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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 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. Student Liaison Report

- Henry Lavoie
- Charlotte Torjussen

VI. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

VII. Superintendent's Report

- Evacuation Bus Drill Completed
- State Score Report Sharing
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Gifted and Talented Criteria
- Instructional Book List
- American Education Week
    i. Parent Visitation
    ii. Pinning Ceremony

VIII. Superintendent's Resolutions

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Superintendent Resolutions #01–12.

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): Susan FitzGibbon
Event: Learning, Leveraging, and Letting Go
Location: North Caldwell, NJ
Date: 11/18/26
Cost: $150.00

Staff Member(s): Jennifer Sullivan
Event: Learning, Leveraging, and Letting Go
Location: North Caldwell, NJ
Date: 11/18/26
Cost: $150.00

Staff Member(s): Gabriella Day
Event: Autism Certification for School Bases Professionals
Location: Virtual
Date: 11/18/26
Cost: $213.24

Staff Member(s): Danielle Jaworski
Event: Introduction to NGSS/NJSLS-Science
Location: Bloomfield, NJ
Date: 11/20/26
Cost: $200.00

Staff Member(s): Jessica Lodato
Event: Introduction to NGSS/NJSLS-Science
Location: Bloomfield, NJ
Date: 11/20/26
Cost: $200.00

Staff Member(s): Veronica Matullo
Event: Enhance Your Writing Instruction – Practical Applications of the Science of Writing Grades K-2
Location: Virtual
Date: 12/1/26
Cost: $295.00

Staff Member(s): Veronica Matullo
Event: Cutting Edge Best Strategies for Second Grade
Location: Virtual
Date: 12/7/26
Cost: $295.00

Staff Member(s): Pamela Banta
Event: Procrastination and Mental Blocks
Location: Virtual
Date: 12/15/26
Cost: $90.09

Staff Member(s): LeeAnn Smith
Event: LDA 64th Annual International Conference
Location: Las Vegas, NV
Date: 2/17/27-2/19/27
Cost: $405.00

Staff Member(s): Christina Andrade
Event: NJASBO Accounts Payable
Location: Whippany, NJ
Date: 5/11/27
Cost: $199.00

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the updated 2026-2027 Assessment Schedule:

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

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

EFFEE – Variety Show
11/20/26 6:00pm – 8:30pm
Gymnasium/ Room 108/Media Center

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

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

1st Grade Girl Scouts
10/26/26, 11/16/26, 12/14/26
3:05pm – 4:15pm
Gymnasium/Picnic Tables

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

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

   EFRD - Basketball
   11/30/26-3/15/27
   Monday-Friday 5:00pm–8:00pm/Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm
   Gymnasium

   Moved by: Seconded by:

   Ayes: Nays:

6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the updated 6th Grade LEAD Curriculum:

   NOTE: Copy in Superintendent's Office

   Moved by: Seconded by:

   Ayes: Nays:

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

   P 1643 Family Leave (M) (Revised)

   Moved by: Seconded by:

   Ayes: Nays:

8. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the agreement with Bartky HealthCare Center, LLC, for Psychiatric and Neurodevelopmental Evaluations:

   Evaluations $1,700 each

   Moved by: Seconded by:

   Ayes: Nays:

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

   Note: Copy available in Superintendent's Office

   Moved by: Seconded by:

   Ayes: Nays:

10. **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:

Rebecca Fogarty	Camp - $800
Moved by:	Seconded by:
Ayes:	Nays:

11. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, Larissa Dauman, Substitute Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year, pending the usual criminal history and background check for new hires.

Moved by:	Seconded by:
Ayes:	Nays:

12. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts and approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, Ronald Marsh, Substitute Custodian for the 2026-2027 school year, pending the usual criminal history and background check for new hires.

Moved by:	Seconded by:
Ayes:	Nays:

IX. Business Administrator's Report

- BOE Election
- Amazon Resolution
- Device Damage Cost Report

X. Business 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	September 2nd, 2026
Regular Meeting Minutes	September 16th, 2026
Executive Meeting Minutes	September 16th, 2026
Moved by:	Seconded by:
Ayes:	Nays:

2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves bills and claims for October in the amount of **$380,648.37** as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the payroll for September as certified by the Business Administrator and approved by the Superintendent and Board President in the total amount of $398,166.49 including $371,065.03 for the gross payroll, $5,769.02 for the Board's share of FICA/Medicare and $21,332.44 for the State's share of FICA/Medicare.

   Moved by: Seconded by:

   Ayes: Nays:

3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds for the months of July & August, as certified by the Business Administrator and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

   Moved by: Seconded by:

   Ayes: Nays:

4. **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 June.

   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:

5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator / Board Secretary to utilize an account with Amazon Business for Education Purchasing.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the M1 & Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the period FY '26 through FY '28 and authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to submit the Plan to the Essex County Executive Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by: Seconded by:

Ayes: Nays:

XI. Old Business / Board Discussion

- Fireside Chats with Dr. Gadaleta
- Preschool Tuition
- BlueSnap

XII. New Business / Board Discussion

- Student Teacher Lesson Recording
- Shared Services – B&G
- 2027-2028 School Calendar

XII. Public Comment

XIV. 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:

XV. 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, November 18, 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
September	September 14, 2026	Lock Down with EFPD – September 9, 2026
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		

HIB / V&V Report

As of Date of BOE Meeting	8/12	9/2	9/16	10/7	10/21											
TOTAL# of Reported Incidents	0	0	0	0	0											
Number of Unfounded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0											
Number of Founded Incidents	0	0	0	0	0											
Violence & Vandalism Incidents	0	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.