

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING-SPECIAL MEETING  
Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

**1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Mr. Buono- 7:00,P.M.

**B. ATTENDANCE**

	Present	Absent	Arrival
Mr. Buono	X		
Ms. Curtin	X		
Mr. Dunn		X -remote	
Ms. Kennedy	X		
Mr. Mann	X		
Ms. Muth	X		
Ms. Skumurski			X- 7:02
Ms. Taylor	X		
Mr. Yeboah	X		
Also Attending			
Mr. Simons	X		
Ms. Cannon	X		
Mr. McHugh	X		
Ms. Wager	X		

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. BOARD FORUM & SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

A. NYS Health Commissioner's Determination of COVID-19 Testing Pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.62 issued on 9/2/2021

Mr. Simons discussed the recent guidance issued from the State. The new guidance requires all school staff must be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing. Mr. Simons explained the District is working on obtaining vaccination information from the staff. He stated the District is looking at purchasing software for employees to upload their vaccination card or excelsior pass that would be sent directly to Ms. Cannon's office where it will be held in confidence. The Superintendent also stated that employees uncomfortable with submitting their information electronically will be able to make an appointment and submit a paper copy. He reported that Questar is working on securing sufficient testing kits at this time.

Mr. Simons reported that schools cannot require students to be vaccinated or to be tested, but is required to offer testing on a consent basis to all unvaccinated students. He also explained that to do the testing there would still need additional employees at Questar to administer the testing. He said that those positions would need to be hired, but the funding has not been received at this time. Mr. Simons stated everyone is working together to come into compliance as soon as possible.

Mr. Buono asked if the testing information has been discussed with all the bargaining units.

Mr. Simons explained that they have not discussed the impact on the units yet.

B. Interim NYSDOH Guidance For Classroom Instruction in P-12 Schools During the 2021-22 Academic Year

Mr. Simons reported that the new classroom guidance is very close to the CDC guidance, therefore there are not any big changes to the reopening plans. The only difference is the testing component and in the area of music, which states a minimum of 6ft distancing between students without masks. He explained that he has spoken with other districts, and they all agree that students will be required to wear masks or use bell covers on their instruments, so he is recommending to continue to use 3 feet social distancing. He also stated the District will be monitoring this situation.

C. Contact Tracing Update-School Opening Plan

Mr. Simons presented contact tracing diagrams to assist with determining who will be required to be quarantined. He explained that the guidelines were a collaboration between area BOCES and school districts within area counties.

Mr. Simons explained the guidelines stating that vaccinated asymptomatic students who were exposed will not normally quarantine but are recommended to be tested in 3-5 days. He stated he felt that testing should be a requirement, to keep everyone safe.

Mr. Mann felt the District should keep with the agreed upon guidelines.

Mr. Buono asked if Mr. Simons knew if other District were requiring testing, he said he felt it would be a good practice to keep everyone safe due to all the breakthrough cases.

Mr. Simons asked the Board to agree to an understanding that the District will monitor the circumstances, with possible advocating with other area Superintendents and the Department of Health, and if staff or students become symptomatic and test positive within the 3-5 day timeframe, the District may have to make adjustments and require testing instead of just recommending it.

Ms. Skumurski stated she was open to requiring the staff to be tested if they were exposed, regardless of vaccination status.

Mr. Yeboah agreed and stated he felt it was best to test just to keep everyone safe.

Mr. Simons reported that nine students were approved for the Questar run remote learning, due to medical conditions that make it unsafe for them to return to school. Other options were made for students in special education classes.

#### **4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **A. Implications of New NYSDOH Guidance for EGCSO School Opening Plans**

Mr. Simons explained the new guidelines are similar to the CDC guidelines, so no changes are being made at this time.

Mr. Buono asked everyone to work together, be flexible, adjust when necessary and keep the lines of communication open as schools open in person.

##### **B. Testing and Vaccination Considerations Regarding Winter Higher Risk Indoor Sports**

Mr. Simons explained going forward with high-risk sports will depend on the community transmission rate and stated he recommends that all athletes be required to be vaccinated to play. He suggested implementing this requirement now, so that families have adequate time to get their student fully vaccinated.

#### **5. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None at this time

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ms. Muth, Seconded by Ms. Skumurski to Adjourn

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 8:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn  
District Clerk