

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2016
Howard L. Goff Middle School

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. Shay Harrison – 7:32 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 Riley	x	
Devin Neal		x

3. **Ex Officio Student Council Comments**

**EX OFFICIO
COMMENTS**

Stephen Riley said that March Madness Week will begin on March 14 which will include different dress up days to increase school spirit. Also, during March many groups at Columbia High School will be making Easter Baskets for underprivileged children for Cate’s Organization to be delivered to the Sisters of Mercy Northwest Community at the end of March.

Marissa Hochberg is heading up an initiative to collect toiletries and basic needs items to assist the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless. Stephen Reilly stated that sign-ups for the April blood drive are in a few weeks. Student Council is hoping to surpass

their goal from last year and be awarded a scholarship from the Red Cross for one student.

4. Public Forum

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Balzer acknowledged the fine work of Ms. Tacy, School Nurse at Donald P. Sutherland Elementary School.

5. Board Forum

BOARD FORUM

Ms. Massey found the recent education committee meeting to be very informative on school programs, including Academic Intervention Services.

Ms. Curtin said the recent Columbia production of “Anything Goes” was of high quality and the students did a phenomenal job.

Ms. Taylor congratulated Ms. Gilligan as one of WNYT’s Top Teachers and thanked her for her enthusiasm for teaching. She also congratulated the girls’ bowling team on winning the State championship. Ms. Taylor acknowledged the success of the Goff Science Olympiad Team, who placed first in regional competition and will be moving on to state competition.

Dr. Harrison congratulated Justin Luther for receiving the Section II Capital Region Basketball Scholar-Athlete Award. He invited everyone to attend the celebratory parade and dinner for the girls’ bowling team on March 15.

6. Minutes

MINUTES

Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the District Clerk, the Board of Education approves the minutes of February 24, 2016.

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Mr. Mann

Vote: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 1 (Ms. Curran)

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.

Motion by Ms. Curran, Seconded by Mr. Buono

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

8. Reports and Presentations

A. Proposed Change in Policy – Second Reading

Mr. Edson advised there had been no comments received on the proposed policies since the first reading on February 24 other than minor grammatical corrections.

Motion by Ms. Massey, Seconded by Mr. Mann

To adopt the following policies as presented:

#1120, #1120-R, #1120-E – School District Records

#4710 – Grading Systems

#5420-R – Student Health Services Regulation

#6900 – Disposal of District Property

#8630, #8630-R – Computer Resources and Data Management

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

B. Proposed Change in Policy – First Reading

Mr. Edson said that policy #1500, Public Use of School Facilities, was submitted to the school attorney for review. The attorney requested insertion of clarifying language regarding potential denial of facilities use to individuals convicted of a crime or other violation of law (other than traffic infraction) or with pending charges. He also suggested updating the related building use forms with the changes.

9. Tabled Motions

None at this time.

10. Old Business

None at this time.

11. Consent Agenda

A. Financial Reports

1. Warrants – 0058, 0059, 0060

2. Activity Reports – Columbia High School – January 2016 and Howard L. Goff Middle School – January 2016

B. Personnel

1. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel #660 as Recommended by Superintendent

2. Non-Instructional Support Personnel #659 as Recommended by Superintendent

C. Boys and Girls Columbia Outdoor Track Overnight Trip

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

TABLED MOTIONS

OLD BUSINESS

**CONSENT AGENDA
FINANCIAL REPORTS**

PERSONNEL

COLUMBIA OVER-NIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST

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

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS, INCREASE BUDGET

E. Health Services Contract

HEALTH SERVICES

F. Non-Resident Tuition Rates

TUITION RATES

G. Notice of Public Hearing

PUBLIC HEARING

H. Bell Top Elementary School – 5th Grade End-of-Year Trip

BELL TOP FIELD TRIP REQUEST

Ms. Taylor congratulated Mr. Ellis on his retirement.

COMMENTS

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

Motion by Mr. Mann, Seconded by Ms. Massey

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

12. New Business

**NEW BUSINESS
QUESTAR III
BOCES
PRESENTATION**

Questar III District Superintendent Cruz said that East Greenbush was the last of 23 school district Boards of Education visited by Questar III BOCES. She said that the region, the BOCES, and the State Education Department are all in states of change, with new leadership. Dr. Cruz shared that there have been 20 new superintendents in the Questar region since 2010.

Mr. Sloane reviewed the BOCES services utilized by East Greenbush Schools, highlighting special education and career and technical education. He presented a five-year history of student count in CTE programs. Mr. Sloane shared a series of partnerships with business and leaders in the community and the need to shift program focus to industry needs. He shared there were over 280 programs and services available at BOCES.

Dr. Cruz spoke of the consistency of programs with the Questar strategic plan. She noted the 45% decrease in 4:1:2 restrictive special education placements over the past three years. Dr. Cruz said the New Visions Medical program already has 45 applicants for a limited number of seats. She spoke of alignment of CTE programs with STEM and the expansion of the Superintendent's Success Network. Her organization plans to continue to evolve to meet the needs of students in the region. Mr. Hadjioannou spoke of the need for cooperation and collaboration among schools. He

said that the Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance composite for Questar region schools continues to decline, with East Greenbush declining slower than other schools. Mr. Hadjioannou presented aggregate BOCES purchases in total, highlighting areas of concentration such as special education, NERIC services, and the academic satellite program at WSWHE BOCES. He reviewed an example of cost-effective purchasing before aid, the GASB 45 Planning & Evaluation Service. Mr. Hadjioannou reviewed Health Insurance Trust premium increase ranges for the last nine years and benefits to schools for participating in the Trust. He also reviewed how East Greenbush shares a portion of the Questar administrative budget.

Dr. Harrison asked about the status of Tech Valley High. Dr. Cruz said that there is a new principal and a new location on the CNSE campus. Mr. Sloane spoke about the emphasis on project based learning and partnerships with the Business Council. Dr. Cruz explained that Dr. Yagielski volunteered his time to do a complete review of Tech Valley High to review management, budget and sustainability.

Dr. Harrison asked about any plans for the Rensselaer Career Education Center. Dr. Cruz said that Questar was exploring possibilities, but waiting for changes to the school tax cap formula that will exclude BOCES capital projects.

Mr. Dunn questioned whether traditional VOTEC programs have been changing to reflect college preparation. Dr. Cruz explained that all career-tech programs will be reviewed next year as part of a review cycle for all programs. She noted the curriculum changes coming from SED and the rigor involved in the current programs that reflect college level work. Dr. Cruz indicated there are several articulation agreements with colleges and universities. Mr. Sloane explained that additional training has occurred on pedagogy, with a focus on skill-based learning versus content.

Mr. Dunn expressed concern with the changes in the State Education Department, lack of appropriate funding, and commitment from the state level. Dr. Cruz noted that school funding formulas need to continue to change. SED has asked for additional funds for professional development and testing. Mr. Hadjioannou said that changes in the BOCES aid formula and approval for new aided programs could provide assistance to schools. Mr. Sloane said they will continue to press legislators and move forward with the agenda.

Dr. Harrison thanked Dr. Cruz, Mr. Sloane and Mr. Hadjioannou for the presentation. Dr. Cruz thanked the Board for the opportunity to present.

13. Committee Reports

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Curtin said that the recent CCS meeting included a variety of topics. At the meeting, Ms. Maney presented a revised version of the 9th grade orientation program. The meeting included discussion on a senior elective class, Crime in Literature. Mr. DeFrias presented a proposal for students to read a book on the Columbine incident, which has been requested by students and is currently in the Columbia library. Ms. Curtin said there was a plan to rewrite the course description, inform parents, and provide other resources for students. The English Department and guidance office will assist students in whether or not to select the course, if the Columbine book is included.

Dr. Pampel said that ten individuals read the book in order to be able to make a recommendation. She stated that the book shows how the media inaccurately portrayed the crime. Dr. Pampel indicated the department has a communication plan ready for parents and support system for teachers. Ms. Curtin noted the book is critically acclaimed. She said that just reading book excerpts was considered for the course, but in light of the difficult subject matter, should be discussed as a whole. Ms. Curtin supported the decision to include the book in the course.

Dr. Pampel said the book exceeded 500 pages. Mr. Mann asked who authored the book. Dr. Pampel replied David Cullen. Ms. Taylor said she did not read the book but appreciated the passion of the teachers and their preparation to answer questions about inclusion in the course. She abstained from the vote, since she was not an educator and did not feel she should decide on the curriculum. The committee vote was 18 yes, 4 no, and 6 abstentions. Mr. Mann requested a copy of the book. Dr. Pampel noted the course was for seniors. Ms. Curtin said that many of the course participants plan careers in criminal justice. Dr. Pampel stated that if approved, the book will be used in next year's course. Ms. Taylor shared that the book covers all five units of the course. Ms. Taylor said planning continues for the Education Foundation Gala on April 8. A dessert night is planned for April 14.

Ms. Massey reported that the education committee looked at State performance for special education students with Ms. Squillace. The committee reviewed the CAP, OG, MAP, and Jumpstart programs, the Equine Pilot program, and heard an update on

Academic Intervention Services.

14. Public Forum

None at this time.

PUBLIC FORUM

15. Board Forum

Mr. Mann noted that the three month calendar should indicate the March 23 meeting is in the Howard L. Goff Middle School cafeteria, rather than Central Administration.

BOARD FORUM

16. Executive Session

Motion by Ms. Curran and seconded by Mr. Buono to go into executive session to discuss negotiations and personnel.

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

Time: 8:33 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy J. Mancino
District Clerk

16. Executive Session

The executive session began at 8:37 p.m. and ended at 9:39 p.m.
Ms. Curtin left executive session at approximately 9:20 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

17. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Dunn and seconded by Mr. Mann to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

Time: 9:39 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Curran
Assistant Clerk