

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ESSEX FELLS, NJ
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING****WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026****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 January 7th, 2026. 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
Mr. Raj Mehta, Vice-President
Mr. Christopher Pisacane
Mr. Shaun Kessler
Mrs. Jenna Maffucci

III. Flag Salute**IV. President’s Report****V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only****VI. Superintendent’s Report**

- Mid-Year Attendance Report
- PK/K Enrollment 2026-2027
- NJSLA Adaptive Dates
- West Essex Senior Service

VII. Buildings & Grounds

- Boiler Repair Update
- AC Repair Update
- Parking Lot Tree Trimming
- Fire Inspection

VIII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Grade 6 Articulation with West Essex For LA
- 7th Grade Transition Meetings with West Essex Counselors
- Parent Academies
- District Advisory Committees

IX. Finance

- 2026-27 Budget

X. Personnel

- Staff Meetings for 2026-2027 Teaching Assignments

XI. Policy

- Policy Discussion
 - P 0142.1 Nepotism (M) (Revised)
 - P 0142.1C Nepotism – Charter School (M) (Revised)
 - P 0174C Legal Services – Charter School (M) (Revised)
 - P 0177C Professional Services – Charter School (M) (Revised)
 - P 1220 Employment of Chief School Administrator (M) (Revised)
 - P & R 1570C Internal Controls – Charter School (M) (Revised)
 - P & R 1552 Sexual Harassment – Staff (M) (New)
 - P & R 2530 Resource Materials (Revised)
 - P & R 2535 Library Material (M) (New)
 - P & R 9130 Public Complaints (Revised)

XII. Old Business / Board Discussion

- NJQSAC
- Student Behavior
- 2026-2027 SEMI Waiver

XIII. New Business / Board Discussion

- Snow Removal Procedures
- Nursing Services Plan
- Graduate Certification Requirements

XIV. Public Comment

XV. 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: **Personnel and Legal Matters**. It is anticipated that the length of time of this executive session will be approximately 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:

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, February 25, 2026, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

AGENDA

FEBRUARY 11, 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	1/16/26	Lock Down with EFPD - 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	1/21	2/11					
TOTAL# of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0					
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0					
Number of Founded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Violence & Vandalism Incidents	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.