

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Board of Education Meeting  
Wednesday, January 13, 2016  
Howard L. Goff Middle School

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. Harrison – 7:47 p.m.

**MEETING BEGINS**

2. **Attendance**

**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	
<u>Also Attending</u>		
Dr. Nagle	x	
Ms. Bowman		x
Mr. Edson	x	
Dr. Pampel	x	
<u>Student Council Representatives</u>		
Stephen Reilly	x	
Devin Neal		x

3. **Ex Officio Student Council Comments**

**EX OFFICIO  
COMMENTS**

Stephen Reilly said the month of December was extremely busy for the Columbia community. Members of the student council participated in the Salvation Army bell ringing outside of WalMart on Saturday and raised \$861 in memory of former Columbia student Chris Bascom. Lydia Clemente and Caitlin McHugh sold Make-A-Wish ornaments and raised nearly \$400. Peer Leadership helped set up a Christmas store for Concerns-U by unpacking and arranging clothes and toys. Other students helped fill bags for holiday meals. Cheerleaders and Leaders of Tomorrow Leading Today visited St. Anne’s where they sang carols and distributed the gifts that they donated. Student Council members also visited

Evergreen Commons Nursing Home the day before the break to sing Christmas carols and distribute cards to the residents to help spread cheer.

Stephen Reilly also noted that FBLA volunteered at Crossgates Mall for Make-A-Wish by collecting donations to help children with life-threatening illnesses. The Athletic Department donated and delivered gifts to ten senior citizens and eight families. These gifts were donated by students and coaches throughout the school community. Emily Cuttler and Olivia Godell collected food and toys and raised over \$400 to help the animals at the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society as a tribute to Emily's dog, Kallie.

Stephen Reilly spoke about upcoming events, including a hypnotist appearing at Columbia on Friday, January 15, as a Student Council fund raiser. Student Council is also starting their apparel sale of sweatshirts and baseball hats. January 21, is the first meeting of the School Improvement Team (SIT). Student Council is also in the planning stages of organizing an event for Friends of Jaelyn Foundation which helps families suffering from childhood cancer. The students are looking at ways they can assist in this very worthwhile endeavor. On January 15-17, the District will hold its' annual Winterfest, and students will be present to sell raffle tickets for the PTSO.

#### **4. Public Forum**

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr. Balzer commended Mr. Adam for his work on communicating school events to the community.

Mr. Crall said contract negotiations with the District continue on issues of interest. He declared 2015-2016 as the "Year of the Union" and said he will be spreading the good news of unionism. Mr. Crall spoke about union sponsored activities during the school year and shared the outstanding work done by dedicated classroom teachers throughout the District.

#### **5. Board Forum**

#### **BOARD FORUM**

Ms. Taylor invited everyone to attend Winterfest activities from January 15 to 17, including a performance by the Zucchini Brothers at Red Mill Elementary School. She said Saturday, January 16, will begin with a pancake breakfast followed by several events and activities. Bowling will take place on Sunday, January 17. She extended congratulations to Columbia High School on the graduation rate and to Mark Adam for highlighting the success. Ms. Taylor congratulated Mr. Johnson on his retirement after 25 years of dedicated service.

**6. Minutes**

**MINUTES**

Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the District Clerk, the Board of Education approves the minutes of December 9, 2015.

Moved by: Ms. Taylor  
Seconded by: Ms. Curtin  
Vote: Ayes - 6, Nays - 0  
(Mr. Dunn absent from the table.)  
Motion carried.

**7. Regular Business**

**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.

Moved by: Mr. Buono  
Seconded by: Ms. Curtin  
Vote: Ayes - 6, Nays - 0  
(Mr. Dunn absent from the table.)  
Motion carried.

**8. Reports and Presentations**

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. Building Condition Survey

Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Bouley presented a building condition survey update to the Board. The survey is required every five years by the State Education Department in a prescribed format. It includes an evaluation of all building systems and has some inherent limitations. The survey is being completed in consultation with Mr. Ellsworth from Sano-Rubin Construction. The data collected has been compiled into a software product, divided by each school and type of facility need. Mr. Hamlin reviewed the facility dashboard handout with the Board, noting total facility needs by building and anticipated costs. He stated that the costs are construction only, and incidental expenses must be added to the numbers presented.

Mr. Buono questioned how the priorities were established. Mr. Hamlin explained it was a collaborative process with Mr. Ellsworth and Mr. Craft. He said there is subjectivity in the rankings. A priority one ranking does not need to be addressed immediately, but within a reasonable period of time.

Ms. Massey asked about the cost escalation. Mr. Hamlin said there is a 5% per year escalation for construction costs that is

compounded.

Dr. Harrison questioned whether the high dollar value for facility needs at Genet was due to the age of the building. Mr. Hamlin responded yes. Mr. Bouley said the building requires masonry repointing, stone restoration, foundation work, and new windows. Mr. Hamlin also commented on the anticipated site work at Columbia involving replacement of the turf field. He said that SED suggests an investment in buildings of approximately 3% of the replacement value each year.

Mr. Hamlin said the District buildings were in good condition due to past investment from building construction projects. He favored smaller building projects to continue the process of repair. Mr. Hamlin also said the survey estimates will be the basis for the five year plan to meet SED requirements and District capital project planning. Mr. Hamlin stated his firm is on track to meet the SED June 30 deadline for survey submission.

B. Columbia Equine Program

Mr. Sawchuk provided an overview of the Columbia Equine Program, which is a pilot program for students in the Columbia Alternative Program. He said the expected cost this year is \$2,800, which has been funded through donations.

Ms. Neiman said the program promotes leadership, healthy relationships, and establishing boundaries. Additional goals are building self-esteem, empathy, confidence, team participation, and overcoming challenges. She noted the participating students often do not feel connected to the community. Program activities include introduction to the farm, grooming, simulation, leadership exercises, and journals. The program will take place at the Long Shadows Farm in Cambridge and be coordinated with Ms. Buck who retrains racing thoroughbreds.

Dr. Harrison asked about the timing of the program. Mr. Marsh said the students leave at the beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> period and return to the building by 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Sawchuk said permission slips and insurance are in place for the program. He added that another goal is to build trust with at-risk students. Mr. Sawchuk asked for consideration for funding in next year's budget.

Ms. Taylor thanked Mr. Sawchuk, the teachers, and Ms. Buck for all they are doing for at-risk students. Mr. Buono noted that this was a pilot program. Mr. Sawchuk hoped to come back at a later time to give an update to the Board. He said he would like to have financial supporters of the program tour the farm in the summer.

Mr. Dunn questioned the privacy of students filmed in the program. Mr. Edson explained that consent forms will be needed from the farm owners and the parents of students in the program prior to release of any film. Mr. Dunn requested a full update of the program at a later time.

Mr. Mann questioned how often students are in the program. Mr. Marsh anticipated students attending once a month this year and hoped for once a month next year, except for September and June. Mr. Sawchuk said the costs of the program include supplies, transportation, and facility fee.

#### C. Electronic Board Documents

Dr. Pampel said nine of eighteen districts surveyed were using Board Docs as a means of electronic dissemination of the board packet. Currently, NERIC supports twelve local districts and plans to add four additional districts in the spring of 2016; NERIC costs are subject to BOCES aid. There are 164 districts statewide using the product. Dr. Pampel advised that the vendor provides professional development to utilize the software. She said the software works on a tablet or Chromebook, but only in wireless environments. Wireless should be available no later than the fall of 2016 at East Greenbush Schools.

Dr. Nagle suggested consideration of the notes provided in the survey of schools in the Questar region.

Dr. Harrison questioned when a Board decision will be needed for budget. Mr. Edson suggested a determination by February 24.

#### 8.D. Presentation of Policies – First Reading

Mr. Edson said the New York State School Boards Association issued a policy update on #1230, Public Participation at Board Meetings, to strengthen the role of the Board President to conduct the meeting. It also requires a Board vote to extend the public comment period. Policy #2270, School Attorney, is revised to further define the role of the school attorney. Revision of this policy was in consultation with the District's own attorney.

Policy #5405, District Wellness Policy, has been completely rewritten due to a pending SED food services audit. The policy is likely to be revised again when the federal regulation is finalized. Policy #8334, Use of Credit Cards, has been updated to reflect District practice on credit limits.

**9. Tabled Motions:** None at this time.

**TABLED  
MOTIONS  
OLD BUSINESS**

**10. Old Business:** None at this time.

**11. Consent Agenda with Addendum**

**CONSENT AGENDA  
FINANCIAL  
REPORTS**

**A. Financial Reports**

1. Warrants – 0041, V041, 0042, 0043, 0044, 0045, 0046, 0047
2. Treasurer’s Reports, Columbia High School and Howard L. Goff Middle School – October 2015
3. Budgetary Transfer

**B. Personnel**

1. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel #656 as Recommended by Superintendent
2. Non-Instructional Support Personnel #656 as Recommended by Superintendent

**PERSONNEL**

**C. Acceptance of Bids for Wireless Access**

**BID WIRELESS  
ACCESS**

**D. MOA Between EGCS and EGTA**

**MOA**

**E. Damaged Equipment – Promethean Board**

**DAMAGED  
EQUIPMENT**

**F. Damaged Equipment – Driving Simulators**

**DAMAGED  
EQUIPMENT**

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF  
GIFTS, INCREASE  
BUDGET**

**H. Questar III Lease Agreement for Red Mill Elementary School Classrooms**

**QUESTAR LEASE  
AGREEMENT**

I. Acceptance of Request for Proposal – Auditing Services

**PROPOSED  
AUDITING  
SERVICES**

J. 2012 Tax Certiorari Reserve Closure

**2012 TAX  
CERTIORARI  
RESERVE  
UPDATE**

K. 2013 Tax Certiorari Reserve Closure

**2013 TAX  
CERTIORARI  
RESERVE  
UPDATE**

L. Unified Integrated Bowling

**INTEGRATED  
BOWLING**

Mr. Mann questioned the surplus designation of the driving simulators. Dr. Nagle replied that the equipment is obsolete, particularly due to simulation not being required as part of driver training.

Be It Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Consent Agenda with Addendum be approved as presented.

Moved by: Ms. Curtin

Seconded by: Ms. Taylor

Vote: Ayes - 7 , Nays - 0

Motion carried.

**12. New Business:** None at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**13. Committee Reports**

**COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

Ms. Taylor noted the Education Foundation is sponsoring the Zucchini Brothers performance at Winterfest.

Mr. Edson said the policy committee will be releasing the mission statement policy for first reading at next Board meeting. He also said BRAC will be reviewing the CDRPC enrollment projections report in early February. Mr. Edson advised that upon completion of the Comptroller's Audit, a report will be issued, which will be disseminated to the Finance and Audit Committee for review.

**14. Public Forum #2**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr. Haley suggested that students be involved in testing safety and security for the infrastructure improvements.

**15. Board Forum #2**

**BOARD FORUM**

Mr. Buono looked forward to Ms. Mancino serving as district clerk.

**16. Adjournment**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Dunn to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Ayes - 7 , Nays – 0

Motion carried.

Time: 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence A. Edson, Jr.  
District Clerk