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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026

REGULAR MEETING – 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 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

- Back to School – 2026-2027 A Wave of Respect, Responsibility, and Kindness
- Buildings & Grounds Projects
- BOE, District and Superintendent's Goals for 2026-2027
- Curriculum Revisions
- Nurse Wychules

VII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01–11.

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: NJECC
Location: Montclair, NJ
Date: 9/18/26, 10/16/26, 11/13/26 12/4/26, 1/15/17, 2/5/27, 3/9/27, 3/10/27, 4/9/27, 5/14/27, 6/10/27
Cost: $55.46

Staff Member(s): Kimberly Trafford
Event: NJECC
Location: Montclair, NJ
Date: 9/18/26, 10/16/26, 11/13/26 12/4/26, 1/15/17, 2/5/27, 3/9/27, 3/10/27, 4/9/27, 5/14/27, 6/10/27
Cost: $55.46

Staff Member(s): John Thomas
Event: AI/Fire Safety
Location: Rockaway, NJ
Date: 9/22/26
Cost: $15.70

Staff Member(s): Gabriella Day
Event: HIB Training Program
Location: Toms River, NJ
Date: 9/22/26
Cost: $233.74

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the School District Professional Development Plan and Mentoring Plan Statement of Assurance for the 2026-2027 School Year.

NOTE: Copies in Superintendent's Office

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Emergency Operations Plan for the 2026-2027 school year for Essex Fells School:

NOTE: Copy in Superintendent's Office

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Safety and Security Procedures for the 2026-2027 School Year.

NOTE: Copy in Superintendent's Office

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the submission of the ESEA application for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to the County Office of Education and accepts the grant award in the amount of $2,089.00.

Title I-A	$0
Title II-A	$2,089.00
Title III-A	$0
Title IV-A	$0
Title V-A	$0
Total	$2,089.00

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the submission of the IDEA application for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to the County Office of Education and accepts the grant award in the amount of $61,572.00.

BASIC	$57,508.00
Preschool	$4,064.00
Total	$61,572.00

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Board of Education Goals for the 2026-2027 school year.

NOTE: Goals Attached

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

8. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the District/Superintendent Goals for the 2026-2027 school year.

NOTE: Goals Attached

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

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

EFFEE Meetings
9/8/25 – STEAM Lab
10/14/26, 11/10/26, 12/8/26, 1/12/27, 2/2/27, 3/9/27, 4/13/27, 5/11/27
Media Center
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

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

EFRD – Little League Softball
9/14/26-10/26/26
Fields
5:00pm – 8:00pm

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

11. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent the appointment of, Rachel Wychules, School Nurse, BA +30 Step 12, for the 2026-2027 school year at the salary of $81,040.00 pending the usual criminal history and background check.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

VIII. Business Administrator's Report

- November Board of Education Election
- ESEA/IDEA Grant Allocations
- 2026-27 Extraordinary Aid Award

IX. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01-04.

1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves additional bills and claims for June in the amounts of $33,606.24, $29,819.42, and $42,676.39, for July in the amount of $35,841.32 and $275,729.60, and August in the amount of $151,445.95 of as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for June as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of $444,489.72 including $413,969.42 for the gross payroll, $8,754.24 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and $21,766.44 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for July as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of $95,539.78 including $88,938,92 for the gross payroll, $4,289.82 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and $2,311.04 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

2. **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 May.

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: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

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

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve appropriating additional fiscal year 2026 Extraordinary Aid funding to the 2026-27 school budget in the amount of $122,940.00 to line account 11-120-100-101-01; and

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Essex Fells Board of Education acknowledges that it did not include an estimated Extraordinary Aid payment in the 2025-26 school budget and received an award of Extraordinary Aid in the amount of $122,940.00; and

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NJAC 6A:23A2.13(d)6 provides that a district Board of Education may, at any time without commissioner approval, appropriate surplus generated from state revenue such as Extraordinary Aid, that has been excluded from the excess surplus calculation in the prior year.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- BOE Photo
- Policy Discussion
  - P 1230 Superintendent's Duties (M) (Revised)
  - P 2200 Curriculum (M) (Revised)
  - P 2411 Career Education and Academic Counseling (M) (Revised)
  - 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)
  - 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)

XI. **New Business / Board Discussion**

- Grade Level Parent Meetings with Superintendent
- NJQSAC Placement
- West Essex Referendum Presentation at Back to School Night

XII. Public Comment

XII. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this public meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at ____ P.M. The next meeting of the Board of Education Workshop Meeting, will be held on **Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 7:30 P.M**. in the Superintendent's Office.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

2026-2027

Teacher	Section	Total	F	M
Mrs. Axentiou/Mrs. Dillon	PK	16	5	11
Mrs. Brutman	KB	17	11	6
Mrs. Quinn	KQ	16	10	6
Mrs. Fitzgerald	1F	17	10	7
Mrs. Gann/Mrs. Hromoko	1GH	17	10	7
Ms. Duarte	2D	16	9	7
Ms. Matullo/Mrs. Takkel	2MT	16	9	7
Ms. Kowalski	3K	20	9	11
Ms. DiGiacomo/Mrs. Brzostowski	3DB	20	8	12
Mrs. Banek	4B	14	6	8
Mrs. Lodato/Mrs. Focarino	4LF	14	6	8
Mrs. Jaworski	5J	17	10	7
Mrs. Fogarty/Mrs. Mackenzie	5FM	16	8	8
Mrs. Santalla	6S	18	10	8
Mrs. Hacker/Mrs. Banta	6HB	19	11	8
TOTAL		**253**	**132**	**121**
Out-of-District	*	5		
FINAL TOTALS		258		
TOTAL FAMILIES		169		
*Total includes 5 out-of-district students.				7/27/2026

Fire Drills: 2026-2027

Month	Fire Drill	Emergency Drill
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July	7/28/26	AED Check – July 31, 2026

HIB / V&V Report

As of Date of BOE Meeting	8/12														
TOTAL# of Reported Incidents	0														
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0														
Number of Founded Incidents	0														
Violence & Vandalism Incidents	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.