

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 August 12, 2026. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mrs. Amanda Haber, at 7:30 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 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

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

II. Roll Call

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

Also present: Dr. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal and Mr. Steven J. Lella, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and two members of the public (2 arrived at 7:41 pm)

III. Flag Salute

- The Board President led the flag salute.

IV. President's Report

- None

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

- None

VI. Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Gadaleta mentioned the Summer B&G projects: Media Center lights, outdoor scoreboard, front entrance paving, BSI room carpet, Science AC, trees and wooden posts on preschool playground, stucco repair, potential GFI outlet replacement.
- We are very excited for Back to School Night on September 10th, and the Character Education Theme of "A Wave of Respect, Responsibility and Kindness."
- The BOE, District and Superintendent goals have been updated.
- Curriculum revisions took a lot of time and work by the staff, and thanked the staff for their work. This was unbudgeted for. Mr. Kessler thanked the teachers for their hard work. The Board discussed the curriculum revisions.
- We are happy to announce the appointment of the new school nurse, Mrs. 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: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

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: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

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: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

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: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

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	<u>\$0</u>
Total	\$2,089.00

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

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	<u>\$4,064.00</u>
Total	\$61,572.00

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

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: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

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.

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

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: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

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: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

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: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

VIII. Business Administrator's Report

- There is one (1) open BOE Member position for the November Election. No names were submitted to be on the ballot.
- The ESEA and IDEA grant allocations were noted.
- The 2026-27 Extraordinary Aid Award came in 2K less than was budgeted for. We hope in future budgets to return to not budgeting for this amount in order to balance our proposed budget.

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: Mrs. Maffucci

Seconded by: Mr. Kessler

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

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: Mrs. Maffucci

Seconded by: Mr. Kessler

Ayes: 3

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: Mrs. Maffucci

Seconded by: Mr. Kessler

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

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: Mrs. Maffucci

Seconded by: Mr. Kessler

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

X. Old Business / Board Discussion

- We will wait on taking a BOE photo.
- Policy discussion will be tabled.

XI. New Business / Board Discussion

- Dr. Gadaleta will be scheduling grade level parent meetings.
- The QSAC Scores were discussed.
- West Essex had asked about attending EFS Back to School Night to be available to discuss their upcoming referendum. We will put the information in The Week At A Glance.

XII. Public Comment

- None

XIII. Adjournment

RESOLVED that this public meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:15 P.M. The next workshop meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 7:30 P.M.** in the Superintendent's Office.

Moved by: Mr. Kessler

Seconded by: Mrs. Maffucci

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

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