

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, February 24, 2016
Bell Top Elementary School

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. Shay Harrison – 7:31 p.m.

MEETING BEGINS

2. **Attendance**

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Buono	x	
Ms. Curran		x
Ms. Curtin	x	
Mr. Dunn	x	
Dr. Harrison	x	
Ms. Maciol	x	
Mr. Mann	x	
Ms. Massey	x	
Ms. Taylor	x	

Also Attending

Dr. Nagle	x
Ms. Bowman	x
Mr. Edson	x
Dr. Pampel	x

Student Council Representatives

Stephen Reilly	x
Devin Neal	x

3. **Ex Officio Student Council Comments**

**EX OFFICIO
COMMENTS**

Lydia Clemente introduced herself as the Executive Activities Chairman for the Student Council. She said a group of student leaders is participating in Friends of Jaclyn, a national organization that allows teams and groups to adopt a child with cancer. Two weeks ago, the Columbia team was introduced to Chase, a five year old who has struggled with many forms of cancer. The main goal of the group is to involve Chase in positive school activities for fun and relief from the challenges of cancer.

Lydia Clemente also said a group has been formed to make Easter baskets for Cate’s kids, a project of the Circles of Mercy for

children in need. She said the Student Council is organizing a Columbia gear fundraiser, the spring blood drive, and March Madness Week.

Special Presentations

Dr. Nagle thanked Bell Top teachers for attending the meeting and being supportive and passionate about their work. She thanked the PTO for providing refreshments.

Dr. Nagle thanked Mr. Edson for coordinating efforts to obtain rebates from National Grid for the installation of energy efficient equipment. She also commended Mr. Craft for providing documentation to National Grid for application approval. The District received \$93,758.60 in 2014-2015, \$600.00 in the current year, and has applications pending for \$136,700.00.

The Superintendent congratulated Ronald Shuhart, an eleventh grade student, who had a winning entry in the New York State “Kids Safe Online” Poster Contest. His poster, designed using Photoshop CS4, was selected from 450 entries among 43 schools in New York State.

Mr. McHugh announced that Ms. Gilligan has been named as one of WNYT’s Top Teachers and thanked her for outstanding work with students.

Mr. McHugh said the presentation focused on supporting the youngest learners in the area of English Language Arts through the AIS Extension block. He reviewed how Kindergarten and Grade 1 staff members serve students each day using a variety of instructional techniques. Ms. Adams gave an overview of AIS history at East Greenbush Schools and challenges due to State Laws on Common Core and not requiring Kindergarten. She updated the Board with research on the benefits of early exposure to reading. Ms. Lussier spoke about the team approach on instructional decisions, student performance, and individual evaluation. Ms. Lyte reviewed how students move within groups based on individual reading development. She summarized the benefits of literacy support in a multitude of settings, in different groups, with varying materials, and at different frequencies. Mr. McHugh gave an example of a first grade AIS extension planning sheet. He thanked the Board for providing the funding and flexibility to support the program.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

BELL TOP PRESENTATION

Assemblyman McDonald said he plans to meet with all school districts within his assembly district. He spoke about the changes in education, the resetting of the clock for Common Core, and providing tools to teachers. The Assemblyman focused on the need for additional funding to schools, GEA reduction or elimination, the tax cap, and compulsory Kindergarten.

**ASSEMBLYMAN
MCDONALD
PRESENTATION**

Mr. Dunn asked for relief from mandates and appropriate staffing for the State Education Department. Assemblyman McDonald replied that some of the mandates are to protect residents from environmental issues. He said it is always difficult to decide where to put limited state financial resources.

Mr. Dunn spoke about the District's aging buildings and the need for education and building aid to be a priority in the State budget. Assemblyman McDonald recognized the need for more aid, but said it needed to be balanced with community desires for property tax relief. He acknowledged the difficult job of Board members.

Mr. Buono emphasized the issues funding schools in light of the property tax cap. The Assemblyman said the tax cap is linked to rent control and is unlikely to be repealed. He said that legislative tax cap adjustments related to PILOTs have not yet been implemented.

Dr. Nagle thanked Assemblyman McDonald for his presentation.

4. Public Forum

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Balzer acknowledged the fine work of Ms. Leinung and wished her well in retirement.

Mr. Crall encouraged participation in the EGTA Blood Drive scheduled for March 15. He thanked Mr. Greene for coordinating valentines for all five senior centers under the Rensselaer County Department of the Aging. Mr. Crall also highlighted the community service of Mr. Tooker as a firefighter.

Mr. Galarneau requested that his children be allowed to attend Green Meadow Elementary School in the fall and asked for Board review of the situation.

5. Board Forum

BOARD FORUM

Ms. Maciol thanked Mr. McHugh and his staff for a well thought out presentation and sharing of best practices. She also thanked Assemblyman McDonald for attending the meeting.

Ms. Curtin thanked the Bell Top teachers for an excellent presentation. She enjoyed a recent production of Hairspray at the Cohoes Music Hall featuring many East Greenbush students and alumni. Ms. Curtin thanked Mr. Sawchuk for attending a forum on February 22 at Rensselaer County regarding drug addiction.

Ms. Taylor congratulated athletes going to advanced competition; 4 wrestlers and 2 track runners in State competition and the girls' basketball team in sectional play. She thanked Ms. Leinung and Ms. Hammond for their service and wished them well in retirement. She thanked the Bell Top staff for the outstanding presentation and said it was always nice to visit the school. Ms. Taylor congratulated Ms. Gilligan on her award.

Ms. Massey reflected on how nice it was to return to Bell Top. She thanked the many teachers in attendance at the meeting. Ms. Massey congratulated Ms. Gilligan on her award. She recognized students winning awards at FBLA competition. Ms. Massey thanked the Bell Top community.

Mr. Dunn said that there is always a warm welcome at Bell Top Elementary School. He thanked Mr. McHugh and his staff for an outstanding presentation.

Mr. Mann thanked the Bell Top community and staff for hosting the meeting and preparing an excellent presentation for the Board. He thanked Assemblyman McDonald for sharing State budget information. Mr. Mann said funding was always challenging for our schools, but that the community will prevail in its support for students, faculty, and staff. He thanked Mr. Balzer and Mr. Crall for public forum comments.

Dr. Harrison acknowledged Ms. Sanford-Krug and the food services staff for significant progress in implementation of the consultant's recommendations. He estimated 80% of the items have been addressed and indicated some items have not been implemented in the District's best interest. Dr. Harrison also thanked Mr. McHugh and Bell Top staff for the presentation.

6. Minutes

MINUTES

Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the District Clerk, the Board of Education approves the minutes of January 27, 2016

Motion by Mr. Buono, Seconded by Ms. Curtin

Vote: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 3 (Mr. Mann,
Motion carried. Ms. Maciol, Dr. Harrison)

7. Regular Business

Approval of Programs for Resident Children with Disabilities.
Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the programs for resident children with disabilities as presented.

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Ms. Massey

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried

**REGULAR
BUSINESS**

8. Reports and Presentations

A. Proposed Change in Policy – Second Reading

Mr. Edson advised there had been no comments received on the proposed policy on the mission statement since the first reading on January 27.

Motion by Ms. Maciol, Seconded by Ms. Taylor

To adopt the following policies as presented:

#0000 – Mission Statement

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried

**REPORTS AND
PRESENTATIONS**

B. Proposed Change in Policy – First Reading

Mr. Edson shared a series of suggested recommendations for policy revisions due to recent audits by the Office of the State Comptroller. He said the revisions are designed to ensure protection of confidential data. The policies suggested for change include #1120 School District Records, #8630 Computer Resources and Data Management, and #6900 Disposal of District Property. Mr. Edson also advised that grade change procedures need to be updated in policy #4710 Grading Systems. The next reading of the policy will reflect that grades can be changed by any of the three positions in the data processing department.

Mr. Edson said the Student Health Services Regulation #5420-R needs revision due to new immunization requirements and access to medication and supplies.

9. Tabled Motions

None at this time.

**TABLED
MOTIONS**

10. Old Business

A. Electronic BOE Documents

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Massey spoke in favor of the Board Docs program to improve efficiency and cut down on delivery cost. There was consensus to move ahead with implementation in the next school year.

11. Consent Agenda

A. Financial Reports

1. Warrants – 0052, 0053, 0054, 0055, 0056, 0057
2. Activity Reports – Columbia High School – December 2015
3. Treasurer’s Report – October, November, December 2015

**CONSENT AGENDA
FINANCIAL
REPORTS**

B. Personnel

1. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel #658 as Recommended by Superintendent
2. Non-Instructional Support Personnel #658 as Recommended by Superintendent

PERSONNEL

C. Appropriation of E-RATE Funds

E-RATE FUNDS

D. 6th Grade Field Trip to Silver Bay

**H. L. GOFF FIELD
TRIP REQUEST**

E. Request to Correct Tax Rolls

**TAX ROLL
CORRECTION**

F. 2016-2017 Proposed Calendar

**PROPOSED
CALENDAR 2016-
2017**

G. Agreement Between East Greenbush Central School District and East Greenbush Teachers’ Association

EGTA AGREEMENT

H. Columbia High School Science Olympiad State Tournament at LeMoyne College, Syracuse, NY

**COLUMBIA OVER-
NIGHT FIELD TRIP**

I. Acceptance of Gifts and Authorization to Increase the 2015-2016 Budget

**ACCEPTANCE OF
GIFTS, INCREASE
BUDGET**

J. Health Services Contract

HEALTH SERVICES

K. Howard L. Goff Middle School French Club Trip to Montreal

**GOFF FIELD TRIP
REQUEST**

L. CCS Approved Courses

**CCS APPROVED
COURSES**

M. Sale of Columbia Fitness Equipment

**OBSOLETE
EQUIPMENT**

N. Disposal of Unsafe Fitness Equipment

**DAMAGED
EQUIPMENT**

O. Questar III Lease Amendment Columbia High School and
Howard L. Goff Middle School Classrooms

**QUESTAR III
LEASE
AGREEMENT**

P. Preliminary Approval of Smart Schools Investment Plan

**SMART SCHOOLS
INVESTMENT PLAN**

Mr. Mann questioned the loss of the room rental to Questar. Mr. Edson noted the number of rooms for next year is the same as in the current year. He also stated that it is helpful to know room rental now during the budget process.

Be It Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Consent Agenda, with Addendum Item 11-P, Preliminary Approval of Smart Schools Investment Plan, without Item 11-B-1, Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel #658, be approved as presented.

Motion by Mr. Mann, Seconded by Ms. Massey

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

Be It Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Consent Agenda, Item 11-B-1, Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel #658, be approved as presented.

Motion by Ms. Curtin, Seconded by Mr. Buono

Vote: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 1

(Ms. Taylor)

12. New Business

NEW BUSINESS

A. Calendar of Spring Meetings

Dr. Nagle shared a calendar of upcoming events with the Board. Ms. Curtin noted the Junior Prom has been moved from May 7 to May 14.

13. Committee Reports

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

Ms. Taylor said BRAC met to review the CDRPC enrollment projections which show a slow but steady decline in enrollment. She said the Education Committee had presentations regarding Columbia online classes, guidance counseling, and the Naviance program. Ms. Taylor shared that the Education Foundation

continues to make plans for the Gala on April 8 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Dessert Night is scheduled for April 14.

Mr. Edson noted the calendar committee completed its work for the year and next year's calendar was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Dr. Harrison reflected on the CDRPC report showing the peak of 5,500 students in the school district in the 1970's.

14. Public Forum #2

None at this time.

PUBLIC FORUM

15. Board Forum #2

None at this time.

BOARD FORUM

16. Executive Session

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Ms. Curtin to go into executive session to discuss negotiations.

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

Time: 8:58 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy J. Mancino
District Clerk

16. Executive Session

The executive session began at 9:03 p.m. and ended at 10:02 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

17. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Massey to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

Time: 10:02 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Curtin
Board of Education Member