

East Greenbush Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
May 6, 2020

Transcript of remote proceeding:

Michael Buono: I want to call the meeting to order. It is 7:00pm

Welcome to our, I think our third virtual meeting. Probably many of us have been in some meetings today, a long line of meetings today that are virtual. In terms of attendance tonight, it looks like we have everyone, but Michelle Skumurski and Kathleen Curtin. I think they will be joining us shortly, they had some commitments to attend to. I would like to welcome everyone again to our meeting. I see we have our student council, too, so before we get there, let's go to the Pledge of Allegiance, please.

Everyone: Pledge of Allegiance

Michael Buono: Thank you.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Michael Buono: Moving on with our agenda, next we have as I mentioned, the student council. I saw both Lily and Katie hopped on. I'll turn it over to Lily, I guess, first.

Lily Mahoney: Hello, Lately we have just been trying to adjust to the changes in a virtual way. We are trying to plan to do some things in the future and for the rest of the school year to keep everyone involved and engaged. Just to touch on what we did with Futures of Columbia, that Instagram page we made in order to share the accomplishments of the senior class. That's been going very well. We were getting a lot of messages. It started slowing down, just because most of the seniors have already made their decisions, but we are continuing to accept the submissions for that. This week to keep everyone involved, we are doing a virtual spirit week where we are doing throwback pictures. Rather than having students go out of their way to dress up and do stuff like that, we are having them use pictures that they already have from school. Monday we had kindergarten day, and a lot of students posted their pictures from kindergarten. Tuesday we had middle school day, so they posted a lot of pictures from middle school. Today was first day of school, so everyone posted a throwback picture from the first day of school, whether it was this year or kindergarten or middle school. Tomorrow they are posting a favorite picture from spirit week and then Friday is going to be a picture from a favorite school event. We are just gonna try to keep going with stuff like that and maybe something new every week. We have something planned soon, where we will be doing Guess Who with baby pictures of teachers at Columbia. With that, I will turn it over to Katie.

Katie Asenbauer: Like Lily said we are just trying to keep up with going virtual. Today we have our third virtual student council meeting, which have all been going super well. Our focus for the next couple weeks is trying to plan out how we are going to do elections because normally those take place in the Spring. We can have our officers elected so we can plan over the Summer for the next school year. We have a couple ideas for how we are going to do that so that will just be our plan for the next couple weeks. We also want to give a shout out to the English department, who put together a video just to say how much they miss everyone, and to Grace Brody, who is a senior at Columbia who put together a video of a ton of students saying how much we miss all the staff. It was a super nice way to end last week, and that's it.

Michael Buono: Great thanks, ladies. I've enjoyed seeing the senior decisions. I see them on Twitter, retweeted by Columbia Athletics, and the District and it is great to see what students' plans are for after their senior year. Thanks for sharing those.

Lily Mahoney: Thank you

Michael Buono: Great job, keep it up!

PUBLIC FORUM

Michael Buono: So with that, we will move to our public forum, and again, a reminder that if you have comments for the public forum, we will be doing it via email. Mr Simons will monitor that. I know that we do

have the second public forum later in the meeting, so if there are things you would like to talk about, or email us about, please do that as well. I will read our opening statement:

Residents, students, employees, and business representatives of the East Greenbush Central School District may address the Board on matters concerning programs and/or operations of the district, other than matters involving personnel. Members of the Board do not directly respond to citizen concerns during the Public Forum. If a response is appropriate either the President or Superintendent will contact the individual in the near future. Those persons wishing to address the Board will be recognized by the chair of the meeting and should state for the record their name and address, or affiliation with the District or business. While the Board does not wish to infringe upon free speech protections, it must be stressed that the "Visitors' Forum" is not deemed to be an "open forum". The Board president will conduct the forum for the orderly and efficient operation of Board business. In addition, any remarks which may be considered defamatory or stigmatizing are prohibited and will be declared out of order. All comment shall be limited to five minutes.

Michael Buono: With that, is there any emails that have come up yet? Mr. Simons?

Jeffrey Simons: Let me just take a minute to refresh. See if anybody is there.

Michael Buono: Or if there are some comments from the Administration at this point? Those who are out there?

Jeffrey Simons: No

Michael Buono: No emails. Anything? Everyone's good? Ok

BOARD FORUM

Michael Buono: We will close the Public Forum and we will move to the Board Forum. Board members? I will start with who is present, Mr. Mann?

Mark Mann: I'm good.

Michael Buono: You're good? Ok, going from the screen, Deanna? Good. OK Jen Massey? JoAnn?

JoAnn Taylor: Yes, I would just like to talk for a few minutes with the work that is going on with the Ed Foundation and the District. We are partnering and working on a senior recognition program right now, where we will be delivering signs to our seniors within the next couple weeks. We don't have definite dates put out right now, but a sign will be put on all the senior's lawn with a little bag full of mementos and trinkets for them. We are amazed at the generosity in this community. We put out an email and we put out messages on Facebook, and the community has just stepped right up both financially and with offers to help. It's just amazing to see the amount of help that is coming from our community and we thank everybody for that.

Michael Buono: Great, thank you, JoAnn. Yes, I would echo that, that is great to see. John? Dunn? You're good? Karen? Curran? You're good? Anyone else want to join us? I don't think so. I don't have anything at this point. Mr. Simons, anything?

Jeffrey Simons: I do have a couple things.

Michael Buono: Ok, go ahead.

Jeffrey Simons: One thing I want to just recognize is the video that the high school students put together that was received by the staff, including myself and the Administrators at the high school, along with everybody at Columbia. That really provided a morale boost for the staff and I want to thank the students that are represented by the student council here, but also all the students in the high school that were involved in developing that video. That video came the morning after the Governor announced on Friday that the schools would be closed for the remainder of the year. That was probably the right decision to make in terms of safety and health, but it was a deflation of morale of some of our community. This has been a very effectively delivered process from our teachers, our Administrators but at the same time it was a challenging one and the extension of the school closing through June is something that we have to do, and we have to continue to do a great job in serving the students and the community. We do need an occasional lift from our students, and having our students do that for us was remarkable, and greatly appreciated and I really got a lot of emails from a lot of teachers that were just so touched by it. It kinda motivated them again to keep going, with the online

learning, the other programs and connections that they are making. I just want to acknowledge the students for giving us such a lift on Saturday morning. In light of the decision that was made, announced through the Governor's executive order on Friday, I do think it's time to reconnect with the community as a District, to check in, to see how our families are doing and our students are doing. I have been working over the last couple days with Mr. Buono, Mr. Goodwin and some members of our Administrative team and we are planning on Thursday May 14th, which is next Thursday, through Facebook and some other technology, which I will explain in a minute, to hold a virtual community meeting. We are calling it a community check-in. That will involve any members of the community who want to participate, having access through Facebook. It will involve a brief presentation from me about where we have been and where we are going with our continued building closings but the need to continue to deliver the programs and services. I have asked members of the Administrative team, we are a representative group, such as our high school principal, our middle school principal, two elementary principals and our Director of Pupil Personnel Services to be a part of that team along with Mr. Buono to have a panel discussion. A question and answer session of the community that will be facilitated through Google meet, excuse me Zoom. They will be able to be on the panel through Zoom from various locations, including their homes, if that is their preference. Everyone will be able to hear the panel and we have engaged a private company to help us with this process, called Thought Exchange. Thought Exchange is a tool that we used at our Advocacy Forum which enables individuals who are participating to let us know what their key concerns are and to prioritize those concerns. Once those concerns are prioritized, we will be able to address them through the panel discussion through a Q and A session. We think it is important to stay connected with our community. I will recognize Thought Exchange. Thought Exchange is a private vendor that has arrangements with some districts. They do not currently have an arrangement with our District. They are providing this technical support for free for the event. That will be Thursday at 7 PM. There will be an opportunity to hear from the community about how things are going. An opportunity for them to hear it from us, what some of the considerations and issues are in the District moving forward. We think it will be a good exchange. That will be May 14th at 7:00 PM. Peter is working with Thought Exchange and the Administrative team and Mike to put all of this together. That will be next Thursday night.

Michael Buono: Any questions regarding that? I mean I think that is something I really look forward to doing and participating in. The Community check-in, you know, check-in with each other, and I think that is a great way for us to communicate with our community to see how things are going and what their thoughts are.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Michael Buono: With that we will go into our discussion items. I see a major one is the budget discussion. We have been having ongoing conversations. I will turn it over to Mr. Simons or Mr. Edson

Jeffrey Simons: As a starting point, I just want to review where we were at at our last meeting with our budget because some things have not necessarily changed but they have become heightened concerns for school districts. At our last meeting, we recommended that the budget remain at the proposed \$99.8 million dollars, but we also recommended that we would use some existing reserves of about \$900,000 from our employee retirement reserves to offset the expense, some of the expenses for retirement payments next year.

Additionally, we made an adjustment to our Federal aid, related to monies received by the District for retiree prescription coverage. We had filled the gap at the time through a combination of utilizing existing reserves, monies that have been approved but saved by the District in the past, and we are proposing a tax levy increase of 1.52% which is less than the tax cap set by New York State for our District which is 1.62%. Since that time, there have been discussions in Washington about whether or not there would be Federal assistance to the State and local governments, including schools. Those conversations have been somewhat muddled in politics and stalled, and because of that we began to look at what we might do as a District in the event that our state aid was cut significantly and not offset by any Federal monies that may or may not materialize. As a first step, I asked Mr. Edson to do an update to the Fund Balance Projection regarding monies that we were saving within the budget this year. Where he would project at this time we might land in terms of total expenditures for the year, balanced with our revenues and whether we would have monies available this year,

how much money would be available this year to potentially use as a solution to offset some of the gap for next year. I'm going to ask Mr. Edson to talk about the Fund Balance Projection report that he prepared.

Lawrence Edson: The Fund Balance Projection report is in the same format that the Board saw each of the last two times and includes data through March 31, 2020. If you look on the first page of the Projection it shows each of the Fund Balance components by restricted, non-spendable, assigned and unassigned. The key piece is the unassigned and right now we are projecting \$1.3 million more than what was on hand at the start of the fiscal year. That money will be available to offset that potential decrease to state aid payments which we understand will be reduced next year, although it is not 100% certain at this time. As you recollect, employees are being paid their regular wages through the end of the school year, so you don't see major changes in our salary projection from the last projection that I did, but you will see various savings in other areas. Obviously, we are not running buses, the buildings are not, many of them are not occupied. We are taking those savings and we are putting them here. We still believe it is a somewhat conservative estimate, but we hope to do better, but it is what we know as of March 31st. That is a quick update on the Fund Balance Projection.

Michael Buono: Thanks, Larry. Any questions for Larry? Board members? Regarding the Fund Balance Projection? I think it is prudent that we look at all those different things, it's still a lot of unknown. We thought that by April 30th we would've had some more information, but nothings happened. So probably going to May 15 as the next maybe update about what is happening with the schools. There is a lot of things that are still unknown. Later in the agenda you will see things with the budget vote and the calendar that have shifted as well, and we will talk about those in a minute. I think this is a start, where we have to make some decisions around our reserves and how it will effect on the budget for this year, but also keeping in mind future years and what the impact may be long term given the circumstances we are faced.

Jeffrey Simons: One thing I would add is that we have an obligation, in the scope of what the State is suggesting the cuts might be. It could be anywhere between 10% and 20% of our foundation aid. That figure represents between \$1.7 million and \$3.4 million depending on whether it is 10% or the 20%. We were hoping it would be less than the 10%, but we have an obligation to look internally within our district for potential reductions in the event that the scope of that cut is as large as 20%. We kinda have a Plan A and Plan B in mind. There are some issues related to looking at the impact of potentially not replacing certain positions that would be eliminated, could possibly be eliminated through attrition based on what we know currently about retirements. We are also investigating some other ways that we could facilitate expenditure reductions without hurting the kids. If the scope of the cuts are as large as they might be, it becomes a process of making sure that you can continue to move forward with meeting your academic and social emotional needs to the kids, but maybe with a little tighter staffing or scheduling. We are looking at everything, we are not at this point prepared to announce cuts. We want to see, on May 15th, what that state aid reduction is, and we anticipate that we will have some conversations over the next couple weeks with our Board once we have more information. We are trying to use monies that have been approved by voters in the past for which we have saved those monies, but if we use all our savings in one year, or even in two years create a structural deficit as our expenses continue to go up. Pretty soon we would run out of money, even though we are in a stable position right now, that can change in a hurry, as some districts have experienced over the last 10-15 years who rely more on state aid than East Greenbush does. We are trying to be prudent and look at this in the long term, not just in one year, because we think this might be a multi year problem.

Michael Buono: Because of the timeline, we have to really think about the options, I mean, we are going to be in a pretty extreme window of having to make a decision as some things come out in the next couple of weeks. We have that deadline in terms of approving the budget and then getting it out to the voters for their process, that we're going to talk about today. We need to be prepared, that's what we are doing. Is there any questions, Board members, for Jeff or Larry about the budget, comments about the budget in general? Concerns? No, Ok, good.

We will continue to update people as we have information.

Next on the agenda is the revised notice of the public hearing.

Lawrence Edson: You will see later on in the consent agenda approval of this revised notice. The original notice was published once in the newspaper, however with the recent change on Friday to the vote date, which will now be June 9th statewide, there has been a need to seriously rework that notice of the public hearing. Our attorneys did that on Monday evening and it was ready for Times Union submission the next morning. It should appear on Tuesday May 12th as statutorily required. You will see also later in the meeting a section noted as updated budget calendar, and I think because that is linked to our notice of public hearing I think I will go through it at this time. If you take a look at that updated budget calendar, the schedule after the memo, you will see that the first budget calendar was approved back in August and nine months later we are changing it based on this recent announcement. For Board of Education candidates, we made petitions available on March 13th, which is about 2 weeks earlier than normal, however with the COVID 19 crisis the Governor suspended people collecting signatures on their petitions and therefore for this vote no petition submissions will be required and the people have the option to self nominate themselves for the ballot. Those nominations are due to the District Clerk's office by 5:00 PM on Monday, this coming Monday, May 11th. There will be no draw for the ballot position based on the Governor's Executive order. Candidates will be listed alphabetically on the ballot. With regard to Meet the Candidates night, if there are only three candidates, we are not likely to have it. Even if we have four candidates, it looks like that might be too difficult to organize at this late date with our friends at the League of Women Voters. We are looking at a cancellation for Meet the Candidates night. Campaign statements are due three weeks later than the original due dates. Those Board candidates that have submitted nominations have been mailed updated campaign statements. No changes to the budget handbook. The budget packets are scheduled to be available to the public on Tuesday, May 26th. This is the day before the Board's budget hearing, which will be May 27th and of course will be a virtual meeting. We have gone through a series of two formal sessions on the budget and the plan currently is for budget adoption by the Board on Wednesday, May 20th and of course that will be a virtual meeting. Budget vote is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9th and that date will be different than usual, there will be no in person going to the polls, it will all be by absentee ballot. We are in the process of constructing the absentee ballot, which will be mailed to each individual who is on the poll registration list with a return envelope which will be post paid. That will be have to be returned to the District by mail no later than 5:00 PM on June 9th. Again, that is real important, because it is not a postmark, it is a return date. It must be received by mail no later than June 9th. The Governor has not announced a revote date for those school districts that have unsuccessful budget votes at this time. There is a tight timeframe for the budget newsletter that will likely be condensed this year more than normal, and Mr. Adam, in our Public Relations department will be putting that together in short order. We do plan to mail the absentee ballot with the return envelope on May 28th, the day after the budget hearing. With regard to the publication of the annual notice, which normally goes four times within the 45 days preceding the vote, that will only be done twice in the 28 days preceding the vote. The first of which will be on May 12th and the second one will be on May 29th. The Executive order by the Governor has suspended in person registration, which is normally done at our District Clerk's office every business day between 8-3:30 PM. That is not allowable this year. People may register online at the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. Those of you who have renewed your licenses in the past few years will note that they ask you a series of questions regarding voter registration if you do it in person. That is what we know right at the moment. We are researching a series of questions about counting the paper ballots with the school attorney on the vote date. We will be working with our Election Inspectors and poll workers to do that process on the voting day, but there will be no in person voting in the current year for school district votes. As you know there has been a recent Federal court order regarding the primary that is different than school district votes, our vote will be conducted by absentee ballot only. That's my budget update.

Michael Buono: Any questions for Larry, Board members, regarding the schedule?

Kathleen Curtin: I do have one question, Larry. If we get more than three candidates, I was really impressed with our young people at the forum on sustainability. Since the League of Women Voters couldn't do a Meet

the Candidates night would it be possible to talk to Mr. Batcher and our students to possibly, if there's any interest, organize something like that?

Lawrence Edson: I think that's a good idea, and we'll see how many candidates we have on the 12th, which is the day after the due date. We will see where we are. Typically, if there is three for three seats we don't typically conduct it, but if there's more we will investigate that with Mr. Batcher and see if he is willing to do something on a virtual basis.

Kathleen Curtin: Ok. Thank you very much.

Jeffrey Simons: We will also have scheduled virtual sessions with our PTO's. We will be doing combined meetings with all the PTO's and any parents that want to join us at the Elementary, Middle and High School level on May 28th at 6:30, which is the day after the public hearing. We also have scheduled virtual faculty meetings. We have a middle school faculty meeting to talk about the budget on June 2nd at 2:45 PM. A high school faculty meeting on June 3rd at 2:30 PM and an elementary staff meeting on June 4th at 3:15 PM. Any staff can join any one of those three meetings based on their availability. We are trying to do the same group meetings regarding the budget that we typically would do although we will be doing them through technology. Additionally, I have been part of a phone conference meeting with Jack Conway and other community leaders every week. Jack Conway is our East Greenbush Town Supervisor and he is polling the Town Board to see if they can arrange a special board meeting because that meeting has to fall between May 20th when the Board hopefully will be able to adopt a budget, and the June 9th vote date. The regularly scheduled meetings don't fall within that window. He has been gracious to try to arrange a special board meeting so that he can be sure that the Town Board knows about our school district's budget.

Michael Buono: So there will be other communications via, mailed like the postcards notifications, absentee ballots will go out. I think it's really important because of the return date, again like Mr. Edson said, the return date is the 9th, not the postmark date or anything like that. I think we will need to use our social media, our website to just continue make sure people understand how important it is in terms of timing when they get that absentee ballot to turn it around and get it in the mail.

Lawrence Edson: There will be a postcard going out. Right now it is in design and it needs to be reviewed by the school attorney. It will be going out to all voters to inform them that the voting will be by absentee ballot and things are due back, what they are voting on in general, and a couple other things that are set forth in the Executive order. We are putting that together right now. We've seen, a few samples have crossed our path today, but we want to make sure they comply before we send them to the printer.

Michael Buono: I think that we are in a pretty good position in terms of knowing who the voters are in our district. A lot of other districts aren't in a good position like that. I think we are looking at an excess of over 20,000 mailings?

Lawrence Edson: We had last year 21,952, I believe, when we looked at the poll book from last year. They will update the list, which they merge in with the county list for our district and then if we have any late registrations we will check them through the county, because they're most likely be receiving the late registrations because they won't be able to do it in person at the District. The Governor's Executive order did not allow school districts at this time to do an online registration. That may change. We check in and listen to the Governor just about everyday and we will see if that changes in the next few weeks. If it does we will put it in place and get it on our website, but right now the process is through the DMV website. I will be working with Mark Adam in the next few days to get that link up on our website. We have some older information on the budget which we haven't gotten to just yet on the website. It has thrown things into what I would call slight turmoil since Friday to understand and be able to do a paper ballot vote appropriately for our residents.
Question Mr Mann?

Mark Mann: What is gonna be our procedure, the ballots are mailed, here?

Lawrence Edson: They will be mailed. We will pick them up from the printer, they will come here, we will put them together and then they will be brought to the post office.

Mark Mann: What happens when they come back?

Lawrence Edson: When they come back, they will come back here. They will actually come to the Post Office, our courier will pick them up at the Post Office and bring them. We will put them in a secure place upstairs. We will sort them when they come in, because they should be sorted by, as we understand, polling site, so we can report the actual results that way and then those ballots, as we understand, will be marked in the books as voted absentee. We will compare the books to our counted ballots and if they match we will begin counting at 5 PM, which is the deadline for any ballots that have come back on the voting day. We'll have our election team of inspectors and poll workers to do that, and we will compile the results and get them out to the community. We are not certain where we are going to do that, we think in this room but there is also the possibility we might be doing it in the Goff cafeteria area or gymnasium. We have got to think about the social distancing piece and if it is going to work. We have to get directions and clear our process with the school attorney. I think they will be rerunning their webinar on paper ballots, because they had talked earlier in the process that some schools might not be able to receive voting machines. We had been assured that we were going to receive the voting machines, but now that is kind of a moot point, because it is all going to be by mail.

Mark Mann: We have always, people have always been able to remain in Goff as the vote was counted. Are we going to livestream it or are we going to...

Lawrence Edson: I think, I don't know what we will do, I think the COVID 19. We will have to get clarification from the attorney as to how to best do that. If that's the case, if there is going to be any potential visitors or observers, we might do that in a larger space. We may do the gym. We are not sure at this point, that piece is a month away, we are trying to figure a postcard. We have secured our vendor for the printing of the outer envelope, the return envelope, we are working on postage, a special postage permit at this time. We are also working on the postcards. We are trying to do some things that are the most immediate right at the moment. Updating our budget calendar and we will plan voting day as it gets, in the next weeks or so. We are going to schedule a meeting with our voting group, probably at the end of next week or the beginning of the following week to talk about the counting process. We have a lot on our plates, there is a tightened timeframe and it's slightly stressful.

Jeffrey Simons: You have done a lot in four days, Larry. It has been incredible.

Lawrence Edson: We are not sure, but we might livestream it to protect the vote workers from you know any, we might livestream it. We got to look at that and see how, what's recommended and what's allowable, what's preferred. We don't have all the details nailed down just yet. It is a process.

Jeffrey Simons: I know you don't like to estimate i, you like to be exact, but estimate the costs, the costs are pretty significant for the postage, and the mailing.

Lawrence Edson: It is.

Jeffrey Simons: 22000 ballots.

Lawrence Edson: We are thinking it's around \$44,000. It is very expensive because we do need to have the inner envelope, the return envelope postage paid according to the Governor's order. We will do that, it is an unfunded expense. We may save a couple dollars, because we may not need as many vote workers on the vote night. I think a small crew might work better. We are taking it day by day. It's our role, as a district, to be certain that residents have the opportunity to vote in this school budget. We support the Governor's initiative to provide each resident access for voting on a school district's budgets. That is what we are committed to and we are going to do it in the most cost effective and appropriate manner. This is not as cost effective as we had hoped but we are going to comply with the order as we understand it.

Michael Buono: Any other questions at all, Board members? You're talking about multiple mailings in certain households, could be two, three, four people getting votes and newsletters and things like that. The constant reminders and things like that will be important as we move forward. Thank you for that, Larry, that was a lot of work to compress in a short timeframe.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Michael Buono: Back up on our agenda. We had gone down to the other items, so back up to finishing discussion items and we are going to Committee reports. We will start with Marissa. Hi Marissa.

Marissa Cannon: Hi there. Just a brief update on the interview process for the Director of Business and Finance. The final number of applicants for this position ended up being sixteen. Mr. Simons and I screened applications and determined to schedule 7 candidate interviews. The dates for the interviews will be Tuesday May 12th and Thursday May 14th from 8:30 to 12:30 each day. I want to thank Mr. Dunn for serving on the interview committee. We will be holding these interviews remotely via Zoom. Each candidate will get their own invitation to a Zoom meeting and the interviews will be approximately one hour apiece. Questions have been drafted and will be reviewed by Mr. Simons this week. I also wanted to provide an update on the Special Grants committee. The committee met on Wednesday, April 22nd, and we reviewed proposals from our EGTA members and ultimately seven proposals are being moved forward for a recommendation and you will see that on tonight's consent agenda.

Michael Buono: Any questions for Marissa? No. Good luck on the search, I hope it goes well. Interesting process to do those interviews by Zoom and you have a committee as well. How large of a committee do you have?

Jeffrey Simons: It's a smaller committee than typical. We're still in the process of reviewing. There are contracts that require certain members to be on the committee in other cases it is not a requirement. We are still discussing that.

Michael Buono: Very good. Alright, good luck. Thanks, Marissa

Marissa Cannon: Thank you

Michael Buono: Larry do you have anything else?

Lawrence Edson: I have a quick note that policy committee members probably within the next week will be receiving a series of policies to look. Some at which involve compliance with Education Law 2D, that we talked about earlier in the school year. I'm going to be reviewing some of the draft policies also with Mr. Goodwin, our technology director, on Monday. We are working on a lot of things.

Michael Buono: Definitely. The business in the district continues even with some wrinkles in it. To put it mildly. Thanks, Larry. Mr McHugh? Are you out there?

James McHugh: I am.

Michael Buono: Hi Jim

James McHugh: The only thing to report is all the summer curriculum writing proposals have been submitted. There is about 17 proposals, in total. I'm really happy with what has come in. They're all the results of program reviews or SED changes, whether its a regents. I am hopeful that we can do that work this summer and I'm also hopeful that we are able to support all of the proposals that came in. They are all top quality, so we are kinda working through what that will look like. We will see if we can get that work done this summer. We are hopeful.

Michael Buono: Jim, are some of those proposals able to do virtually, if possible?

James McHugh: That's what we are working through right now. I am going to talk to the folks that submitted proposals and speak with department chairs. I think it can, but some of the proposals might need to be refined a little bit because of the way that work will be completed. Really happy with what was submitted, it really is a product of the way we run the program reviews. The other important thing that you see in the proposals is that if it's a high school initiative, they are bringing in folks from the middle school. If it's an elementary or a middle school initiative they are also bringing some high school folks in to put their eyes on that work and to participate a little bit. I think that is a positive thing.

Michael Buono: Ok great, thanks, I hope we can move forward with those proposals. Great, thank you. Jeff?

Jeffrey Simons: I have nothing further.

Michael Buono: Nothing further? Ok

MINUTES

Michael Buono: Alright so completing committee reports and moving to the minutes. We have two sets of minutes for our approval. The first set of minutes April 8th. I believe everyone was present, except for Mr. Dunn. Is there any comments, questions or changes to those minutes for April 8th? No? If not, I will need a

motion to approve the minutes. Karen, second? Kathleen. Those in favor? (Eight board members raised their hands) Those abstaining? Mr. Dunn. Approved, Thank you.

Going to the minutes for April 21st. Any comments, questions or revisions? Nope, If not, I will need a motion to approve those.

Mark Mann: I will

Michael Buono: Mark. Oh you weren't there.

Mark Mann: I wasn't there.

Michael Buono: Mark wasn't there, so Jennifer, Deanna, second. All those in favor? (Eight Board members raised their hands) Abstaining? Mr Mann. You can't see him down there, but he said abstained. Those are approved. Thank you.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Michael Buono: Moving to regular business. Approval of Programs of Resident Children with Disabilities. Any comments or questions? Seeing none, I will need a motion to approve those. Kathleen, second JoAnn. All those in favor? (All nine Board members raised their hands) Approved.

Going to the Revised Budget Calendar and District Vote. We had a very concise and accurate picture of what is happening in the calendar. It is pretty complex. There are a lot of things to look at. Are there any final questions? Nope, seeing none, I need a motion to approve the calendar. Michelle, second John. All those in favor? (All Board members raised their hands) Approved. That's official now, Larry.

Lawrence Edson: OK

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Michael Buono: Moving out of Regular Business into Reports and Presentations of the Superintendent.

Jeffrey Simons: I have one item that I want to just update the Board and community on. There has been an open question across the State regarding whether or not school districts have local authority to amend their school calendar this year in light of the fact that the Governor's executive order required online instruction and other services to be provided during Spring break and on Good Friday. We continued to provide those services during what would normally be a scheduled break as well as a religious observance holiday. In addition, we had two unused snow days and some other factors in our calendar that should we continue through the scheduled last day of school, which I believe in June 26th this year, we would be over the number of contractual days within our employee contracts by approximately 8 days. Additionally, some of our families have expressed some level of fatigue and needed a break. We are in the process of working on that. We do have some determinations to make within a short period of time regarding that. I have touched base with our attorney the other evening to ensure that we can shorten the calendar. I don't have a good answer on that yet nor do other districts. Some districts have made that decision and announced that decision. We have not been informed, nor has any district been informed that we have the local authority to do that yet. We are trying to get a clarification. Our attorney pledged that he was going to talk with the School Boards attorney about getting an answer on that. Hopefully, within the next two weeks, I will be able to make an announcement. Maybe and perhaps, next Thursday at the May 14th meeting when I know more information. We recognize that that is a question out there. We are looking at it and we will hopefully be able to get clear guidance in the next week or so.

Michael Buono: Great. Thanks for bringing that up that's important??? It's on a lot of people minds about the calendar across the State for schools.

TABLED MOTIONS

Michael Buono: Moving on in the agenda to Tabled motions. I do not have anything at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Michael Buono: Old Business. Board members, anything to bring up? No, Ok

CONSENT AGENDA

Michael Buono: Now we have the Consent Agenda.

Mark Mann: Can I ask a question about the Consent Agenda?

Michael Buono: Sure, Mark

Mark Mann: I'm not sure that under Item C, the non-instructional support memo that there should be nothing there?

Jeffrey Simons: We have no actions there. Is that correct, Marissa? There is nothing?

Marissa Cannon: That is correct. There is no retirements, no hires, no resignations, no movement.

Mark Mann: Thank you

Marissa Cannon: You're welcome.

Michael Buono: So we have items A through H, any other questions regarding the consent agenda? I know we've had a couple retirements, congratulations to those folks who are retiring. Anyone else, anything? Alright, if not, I need a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Kathleen, second?

Mark Mann: I will.

Michael Buono: Mark. All those in favor? (All Board members raise their hands) Great, thank you. Approved.
NEW BUSINESS

Michael Buono: Next on the agenda, we have New Business. Any new business to be brought forth? Board members? Nothing? Ok.

PUBLIC FORUM

Michael Buono: Public Forum. Mr. Simons, anything on the email list?

Jeffrey Simons: Nothing submitted through email.

Michael Buono: Nothing submitted. Second opportunity, Board members, I will just throw it out there if you want the opportunity to speak at this point ?

Kathleen Curtin: Mike, I just want to mention that next week I have registered with NYSSBA for the Leading with Emotional Intelligence in Uncertain Times webinar. It seemed pretty timely, if anybody else is available it's next Tuesday the 12th. Like I said it seems very timely.

Michael Buono: Yes, the School Boards have been doing a nice job getting information out as timely, providing Saturday webinars with the Commissioner and some high level State Executive folks. And also, being very supportive and getting information out to school board members

Kathleen Curtin: Yes, they have done an excellent job.

Michael Buono: Anything else, school board members? No, alright. I think just closing comments before we kind of move on. I would like to acknowledge and thank all the work of our staff, our Administrators, everyone who is working on behalf of our students and our facilities, folks that are here, IT, the unsung heroes. We have our folks who are on the front lines, our nurses, our responders, but also we have our educators who are doing a wonderful job to hold the system together, and without you it can't be done. Our parents, who are working so hard to support their children and continue to support them, doing their best, balancing family, education and their own jobs and concerns. We are all together on this. We will be here as a school community and I hope at next week's community forum we get a lot of input so we can hear from the community, hear the things that are on your mind and address those as best we can, even though it's a lot of uncertainty. Again, thank you for everyone, I appreciate all your work and it was Teacher Appreciation Week, as well. It's not just teachers, it's the TA's, it's all the nurses, it's everyone out there who is doing their best to maintain some semblance of normalcy for our school district and our kids. Thank you, again. With that do need an executive session. Board members, we will need about 10 minutes to set that up and there will be a separate email again?

Jeffrey Simons: Yes

Michael Buono: What we will do is to get that out to the Board members. We don't anticipate any business, the Executive session is for collective negotiations and personnel.

Jeffrey Simons: I have one, two items that I forgot to mention.

Michael Buono: Oh, Two items before we go to Executive session.

Jeffrey Simons: You reminded me of it, Mr. Buono. Today is National Teacher Appreciation, this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week and we sent a communication out to our teachers this morning. I also want to publicly recognize all of the work the teachers do to serve the kids as well as the increase in the

amount of support they are providing our kids at this time through the remote learning. They are doing a fabulous job under very challenging circumstances and whether it was this year in our unique circumstances or any other year our teachers in East Greenbush do a great job. Secondly, today is National Nurses Day. We want to recognize and thank all the nurses in our Country, but also in particular our school nurses who do a great job in taking care of our kids and our staff everyday. Our nurses have stepped forward to help support the childcare program in the district. I do not know what we would do without nurses. I kinda have to say that as a father of a nurse and a son-in-law of a nurse. I would say it anyways, congratulations and thanks to all of our nurses.

Michael Buono: Thanks, Jeff. So with that I need a motion to move into Executive session. Michelle, second John. All those in favor? (All Board members raise their hands) Let's reconvene about 5 after, Peter? You will get an email and just log back on. Thanks, goodnight everybody. Thank you for participating, we will talk to you soon.