

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET REVIEW & ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016

1. Call to Order – 7:35 p.m.

2. Attendance

BRAC: Mr. Lento, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Romanowski

Admin: Mr. Simons, Mr. Edson, Ms. Belmont

Board of Education: Ms. Taylor

3. Town of North Greenbush Update

Mr. Lacivita distributed a list of housing and commercial developments in progress throughout North Greenbush. He noted that the boldface type denoted developments in the East Greenbush Central School District. Ms. Belmont also believed that items #7, McWood Place and #8, McKatie Meadows may also be in our school district.

Ms. Belmont spoke of the need to consider school bus access within new developments and particularly apartment complexes. Mr. Lacivita said that the planning board is considering this need for the school and also for emergency services vehicles.

Mr. Desso reviewed that Town of North Greenbush residents will not have a property tax increase for the ninth year in a row. He spoke of the establishment of a tax stabilization fund of \$759,000 to assist with any unforeseen expenses or emergencies. Mr. Desso said the Town is currently undergoing an audit by the Office of the State Comptroller. The Town has received two-step boost in the credit rating established by Standard and Poor's due to its strong budgetary performance.

Mr. Desso explained that the Town has been successful in obtaining approximately \$6 million in grant funds. Some of the funds will be used for safety improvements along Route 4, including sidewalks. A grant application is also pending for improvements along Main Avenue. The Town is paying particular attention to the future opening of a plaza by Route 4 and 43 and the impact on traffic on Bloominggrove Drive.

4. Other

Mr. Simons said the D. Jack Hedden-Raymond H. Werking, Sr. Transportation Center bus wash needed additional work to improve function. A bid was conducted in the summer; however, bidders did not comply with all the technical requirements for submission, and the work was recently rebid. The Board

meeting agenda for October 19 includes approval of a bid and alternate that is anticipated to be awarded to Coyne Electric.

Mr. Simons invited members to tour the building improvements at Columbia High School. He said that the cafeteria expansion was completed on time and allows for fewer lunch periods.

Mr. Simons also reviewed that the District is internally looking at items prioritized by the architect as part of the Five-Year Facilities Plan. He said that he plans to share the information with the committee on November 21. The prioritized items may become the basis for a proposition to voters in May 2017.

Mr. Edson reviewed that initial enrollment is approximately 99 students above the CDRPC projection from last year. He said that Kindergarten enrollment is about 39 more than expected, particularly at the DP Sutherland Elementary School. Also, Columbia High School is about 45 students more than anticipated. He said that the District will continue to closely watch enrollment trends and may need to adjust staffing for next year's budget.

5. Adjournment – 8:35 p.m.