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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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

- NJSLA-A Scores and Parent Reports
- Interrater Reliability Training Stronge & Associates
- State Ranking
- Fireside Chats with Dr. Gadaleta

VII. Buildings & Grounds

- GAGA Surface
- Roof Repair
- Boiler Repair
- AC Repair
- Playground fogging

VIII. Curriculum & Instruction

- Media and Health Curriculum Revisions
- Student Support Programs
- Gifted and Talented
- Grade 6 LEAD Program

IX. Finance

- Agency Billing Cycles
- Electronic Student Activity Fund Collection - BlueSnap
- 2025-26 Audit
- 2027-28 Budget
- Ch. 44 Article
- Application for School State Aid (ASSA) – October 15th, 2026
- District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS) – November 17, 2026
- NJSBA 2026 Annual BOE Member On-line Training

X. Personnel

- Push in support for open periods
- October 12th Professional Development Day

XI. Policy

- Policy Discussion:
  - P 1643 Family Leave (M) (Revised)
  - P 8601 Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal
- Request for Independent Evaluation Policy

XII. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Archival Removal from Business Office
- Boiler Service

XIII. New Business / Board Discussion

- School Make Up Pictures 10/23
- Preschool Tuition

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: **Legal Matters and Negotiations,** 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 meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at ____ P.M. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 7:30 P.M**. in the Media Center.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

2026-2027

Teacher	Section	Total	F	M
Mrs. Axentiou/Mrs. Dillon	PK	17	6	11
Mrs. Brutman	KB	17	11	6
Mrs. Quinn	KQ	17	10	7
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		**255**	**133**	**122**
Out-of-District	*	5		
FINAL TOTALS		260		
TOTAL FAMILIES		170		
***Total includes 5 out-of-district students.**				**9/8/2026**

Fire Drills: 2026-2027

Month	Fire Drill	Emergency Drill
August	8/28/26	Walkie Talkie Audit 8/26/26
September	September 14, 2026	Lock Down with EFPD – September 9, 2026
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		

HIB / V&V Report

As of Date of BOE Meeting	8/12	9/2	9/16	10/7												
TOTAL# of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	0												
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	0												
Number of Founded Incidents	0	0	0	0												
Violence & Vandalism Incidents	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.