

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a Regular Meeting held in the Media Center on May 20, 2026. The meeting was called to order by the Board Vice President, Mr. Raj Mehta at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Mehta read the following Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: "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 7, 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.

- The meeting was called to order by the Board Vice President at 7:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Mrs. Amanda Haber, President- Absent
Mr. Raj Mehta, Vice-President- Present
Mrs. Jenna Maffucci-Present
Mr. Christopher Pisacane-Present
Mr. Shaun Kessler-Present

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal, Mr. Steven J. Lella, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, one staff member and five members of the public. Three members of the public left at 7:37 P.M.

III. Flag Salute

- The Board Vice President led the flag salute.

IV. President's Report

- None

V. Student Liaison to the BOE Report

- Sam Roglieri provided an update as to what the students of EFS are currently learning.

VI. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VII. Superintendent's Report

- The 6th Grade Consortium Kickball tournament took place today. EFS showed great sportsmanship and we are also proud to report that we defended our trophy.
- Screening interviews have been completed, and 3 demo lessons were scheduled. 1 individual canceled, 1 took place today and 1 will take place tomorrow.
- The Safety Team is putting together the final year end celebration events. June 15th will be the Grover Cleveland event. We are just waiting for the permit to be approved.
- The SCIP meeting will take place next week to discuss PD options and the teacher evaluation system, as well as Library Title reviews.
- Dr. Gadaleta is reviewing the staff comments on the teacher evaluation process.
- Nurse Renz has submitted for her retirement, and we'd like to take a moment to recognize what she has done for EFS. Nurse Renz came to EFS with such a strong nursing background in September 2019. Then in March of 2020, COVID hit. She was a true professional, making calls every day and keeping the children safe and healthy. We thank her and will miss her. We will begin the interview process along with the help of Dr. Nitti. We will also reach out to Caldwell University to see if there are any potential candidates in their School Nursing Program.

- There are 2 calendar revisions. For 2025-26, June 18th is a 12:45 pm dismissal. 2026-27, the Parent / Teacher Conferences were not listed.
- Mrs. Maffucci asked about how we have given back snow days in the past, Memorial Day or end of the year. It varies from year to year. Mrs. Maffucci also asked just to clarify resolution #3 regarding the calendar revision.
- Mr. Pisacane asked about the curriculum review
- Mr. Kessler noted some of the Business Policies to Mr. Lella.

VIII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01–06.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the first reading of the following bylaws/policies/regulations:

P 1230	Superintendent's Duties (M) (Revised)
P 2200	Curriculum (M) (Revised)
R 2200	Curriculum Content (M) (Abolished)
P 2411	Career Education and Academic Counseling (M) (Revised)
R 2411	Guidance Counseling (M) (Abolished)
P 5460	High School Graduation (M) (Revised)
P 5461	High School Diplomas (M) (New)
P 0162	Notice of Board Meetings (Revised)
P 0162.01	Legal Notices (M) (New)
P 1643	Family Leave (M) (Revised)
P 2260	Equity in School and Classroom Practices (M) (Revised)
R 2460.30	Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services (M) (Abolished)
P & R 5111.13	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students – Choice School District (M) (New)
P 5111.4	Admissions for Vocational Schools (M) (New)
P 5561	Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities (M) (Revised)
P 6112	Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures (M) (Revised)
R 6115.01	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability of Costs (M) (Revised)
P 6115.02	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Mandatory Disclosures (M) (Revised)
P 6311	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants (M) (Revised)
P 8561	Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs (M) (Revised)

Moved by: Mr. Pisacane

Seconded by: Mr. Kessler

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2025-2026 calendar revision for a 12:45pm dismissal on June 18th.

Moved by: Mr. Pisacane

Seconded by: Mr. Kessler

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the 2026-2027

calendar revision for 6th Grade Graduation and a 12:45pm dismissal on June 16th.

Moved by: Mr. Pisacane

Seconded by: Mr. Kessler

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Essex Fells Board of Education Meeting scheduled for June 10, 2026 has been rescheduled to June 17, 2026.

Moved by: Mr. Pisacane

Seconded by: Mr. Kessler

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Use of Facilities Request for the following:

EFFEE – Annual Color Run Fundraiser
10/4/26 – Fields and Grounds
7:00am – 2:00pm

Moved by: Mr. Pisacane

Seconded by: Mr. Kessler

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the retirement of Mary Renz, Nurse, effective July 1, 2026.

Moved by: Mr. Pisacane

Seconded by: Mr. Kessler

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

IX. Business Administrator’s Report

- Mr. Lella noted the bathroom waiver request and Second Life MacBook Pro resolutions.

X. Business Administrator’s Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01-06.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the following meeting(s):

Regular Meeting Minutes	April 22, 2026
Executive Meeting Minutes	April 22, 2026
Regular Meeting Minutes	May 6, 2026

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for May in the amount of \$235,074.62 as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for April as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of \$399,985.93 including \$372,627.64 for the gross payroll, \$6,104.13 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and \$21,254.16 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

3. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has received the Reports of the Board Secretary (Secretary) and the Custodian of School Monies (Treasurer) for the Month of April.

WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Secretary has certified that as of the date of the reports, no budgetary line-item account, in accordance with the minimum chart of accounts as established by the New Jersey Department of Education, has obligations and payments which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Board of Education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in compliance with N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report, and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)4, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to P.L. 2004 C73, the Board certifies that after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report and certification, that there are no budgetary transfers that cumulatively exceed 10% that would require the approval of the Commissioner of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the financial reports for the months be accepted and shall become a part of the official minutes of this meeting.

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the month of April as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

5. **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the submission of a request to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for renewal of the required waiver of toilet facilities for kindergarten classrooms 201 and 202 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

6. **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the buyback agreement with Second Life Mac for MacBook Pro's that are no longer needed for school purposes and does not exceed 15% (\$7,950) of the bid threshold.

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XI. Old Business / Board Discussion

- NJSLA testing is complete. As this was a new test this year, we were prepared and ready. Dr. Gadaleta explained the testing process.
- Curriculum revisions will be done in accordance with our recent QSAC review.

XII. New Business / Board Discussion

- We have 16 registered for pre-school, with 2 spots purposely left open. We have had an increased number of Early Intervention which the CST is preparing evaluations for. We have 5 anticipated classified children, which we will adjust staffing to support.
- Dr. Gadaleta recognized Elly Kessler as one of the Essex County Poster Contest Winners.
- The June 10th BOE Meeting is being rescheduled to June 17th to accommodate our 6th Grade Liaison Report, since they will be away at Camp and miss the June 10th meeting.

XIII. Public Comment

- None

XIV. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this public meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:07 P.M. The next meeting of the Board of Education – Reappointment Meeting, will be held on **Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mr. Pisacane

Seconded by: Mr. Kessler

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary