

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BUDGET REVIEW & ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017

**1. Call to Order – 5:35 p.m.**

**2. Attendance**

BRAC: Ms. Espinosa, Mr. Khan, Mr. Lento, Mr. Pratt, Ms. Printup

Admin: Mr. Edson, Mr. Goodwin

Honored Guests: Technology Committee Members:

**3. Tour of Center of Gravity**

Mr. Goodwin welcomed members of the Technology Committee and BRAC to the Center of Gravity. Ms. Cargill-Cramer, Executive Director provided an overview of the mission and vision of the Center. She said the core is the makerspace, described as an abundance of workshops, work stations, tools, and collaboration spaces. The purpose is to enhance innovation among the community of enthusiasts, entrepreneurs, and professionals of many ages, genders, ethnicities, interests, nationalities, life experiences, and educational backgrounds. The Executive Director emphasized that a number of volunteers staff the Center, provide funding and give various in-kind support. The organization continually looks for grant funding since it is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

Ms. Cargill-Cramer spoke of the economic development over time in downtown Troy. She said the area is third in software development in the United States, and companies want to retain talented individuals after college for work.

Ms. Cargill-Cramer explained that there are several workspaces in the building to support incubator businesses. Space may be rented, and there are several levels of membership to fit individual needs.

Ms. Cargill-Cramer gave committee members a tour of the areas, noting each has a zone coordinator: woodshop, 3D printers, electronics, fiber arts, welding, machine shop, model shop, laser cutter, kitchen, stock room, IT, and ThinQubator. She said that consumable materials are generally free, although there is an expectation that individuals with high usage will donate back materials

Subsequent to the tour, Mr. Goodwin asked the group for comments and observations. The responses follow::

- A. Resource access is a large issue, particularly with planning for Next Generation Science Standards

- B. Release time is requested for teachers to come back to the Center and plan possible field trips for students and curriculum projects at school
- C. Consistency in resources and curriculum is desired across the elementary schools
- D. Webex may be a means to bring classrooms together for work previously done in the TV studio
- E. Awareness that US companies compete globally is important
- F. Classroom content is isolated and more team and cross-curricular projects are desirable
- G. School district budgetary resources will likely be needed to advance technology in the schools for consistency
- H. The SED application for Smart Schools is pending and includes 1:1 Chromebooks for Grades 3-12, wireless access points and 50 interactive displays
- I. A cyclical replacement plan has been developed for the Chromebook purchase and has been shared with the committee
- J. Observations have been made that students in other schools have fully digital textbooks for use
- K. Coding is an important skill and students should be introduced at an early age
- L. Teacher professional development is important when rolling out any new technologies expected to be used in the curriculum
- M. A software survey is being distributed to staff this fall to collect information for budgeting purposes
- N. Some individuals are seeing e-portfolios for students
- O. Students are asking for more technology
- P. Libraries are potential locations for makerspace activities
- Q. Investment in software is needed at the same time as investment in infrastructure
- R. Student volunteers may be desirable for Middle School help desk activities

Additional information is available on the Center of Gravity website at [www.tvcog.net](http://www.tvcog.net).

**4. Adjournment – 7:25 p.m.**