regular Meeting
Wednesday June 10, 2026	Reappointment Meeting
Wednesday August 12, 2026	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday September 2, 2026	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday September 16, 2026	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday October 7, 2026	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday October 21, 2026	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday November 18, 2026	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday December 2, 2026	Workshop Meeting
Wednesday December 16, 2026	Regular Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday January 6, 2027 (TBD)	Reorganizational/Workshop Meeting

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

XIII. Public Comment

XV. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this reorganizational/workshop meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at ____ P.M. The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, January 21st, 2026, at 7:30 P.M.** in the media center.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

AGENDA

January 7, 2026

2025-2026

Teacher	Section	Total	M	F
Mrs. Axentiou	PK	17	8	9
Ms. Matullo	KM	17	7	10
Mrs. Brutman	KB	17	7	10
Mrs. Fitzgerald/Mrs. Hromoko	1FH	16	7	9
Mrs. Gann	1G	15	7	8
Mrs. Quinn/Mrs. Takkel	2QT	20	12	8
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		254	132	122
Out-of-District	*	4		
FINAL TOTALS		258		
TOTAL FAMILIES		174		

*Total includes 3 out-of-district students.

1/5/2026

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	12/10/25	Shelter in Place - December 15, 2025
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	12/17	1/7							
TOTAL# of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0							
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	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.