

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 June 17th, 2026. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Haber at 7:31 P.M. Mrs. Haber 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 May 15th, 2026. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress, and the Star Ledger.”

I. Call to Order – 7:31 P.M.

- The meeting was called to order by the Board President

II. Roll Call

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

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal; Mr. Steven J. Lella, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, two staff members and three public members (3 left at 7:44 pm).

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the flag salute.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items

- None

V. President’s Report

- Good evening, Thank you for joining us this evening. As this is our final Board of Education meeting for the 2025–2026 school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the year behind us and express my gratitude to the many people who have contributed to making this year such a success. First, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to our graduating sixth-grade class. As you prepare for the next chapter in your educational journey, we are incredibly proud of all you have accomplished during your time at Essex Fells School. We know the values of character, kindness, and perseverance that you have developed here will continue to guide you throughout your lives. We wish you every success and look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish in the years ahead. This time of year always brings a special energy to our school community, and I am especially proud of the way our end-of-year events reflected the strong sense of community that defines Essex Fells. From our beautiful Celebration of the Arts to the excitement of Field Day, our cherished sixth-grade traditions, and the Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Sixth Grade graduation ceremonies, each event celebrated our students' growth and accomplishments while highlighting the exceptional school culture we have built together. As we celebrate this year's accomplishments, we also recognize a very special member of our school family. On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank Ms. Renz for her many years of dedicated service as our school nurse. Throughout her career, she has cared for generations of students with compassion, professionalism, and kindness, providing comfort and reassurance to countless children and families. We are incredibly grateful for her commitment to our school community and wish her a happy, healthy, and well-deserved retirement. To our dedicated staff and administration—thank you. Your commitment to our students is evident in everything you do. Each day, you inspire, support, and challenge our students to become confident learners and compassionate individuals. Your dedication is the foundation of the positive culture and climate that makes our district so special. To the PTA, Foundation, our families and the broader Essex Fells community, thank you for your continued partnership, your unwavering support, and the trust you place in us each year. Your involvement plays an essential role in the success of our schools. As we head into the summer recess, I wish everyone a restful, safe, and enjoyable break. I also look forward with great excitement to the opportunities that the 2026–2027 school year will bring. Each year, our district continues to grow stronger, and I am confident that our best days are still ahead. Thank you.

VI. Student Liaison Report

- Vienna Maffucci provided an update as to the what the students of the Essex Fells School are currently learning.

VII. Superintendent's Report

- Pre-school and Kindergarten graduations took place this week. 6th grade will take place tomorrow.
- Today we had the 6th grade clap out which also included Mrs. Renz, who is retiring as the school nurse. Biodegradable ballons were used.
- Yesterday select staff had archery training in the gymnasium.
- 8 staff members began the curriculum revision as a result of QSAC. It is going to take more time than anticipated.
- Evaluations are almost complete. There was a small issue with Frontline.
- Dr. Gadaleta provided an update on our upcoming summer projects:
 - Media Center lighting
 - Carpet replacement in the BSI room
 - Stucco repair
 - Outdoor scoreboard installation
 - Hardwood floors coating
 - Front steps.

VIII. Old Business / Board Discussion

- The Board agreed to raise the Technology Repair fee from \$30 to \$35.
- Policy will be held off until the August 12th meeting.

IX. New Business / Board Discussion

- The Board reviewed and discussed 2026-27 BOE Goals. We will update #5 to remove the 2% for fiscal responsibility, as the 2% cap is no longer sustainable.
- The Board reviewed and discussed the 2026-27 Superintendent/District Goals.
- Mr. Lella explained the resolutions for Capital Reserve, Hand 2 Heart and the Business Administrator Contract.
- Dr. Gadaleta explained the BCBA and Behavioral Associates resolution which covered for maternity leave and PD.
- Dr. Gadaleta noted the new 3rd grade teacher, the EFPD training and that the EFS remote learning resolution is a State mandate.

X. Reappointment Action Items

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Reappointment Action Items #01 – 74.

1. **RESOLVED**, that the Board appoints Steven J. Lella as the purchasing agent for the Essex Fells School District for the 2026-2027 school year in accordance with

N.J.S.A.18:18A-2b as revised, and assigned the authority, responsibility, accountability for purchasing on behalf of the Board, and having the power to prepare advertisements, advertise for and receive bids, and to award contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:18A-3a(Bid

Threshold) at a bid threshold up to \$53,000, 18A:18A-37a-c (quotations), and 18A:18A-7 (Emergency Purchases) and prepare and issue all purchase orders in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:18A et. seq. and applicable Board policies and regulations.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED**, that the Board appoints the firm of Fogarty, Hara, LaPira & Cherry, LLC as Board Attorney, as per the proposal, for the 2026-2027 school year, at an hourly rate of \$185 for a partner and \$165 for an associate, \$125 for a law clerk and \$85 for a paralegal.

NOTES: Documentation Attached

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

3. **RESOLVED** that Samuel Klein and Company be appointed to perform the 2025-2026 audit in the amount of \$14,225 and be the auditor of record for the 2026-2027 school year.

NOTES: Documentation Attached

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Brown & Brown Insurance be appointed as the broker of record for Worker's Compensation Insurance and the Property & Casualty Insurance for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

5. **RESOLVED** that Brown & Brown Metro, LLC be appointed as the broker-of- record for the Essex Fells Board of Education's group Health and Dental insurance employee benefits programs for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

6. **RESOLVED** that pursuant to the requirements of NJ P.L 2011, c.78 (Chapter 78), the Essex Fells Board of Education hereby resolves to implement a Section 125 Flexible Spending Account (FSA) program and update its Premium Only Plan (POP) effective September 1, 2026, as follows:

1. The Board of Education accepts the recommendation of its group insurance broker-of-record, Brown & Brown Metro, LLC, to designate Aflac as the Board's FSA administrator. This recommendation includes Aflac/ updating the district's POP at no cost.
2. The Board of Education appoints Brown & Brown, Metro, LLC as its FSA and POP broker-of-record.
3. All appropriate Board of Education staff are authorized to take such action and affect such documentation as necessary to implement these changes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the 2026 IRS annual contribution limits for the district's Medical FSA as \$3,400 and \$7,500 for its Dependent Care FSA for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

7. **RESOLVED** that the Essex Fells Board of Education approves EI Associates for the position of District Architect for the 2026-2027 school year.

NOTES: Documentation Attached

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

8. **WHEREAS**, NJAC 6A:23A-14.3 and 14.4 permit a Board of Education to establish and/or deposit into certain reserve accounts at year end, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permits a board of education to transfer anticipated excess current revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June by board resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells Board of Education wishes to deposit anticipated current year surplus into a Tuition Adjustment Reserve account at year end, and

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells Board of Education has determined that up to \$250,000 is available for such purpose of transfer;

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells Board of Education wishes to deposit anticipated current year surplus into a Capital Reserve account at year end, and

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells Board of Education has determined that up to \$500,000 is available for such purpose of transfer;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Essex Fells Board of Education that it hereby authorizes the district's School Business Administrator to make this transfer consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

9. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education appoints Marie Criscuolo, as the Essex Fells Board of Education Treasurer of School Monies at an annual salary of \$3,668 commencing July 1, 2026, for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

10. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education designate the Chief School Administrator to approve line-item transfers as are necessary between meetings of the Board effective July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. Such transfers shall be reported to the Board, ratified and recorded in the Minutes at a subsequent meeting of the Board in accordance with Policy and Code.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

11. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the 2026-2027 Petty Cash fund in the amount of \$300.00, to be administered by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

12. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. John Thomas, Facility Supervisor, as Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, Coordinator for Right-To-Know, AHERA and other health & safety and environmental programs mandated by the State of New Jersey, for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

13. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the renewal of an agreement with New Wave Consultants, Inc, of Lincoln Park, New Jersey to provide mandatory environmental safety services under PEOSHA for the 2026-2027 school year, at an annual fee of \$2,100, services to include training, inspections and plan review update for Right To Know, Bloodborne Pathogens, Indoor Air Quality, AHERA and Integrated Pest Management.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Testing for Lead in Drinking Water at the fee of \$500 per building, and \$50 per sample.

NOTES: Documentation Attached

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

14. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education appoints the Superintendent as the 504 Officer for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

15. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education appoints the Business Administrator/Board Secretary as the district Affirmative Action Officer, Public Agency Compliance Officer (PACO), and Custodian of Records for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

16. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education reaffirms its Policies, Bylaws and Regulations Guides for the 2026-2027 school year and makes necessary revisions in accordance with the Strauss Esmay Alert notifications.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

17. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the renewal of an agreement with the Asbury Park Board of Education – Information Technology Center of Asbury Park, New Jersey, for the continuation of software services for Budgetary/Accounting System and Payroll/Personnel System and Processing, including ID numbers and Computer Ports for the 2026-2027 school year at a fee of \$11,326.

NOTES: Documentation Attached

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

18. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves Valley National Bank as the official Bank Depository for the Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year and approves the following signatories: The Board of Education President, the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies and approves the Principal and School Business Administrator for the Student Activity Account only.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Essex Fells Board of Education approves the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund as an official Bank Depository for the Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

19. **RESOLVED** that The Progress be designated as the official newspaper of the Essex Fells Board of Education, and The Star Ledger be designated as the second newspaper for the publication of official notices and notification of meetings for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

20. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education grants authority to the Superintendent of Schools to pay bills between Board of Education meetings with subsequent Board of Education approval for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

21. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the fourteen (14) 2026-2027 Custodial Holidays.

NOTES: Documentation Attached

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

22. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Wellness & Rehabilitation Services, Physical Therapist, for the 2026-2027 school year, at the following hours and rates:

Estimated 120 hours total at \$95.00/hour for:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • Treatment | \$11,400.00 |
| • Data updates and IEP Development/Progress Reports | \$530.00 |
| • Estimated 3 Evaluations total (initial/Rev.) at \$350 each | |
| Not to exceed | \$1,050.00 |

Total school year cost not to exceed:

\$12,980.00

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

23. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Hand2Heart, BCBA, for the 2026-2027 school year, at the following hours and rates:

Estimate 500 hours at \$105.00/hour for:

- BCBA Instruction/School
 - Not to exceed: \$52,500.00

Estimate 40 hours at \$65.00/hour for:

- Curriculum Development/Data Review
 - Not to exceed: \$2,600.00

Estimate 5 hours at \$105.00/hour for:

- Progress Reports / IEP Development
 - Not to exceed \$525.00

Estimate 2 FBA Evaluations at \$500.00

Not to exceed \$1,000.00

Total Not to exceed: \$56,625

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 24. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, contracting with Spectrum Support Services for Occupational Therapist Services (Cassandra Torter) for the 2026-2027 school year at a rate of up to \$125 per hour.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 25. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, contracting with Pro-Care Therapy for Speech Therapist Services (Melanie Liriano) for the 2026-2027 school year at a rate of up to \$97.95 per hour.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 26. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, contracting with ITG (Melissa Dillon) for the 2026-2027 school year at a rate of up to \$70.00 per hour.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 27. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Deirdre Mastandrea, School Social Worker, for the 2026-2027 school year, at the following hours and rates:

Up to 10 evaluations per year at \$350 per evaluation: \$3,500.00

Hourly rate for additional professional services

\$50.00 each

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 28. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Out-of-District Program Costs at CTC Academy (Student 370642) for the 2026-2027 school year, at the following daily/yearly rates:

Estimated 183 days at \$519.06

- September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

Total school year cost not to exceed: \$94,987.98

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 29. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Out-of-District Program Costs at Academy360 Lower School - Spectrum 360 (Student 370641) for the 2026-2027 school year, at the following daily/yearly rates:

Estimated 183 days at \$537.76/day for:

- September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 \$98,410.80
- 1 to 1 Aide 183 days at \$260/day \$47,580.00

Total school year cost not to exceed: \$145,990.80

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 30. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Out-of-District Program Costs at Academy360 Lower School – Spectrum 360 (Student 340600) for the 2026-2027 school year, at the following daily/yearly rates:

Estimated 183 days at \$537.76/day for:

- September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 \$98,410.80
- 1 to 1 Aide 183 days at \$260/day \$47,580.00

Total school year cost not to exceed: \$145,990.80

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 31. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Out-of-District Program Costs at The Newmark School, Inc (Student 350651) for the 2026-2027 school year, at the following daily/yearly rates:

Estimated 180 days at \$388.26/day for:

- September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 \$69,886.80

Total school year cost not to exceed: \$69,886.80

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 32. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Out-of-District Program Costs at The Deron School, Inc (Student 370784) for the 2026-2027 school year, at the following daily/yearly rates:

Estimated 180 days at \$428.05/day for:

- September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 \$77,049.00
- 1 to 1 Aide 180 days at \$250/day \$45,000.00

Total school year cost not to exceed: \$122,049

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 33. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the services of the Bergen County Special Services Education Enterprises for the 2026-2027 school year for the following evaluations:

Audiological Evaluations

\$2,500.00 each

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 34. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the services of New Jersey Pediatric Neuroscience Institute for the 2026-2027 school year for the following evaluations:

Neurological Evaluations

\$600.00 each

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 35. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the services of Dr. Lindsey Greenfield for the 2026-2027 school year for the following evaluations:

Neuropsychological Evaluations

\$4,200.00 each

Hourly rate for additional professional services

\$200.00 each

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 36. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the services of Dr. Stuart M. Rothman for the following evaluations:

Telemedicine Visit

\$80.00 each

Comprehensive Eye Examination

\$260.00 each

Pediatric Vision Evaluation

\$195.00 each

Vision Processing Evaluation

\$250.00 each

Eye Movement Evaluation

\$130.00 each

Report of Findings

\$75.00 each

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 37. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the services of Behavior Therapy Associates for the 2026-2027 school year for behavioral services.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 38. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the appointment of Dr. Michele Nitti as medical inspector for the 2026-2027 school year, at a rate of \$250.00 per employee physical examination.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 39. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following stipend positions for the 2026-2027 school year at the contractual rate:

Tina Rivera

Substitute Coordinator - \$3,000

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 40. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Class III Officer Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Essex Fells for the 2026-2027 school year at a rate of \$37.00 per hour.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 41. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the contract with Steven J. Lella for the 2026-2027 school year, pending approval of the County Superintendent.

NOTE: Copy of contract with BA

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 42. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following administrative salaries for the 2026-2027 school year:

Michelle Gadaleta	Superintendent/Principal	\$222,166
Steven J. Lella	School Business Administrator	\$146,925

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 43. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following teaching staff for the 2026-2027 school year:

Name	FTE	Guide	Step	26-27 Salary	Position	6/9/26 EF YOS
George Alexandris	1.00	MA	9	\$74,780		1.98
Nicole Axentiou	1.00	MA	9	\$74,780		3.18
Pamela Banta	1.00	BA +30	18	\$97,815		1.42
Lauren Brzostowski	1.00	BA	11	\$73,790		8.77
Gabriella Day	1.00	MA	4	\$69,180		1.17
Danielle Jaworski	1.00	BA	8	\$67,780		5.77
Rory Duarte	1.00	MA	9	\$74,780		7.77
Stefania Focarino	1.00	BA + 15	10	\$73,785		3.77
Rebecca Katsios	1.00	BA	4	\$63,880		2.34

ESSEX FELLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 17, 2026

Kristen Kowalski	1.00	MA + 30	10	\$80,061	8.77
Jessica Lodato	1.00	MA	15	\$90,890	4.18
Veronica Mattulo	1.00	MA	5	\$70,380	0.77
Patricia Pakonis	.40	BA	10	\$28,594	12.55
Erika Pilato	1.00	MA	18	\$98,815	4.77
Laura Quinn	1.00	BA	13	\$79,690	11.77
Erica Santalla	1.00	MA	18	\$98,815	2.77
LeeAnn Smith	1.00	MA +30	18	\$103,034	5.77
Kimberly Trafford	1.00	MA + 15	12	\$83,066	12.69
James Wallace Jr.	1.00	BA + 30	14	\$86,940	3.77
Michelle Barshay	1.00	BA +30	18	\$97,815	19.77
			Longevity	\$1,500	
			Total	\$99,315	
Dorotea Banek	1.00	MA +30	18	\$103,034	27.41
			Longevity	\$1,500	
			Total	\$104,534	
Laura Brutman	1.00	MA	18	\$98,815	19.74
			Longevity	\$1,500	
			Total	\$100,315	
Candice Fitzgerald	1.00	MA	11	\$79,090	13.77
			Longevity	\$1,200	
			Total	\$80,290	
Kristin Gann	1.00	BA	18	\$93,515	22.73
			Longevity	\$1,500	
			Total	\$95,015	
Susan Hacker	1.00	MA	18	\$98,815	19.74
			Longevity	\$1,500	
			Total	\$100,315	
Deana Hromoko	1.00	MA +30	18	\$103,034	25.02
			Longevity	\$1,500	
			Total	\$104,534	
Katie MacKenzie	1.00	MA +30	13	\$88,266	15.77
			Longevity	\$1,200	
			Total	\$89,466	
Lisa Massaro	1.00	MA +15	18	\$100,734	26.74
			Longevity	\$1,500	
			Total	\$102,234	
Judi Reynolds	1.00	MA +30	18	\$103,034	25.74
			Longevity	\$1,500	
			Total	\$104,534	
Rosalie Takkel	1.00	BA +30	16	\$92,840	18.77
			Longevity	\$1,200	
			Total	\$94,040	

John Trogani	1.00	BA	18	\$93,515	20.77
			Longevity	\$1,500	
			Total	\$95,015	

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 44. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of the following paraprofessional staff members for the 2026-2027 school year, 184 days:

Susan FitzGibbon	IEP	7 hr/day	\$33,342
Jennifer Sullivan	IEP	7 hr/day	\$33,342
Maria Sazan	IEP	7 hr/day	\$33,342
Patricia Pakonis	I&RS/504(.6)	7 hr/day	\$20,005
Lucille Lapone	IEP	7 hr/day	\$33,342

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 45. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following custodial salaries for the 2026-2027 school year:

John Thomas (7:00am-3:00pm)	\$88,603
Santiago Galindo (12:30pm-8:30pm)	\$59,069
James Davis (11:00am-7:00pm)	\$51,612

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 46. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following 12-month support staff salaries for the 2026-2027 school year:

Tina Rivera	Administrative Assistant	\$73,099
Christina Andrade	Administrative Assistant	\$68,000

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 47. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, Marco Pannullo as the District Technology Coordinator at a salary of \$91,756 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 48. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of the following stipend positions for the 2026-2027 school year at the contractual rate:

Judi Reynolds	Lead Teacher - \$5,000
LeeAnn Smith	Child Study Team Coordinator - \$5,000

Rebecca Fogarty	Student Council - \$600 per
Judi Reynolds	Student Council - \$600 per

Dorotea Banek	Camp - \$800
Erica Santalla	Camp - \$800
Pamela Banta	Camp - \$800
Susan Hacker	Camp - \$800
Erika Pilato	Camp - \$800
George Alexandris	Camp - \$800
Marco Pannullo	Camp - \$800
John Trogani	Camp - \$800
Jamie Wallace	Camp - \$800
Nurse	Camp - \$800
EFPD Officer	Camp - \$0

Erica Santalla	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
Pamela Banta	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
Susan Hacker	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
Erika Pilato	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
John Trogani	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
George Alexandris	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
Marco Pannullo	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
Jamie Wallace	Sixth Grade Event - \$250
Nurse	Sixth Grade Event - \$250

All Staff As Assigned	Lunch/Recess Duty - \$45 per session
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Moved by: Mr. Piscane	Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci
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Ayes: 4	Nays: 0
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49. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, that the annual teacher evaluations will be conducted through the STRONGE & Associates model, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent and Business Administrator's evaluation tools are District-developed.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane	Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci
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Ayes: 4	Nays: 0
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50. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent and approves the employment of the following student assistants in the IT/custodial departments for the 2026 summer, for a total of 50 hours each.

Claire Wactlar	\$15.23/hr - IT
Philip Dong	\$15.23/hr - IT
Elaura Content	\$15.23/hr - Custodial
Brayden Chamma	\$15.23/hr - Custodial

Moved by: Mr. Piscane	Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci
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Ayes: 4	Nays: 0
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51. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent and approves Kimberly Trafford as Technology Support for Summer 2026 at the contracted rate, not to exceed 50 hours.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

52. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent and approves Judi Reynolds as Lead Teacher, as needed, for Summer 2026 at the contracted rate, not to exceed 50 hours.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

53. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Extended School Year (ESY) Program for Summer 2026, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following staff members for the 2026 Extended School Year (ESY) Program Mondays-Thursdays, June 29-July 30, from 9:00am-1:00pm, including an additional one half hour per day for planning at the following rates:

LeeAnn Smith	CST Coordinator (not to exceed 50 hours at the contracted rate)
Katie MacKenzie	Special Ed Teacher at the contracted rate of \$65.00 hourly
Stefania Focarino	Special Ed Teacher at the contracted rate of \$65.00 hourly
Maria Sazan	Paraprofessional at the contracted rate of \$26.02 hourly
Arle Berghorn	Nurse at the contracted rate of \$175.00 daily

NOTES: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, ESY Supervisor

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

54. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Professional Services Agreements for Related Services for students in accordance with their IEP's for the Extended School Year (Summer 2026) Program as follows:

OT: Spectrum Support Services: Cassandra Torter

Estimated 15 hours total at \$125.00/hour for:

- Treatment

Total summer cost not to exceed:

\$1,875.00

Speech Therapist: Pro-Care Therapy: Melanie Lirano

Estimated 25 hours total at \$97.95/hour

Not to exceed

\$2,448.75

Total summer cost not to exceed:

\$4,323.75

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

55. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Out of District Program costs for Academy 360 Lower School – Spectrum 360(Student 370641) for Summer 2026 in the following amount:

22 days total at \$537.76/day	\$11,830.72
1 to 1 Aide at \$260/day	\$5,720.00

<u>Total Summer Program Not to Exceed</u>	<u>\$17,550.72</u>
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Moved by: Mr. Piscane	Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci
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Ayes: 4	Nays: 0
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- 56. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Out of District Program costs for Academy 360 Lower School – Spectrum 360 (Student 340600) for Summer 2026 in the following amount:

22 days total at \$537.76/day	\$11,830.72
1 to 1 Aide at \$260/day	\$5,720.00

<u>Total Summer Program Not to Exceed</u>	<u>\$17,550.72</u>
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Moved by: Mr. Piscane	Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci
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Ayes: 4	Nays: 0
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- 57. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Out of District Program costs for CTC Academy Lower School (Student 370642) for Summer 2026 in the following amount:

23 days total at \$519.06/day	\$11,938.88
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<u>Total Summer Program Not to Exceed</u>	<u>\$11,938.88</u>
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Moved by: Mr. Piscane	Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci
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Ayes: 4	Nays: 0
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- 58. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Out of District Program costs for The Newmark School, Inc (Student 350651) for Summer 2026 in the following amount:

17 days total at \$388.26/day	\$6,600.42
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<u>Total Summer Program Not to Exceed</u>	<u>\$6,600.42</u>
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Moved by: Mr. Piscane	Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci
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Ayes: 4	Nays: 0
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- 59. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the Out of District Program costs for The Deron School (Student 370784) for Summer 2026 in the following amount:

30 days total at \$428.05/day	\$12,841.50
1 to 1 Aide at \$250/day	\$7,500.00

<u>Total Summer Program Not to Exceed</u>	<u>\$20,341.50</u>
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Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

60. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following contracts with the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission for the 2026-2027 School Year:

1. **Transportation of Special Education and / or specific destinations of school students**
2. **Public School Child Study Team Evaluations and meeting attendance**
3. **Addendum to the Public School Child Study Team for Additional Services**

NOTE: Contracts with BA

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

61. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following contracts with the Sussex Regional Educational Services Commission for the 2026-2027 School Year:

1. **Transportation of Special Education and /or specific destinations of school students**

NOTE: Contracts with BA if needed

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

62. **WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on (May 31st, 2025) the governing body of the Essex Fells BOE, County of Essex, State of New Jersey duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

TITLE

This **RESOLUTION** shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Essex Fells BOE

AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)*, the Essex Fells BOE is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

CONTRACTING UNIT

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage for the 2026-2027 School Year.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Morris-Union Jointure Commission, hereinafter referred to as the “Lead Agency,” has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System known as the “Educational Cooperative Pricing System” for the purchase of Professional Learning; and

WHEREAS, the Essex Fells School District within the County of Essex, New Jersey, desires to participate in the Educational Cooperative Pricing System;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Essex Fells Board of Education as follows:

AUTHORITY

As directed by N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11 et seq. and pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), the Board President is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

CONTRACTING UNIT

The Lead Agency shall advertise for and receive bids from vendors who will make school supplies, equipment and other related goods and services available to participating members of the said Cooperative Pricing System at the agreed upon price; and

The Lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the Essex Fells Board of Education shall be responsible for complying with the 54 provisions of the Local Public

Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage for the 2026-2027 School Year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 63. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, as recommended by the Superintendent, extends thanks to the PTA and Essex Fells Foundation for Educational Excellence for their donations and support of the school throughout the 2025-2026 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Mr. Kessler abstained from vote.

- 64. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education recognizes the Essex Fells Foundation for Educational Excellence and the Essex Fells PTA as official parent support Organizations for the 2026-2027 school year in accordance with Policy #9210; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the activities/functions scheduled by these organizations will be brought to the attention of the Board.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Mr. Kessler abstained from vote.

65. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following Nursing Agencies to provide substitute nursing services to the 2026-2027 school year:

Health Source Group	\$76.00/hour
Delta-T Group	\$68.00/hour

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

66. RESOLVED that the Essex Fells Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the approval of Jan Pro Northern NJ for custodial substitute services at the following rates for the 2026-2027 school year:

Regular Service	\$41/hour
Emergency Service (less than 48 hours' notice)	\$46/hour

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

67. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the submission of the Security Drill Statement of Assurance for the 2025-2026 school year to the County Office of Education.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

68. RESOLVED that the Board of Education enters into an agreement for software services for the 2026-2027 school year with Frontline in the amount of \$11,813.28 used for the creation and modification of individualized education programs for students with special needs and teacher evaluation.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

69. RESOLVED that the Board of Education enters into an agreement for Student Information Systems for the 2026-2027 school year with Genesis in the amount of \$10,044.00.

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

70. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the annual approval of District Job Descriptions:

NOTES: Binder located in the Superintendent's office for review

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 71. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following substitutes for the 2026-2027 school year, at \$125(teacher) \$175 (nurse)/day, pending the usual criminal history and background check for new hires:

Farrah Carnahan	Teacher
Judy Longthorne	Teacher
Kelly King	Teacher
Patricia Wahl	Teacher

Marla Kearney	Teacher
Sophie Kearney	Teacher
Alison Cirenza	Teacher
Anne Smith	Teacher
Stephanie Bonder	Teacher
Anne Healy	Teacher
Rawan Anabtawi	Teacher
Donna Phillips	Teacher
Belinda O'Donnell	Teacher
Mary Alice Carella	Teacher
Schelli Wilson	Teacher
Mattew Ippolito	Teacher
Emily Zarr	Teacher
Delany Piccoli	Teacher
Arle Berghorn	Nurse

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

- 72. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the list of possible field trips and chaperones as assigned for the 2026-2027 school year.

NOTE: List Attached (Chaperones listed separately)

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

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

NOTE: List Attached

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

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

NOTE: List Attached

Moved by: Mr. Piscane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XI. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01 – 04.

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): Steve Lella
Event: School Safety and Security Symposium
Location: North Caldwell, NJ
Date: 7/14/26
Cost: \$0.00

Staff Member(s): Tina Rivera
Event: Genesis Professional Excellence Summit
Location: Chatham, NJ
Date: 8/5/26
Cost: \$11.21

Staff Member(s): Katie MacKenzie
Event: Conquer Math
Location: Pompton Plains, NJ
Date: 11/24/26, 12/18/26, 3/23/27
Cost: \$630.00

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mr. Pisacane

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the appointment of Kristen DiGiacomo, Third Grade Teacher, MA, Step 7, for the 2026-2027 school year, at the salary of \$71,580, pending the usual criminal history and background check for new hires.

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mr. Pisacane

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

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

EFPD – Active Shooter Training
7/7/26 & 7/9/26 – Gymnasium
7:00am – 7:00pm

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mr. Pisacane

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the EFS Remote Learning Plan for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mr. Pisacane

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XII. Business Administrator's Report

- Mr. Lella provided the Chapter 47 List of Contracts
- There will be 1 open seat for the November BOE Election. The term will run January 1, 2027, through December 31st, 2029. Applications are due to the County Clerk's Office by 4pm, July 27th.
- Mr. Lella noted the NJSIG claims for the garbage dumpster fence and the panel for the gymnasium AC.

XIII. Business Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Business Resolutions #01-03.

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2026

Moved by: Mr. Pisacane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for June in the amount of \$160,446.48 as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for May as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent

and Board President in the total amount of \$402,209.28 including \$374,703.30 for the gross payroll, \$5,708.95 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and \$21,795.03 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

Moved by: Mr. Pisacane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

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: Mr. Pisacane

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XIV. Meeting Open for Public Comment

- None

XV. Resolution to Enter Executive Session

- At 8:31 P.M The Board convened in Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation.

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: **Superintendent's Evaluation.** 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: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

XVI. Adjournment

BE IT RESOLVED that this public Reappointment meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:44 P.M.
The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 12th at 7:30 P.M** in the Media Center.

Moved by: Mrs. Maffucci

Seconded by: Mr. Kessler

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary