

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
 Board of Education Meeting
 Wednesday, October 28, 2015
 Genet School

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Dr. Harrison – 7:32 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	

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**

None at this time.

Special Presentations

**SPECIAL
PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Nagle thanked Ms. Yeomans and Citizen Genet School staff for hosting the meeting. She thanked the PTO for providing refreshments.

Dr. Nagle said the New York State Association of School Psychologists is a statewide organization that represents the profession of school psychology. The Association serves children, their families, and the school community by promoting the psychological well-being of children, excellence in education, and sensitivity to diversity through best practices in school psychology. This year School Psychologist Bennett Kelvin has been nominated for the Upstate New York, Chapter J Practitioner of the Year. Mr. Kelvin has been a school psychologist in the District since 2000 and worked in many of our buildings, currently assigned to Green Meadow and Donald P. Sutherland Schools. He has dedicated his career to working with

our students and families that require additional support. Throughout our District, Mr. Kelvin is known for his calm demeanor, steady reassurance of others who are going through difficult situations, and expertise in the field. Dr. Nagle congratulated Mr. Kelvin on the nomination and thanked him for his dedication to the students of the District.

The Superintendent introduced Ms. Gaylord from the Parent Network of the Capital Region to present the Mary VanDerzee Special Educator of the Year Award. The Award is in honor of Mary VanDerzee, a Director of Pupil Personnel Services at the District from 1988-1992. Subsequently, Ms. VanDerzee worked in the Office of Disabilities at the College of St. Rose from 1993-2003. Ms. VanDerzee is honored for her advocacy efforts on behalf of students with disabilities.

Ms. Gaylord said the Special Needs Parent Support Group received many nominations and noted that any employee may be nominated for the award. She read nomination comments on this year's award winner, Ms. Sobol. Parents thanked Ms. Sobol for improving student self-confidence, balancing academic support and pushing achievement, promoting independence, and acting as an invaluable resource. Ms. Sobol was also thanked for her unparalleled level of communication to parents through e-mail, phone, texting, and notes. Dr. Nagle presented the award plaque to Ms. Sobol which will be displayed at Red Mill Elementary School this year.

Dr. Nagle read a letter from Assistant Commissioner Ira Schwartz dated August 19, 2015: Dear Superintendent: On behalf of Commissioner Elia and the Board of Regents, I write to congratulate you on your district having a school that has been designated as a Reward School. This school is among those in New York State that has made the most progress or has the highest performance with no significant gaps in student achievement. Enclosed is an award certificate that celebrates the success of your district in supporting educational excellence. We applaud your efforts and look forward to assisting your district in having all of its students achieve college and career-ready standards. Sincerely, Ira Schwartz.

The Superintendent said that Bell Top Elementary School was designated as a Reward School. She congratulated Mr. McHugh and the following staff present: Ms. Gilligan, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Warren, and Ms. Longworth for their outstanding efforts.

Dr. Nagle said that Mr. McHugh secured a \$5,000 grant from Northwest Mutual to bring the Sweethearts and Heroes program to East Greenbush Schools. Presentations will be given at Bell Top, Goff, and Columbia Schools on November 16th-18th. The program emphasizes anti-bullying, tolerance, awareness, and an action plan. Mixed martial arts competitors Tom Murphy and Jason Spector

have designed the presentation. Dr. Nagle thanked Mr. McHugh for his efforts to bring the program to our schools.

The Superintendent said the District works diligently to identify and retain employees with the greatest talent and enthusiasm for our students. She celebrated the awarding of tenure to three exceptional educators who have demonstrated a passion for academic excellence and a life-long commitment to the field of education. Dr. Nagle recognized and thanked the newly tenured teachers for educating and inspiring students to become life-long learners. The newly tenured teachers included Ms. Cornell, Ms. Czakany, and Ms. Lopez.

Ms. Yeomans welcomed the Board of Education to Citizen Genet Elementary School. She recognized the service of Board of Education members to our schools. Ms. Yeomans spoke of the year ahead to recognize the 75th year of operation of the Citizen Genet Elementary School. The first students at Genet entered in fall of 1940, and the first graduating class was in the spring of 1941. Ms. Yeomans spoke of the era of World War II and coming out of the Great Depression. She said the community will celebrate the 75th anniversary at an event scheduled for June 2, 2016.

Ms. Tedford, PTO Co-President, showed the new sign obtained from Action Sign Corporation that has been installed in front of the school. She spoke of the expanded ice cream social at the start of the school year, when they were joined by Mrs. Mabel Duesburg Whitbeck from the first Genet School class.

Ms. McKeown said t-shirts will be sold twice in the upcoming year, printed by Field and Teams. Orders will be taken in November at \$10 each; individuals may contact the PTO for more details.

Ms. Letourneau spoke about research through the Knickerbocker newspaper about the Columbia School site started in 1938. The school was completed at a cost of \$800,000. Ms. Letourneau said the positioning of the school facing Albany Post Road was to obtain maximum sunlight, as recommended by the State Education Department. The school was a WPA project, along with the Nassau School and Bell Top. J. Russell White was the architect, who also designed the Washington Avenue Lakehouse. The murals and plaques on the school were also designed by the architects, Mosaic Architects, now located in Troy. The style was art deco, designed to inspire, exhibit strength, and promote nationalism.

Ms. Scolaro said music instruction this year will feature music of the 1940's, including big band and jazz. Ms. Beams noted that character education assemblies will feature research by grade levels, along with then and now information. Ms. Blander spoke about the

1st grade living history project, along with a plan for a time capsule. She shared that Mabel Duesberg Whitbeck met with 5th grade students to highlight her experience as a senior at the Columbia School.

Ms. Yeomans said the construction of the school generated controversy in the community, but the Board members were great advocates of the new school. When the school finally opened, there was great acclaim for the forward thinking of the Board. The motto was a desk for every student. Ms. Yeomans presented the Board with gift bags and thanked them for volunteering their time on behalf of the District.

Recess declared at 8:10 p.m.

**RECESS
DECLARED**

Meeting resumed at 8:21 p.m.

**MEETING
RESUMED**

4. Public Forum

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Balzer commended the choices of Ms. Sobol for Special Educator of the year, Mr. Smith for Goff Supervising Custodian, and Mr. Kelvin for NYSASP Chapter J Practitioner of the Year Award.

5. Board Forum

BOARD FORUM

Ms. Curtin congratulated all award winners. She thanked Mr. McHugh for bringing the anti-bullying program to our schools. Ms. Curtin appreciated the enthusiasm of Ms. Sobol in the classroom and Mr. Kelvin for his commitment to students. She congratulated the principal and staff at Bell Top for achieving SED Reward School status. Ms. Curtin commended the Genet 75th Anniversary Committee for their planning work.

Ms. Taylor also congratulated the award winners. She thanked Ms. Yeomans and the 75th Anniversary Committee for the presentation and liked the involvement of students in the celebration. Ms. Taylor looked forward to the June 2 event.

Ms. Curran also thanked Ms. Yeomans and Citizen Genet School staff and PTO members for the presentation. She enjoyed the recent learning experience of the NYSSBA Convention.

Ms. Massey thanked the 75th Anniversary Committee and congratulated them on the planning, including the comparison of the 40's to current times. She also thanked Ms. Yeomans for the gift.

Dr. Harrison volunteered as a speaker for events planned by the 75th Anniversary Committee .

6. Minutes

None at this time.

MINUTES

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,

Moved by: Mr. Buono

Seconded by: Ms. Curtin

Vote: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**REGULAR
BUSINESS**

8. Reports and Presentations – Superintendent of Schools

A. Phase 5 Technology Overview

Dr. Nagle explained the report will be delayed until November 18, and Item 11-C will be removed from the consent agenda.

**REPORTS AND
PRESENTATIONS
PHASE 5
TECHNOLOGY
OVERVIEW**

B. Columbia High School Attendance Plan – John Sawchuk

Dr. Nagle introduced Principal Sawchuk and Ms. Davey, administrative intern. Mr. Sawchuk said the high school looked to improve student attendance for the guide room period. He stated that one change this year was to take attendance at 7:15 a.m. to provide additional time for students to get to guide room. Administration is also monitoring bus arrivals to see the impact on attendance. Mr. Sawchuk continues to plan improvements with student leaders, remind parents of the importance of on-time arrival, and work with community partners to provide incentives. He presented year-to-year data on attendance showing improvement. Mr. Sawchuk also commented on his discussions with other Suburban Council School principals.

**CHS ATTENDANCE
PLAN**

Ms. Taylor asked if the selection of guide rooms to receive incentives was fair in light of certain students with consistent poor attendance.

Mr. Sawchuk said he has received similar comments and that he and Ms. Davey will be reviewing the incentive selection process.

Mr. Sawchuk commented on the Code of Conduct penalties for tardiness. He said that the consequences have to be applied fairly, with consideration of the impact on individual students, particularly at-risk students. Mr. Sawchuk will be working with the PTSO and his School Improvement Team to receive input.

Mr. Mann asked if counselors work with students to determine the root causes of poor attendance. Mr. Sawchuk said that counselors are working with students, noting that in some cases there is a referral to the Child Study Team.

Dr. Harrison asked if tardiness is highest in the fall and spring. Mr. Sawchuk suggested an additional update to the Board at year-end to see if this was true. He believed the extra time and attention to the issue could reduce instances of tardiness.

Ms. Curran thanked Mr. Sawchuk for presenting the information. She recognized the importance of being on time but spoke to the greater emphasis needed on instruction.

Mr. Buono thanked Mr. Sawchuk for the information and asked if similar data was available for grades K-8. Dr. Nagle said the analysis and follow up may be easier at the earlier grades.

Ms. Taylor thanked Mr. Sawchuk for the information and was pleased to see improvement.

9. Tabled Motions None at this time.	TABLED MOTIONS
10. Old Business A. District Mission Statement Dr. <u>Harrison</u> suggested an update at the November 18 meeting.	OLD BUSINESS MISSION STATEMENT
11. Consent Agenda A. Financial Reports 1. Warrants – 26, 27, 28 2. Treasurer’s Reports – August 2015	CONSENT AGENDA FINANCIAL REPORTS
B. Personnel 1. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel #653 as Recommended by Superintendent 2. Non-Instructional Support Personnel #653 as Recommended by Superintendent	PERSONNEL
C. Acceptance of Bids for Wireless Access	BID-WIRELESS ACCESS
D. 2016-2017 Budget Calendar and District Vote	BUDGET CALENDAR
E. Acceptance of Gifts and Authorization to Increase the 2015-2016 Budget	ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS, INCREASE BUDGET
F. Establishment of 2015–2016 Columbia Event Chaperone Rate	CHS CHAPERONE RATE
G. 2015-2016 Snow Removal Bid – Donald P. Sutherland School and Bus Garage	BID-SNOW REMOVAL

H. Science Olympiad Overnight Trip to Allentown, PA

**SCIENCE
OLYMPIAD TRIP-
PA**

I. Science Olympiad Overnight Trip to Yale University

**SCIENCE
OLYMPIAD TRIP-
YALE UNIVERSITY**

J. Chamber Singers Overnight Trip to New York City

**CHAMBER
SINGERS TRIP-NYC**

Be it Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Consent Agenda including the addendum to Item #11-B-1, Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo #653, and, without Item #11-B-1 Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel #653 and the addendum, and Item #11-C, Acceptance of Bids for Wireless Access, be approved as presented.

Moved by: Ms. Massey
Seconded by: Mr. Mann
Vote: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0
Motion carried.

Motion on Item #11-B-1, Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo #653.

Moved by: Ms. Curran
Seconded by: Mr. Buono
Vote: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 2
(Ms. Curtin, Ms. Taylor)

Motion carried.

12. New Business

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Harrison suggested members who attended the NYSSBA Convention report at the November 18 meeting.

13. Committee Reports

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

Dr. Nagle reported that BRAC met on October 19 with representatives of the Town of North Greenbush regarding commercial and residential development. She suggested the planning board consider appropriate space for school bus navigation. The November 2 meeting will feature guest speaker Dennis Dowds, Town of Schodack Supervisor.

Ms. Taylor said the Barrett Run was a great success with 120 runners. The Education Foundation and Girls Cross Country team will split the proceeds. Ms. Taylor also said planning has begun for the January Winterfest event.

14. Public Forum **PUBLIC FORUM**
None at this time.

15. Board Forum **BOARD FORUM**
None at this time.

16. Executive Session **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
Motion by Mr. Buono and seconded by Ms. Curtin to go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining.
Vote: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0
Motion carried.
Time: 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Mead
District Clerk

16. Executive Session **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
The executive session began at 8:55 p.m. and ended at 9:20 p.m.

17. Adjournment **ADJOURNMENT**
Motion by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Curtin to adjourn the meeting.
Vote: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0
Motion carried
Time: 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Curran
Assistant Clerk