

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 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	
Ms. Kennedy	X		
Mr. Mann	X		
Ms. Muth		X resigned	
Ms. Skumurski			X 7:02 P.M.
Ms. Taylor	X		
Mr. Yeboah	X		

Also Attending

Mr. Simons	X
Ms. Cannon	X
Mr. McHugh	X
Ms. Wager	X

Student Council

Representatives	
Ryan Seely	X
Emma Marchiony	X

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. EX OFFICIO STUDENT COUNCIL COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS** A. Student Council Representatives: Ryan Seely-President; Emma Marchiony-Vice President

Ryan Seely discussed the many ways Student council has been raising Breast Cancer awareness. He said they were getting ready for the upcoming Pink-out event and all proceeds will be donated to the cause.

Emma Marchiony said the Student Council will be hosting a Blood Drive on October 26, 2021.

**4. MINUTES**

A. Approval of Draft Minutes dated September 29, 2021, 2021

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2021.

Motion by Mr. Mann, Seconded by Ms. Curtin

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the District Clerk, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of September 29, 2021.

Vote: Ayes-7, Nays-0

Motion carried

B. Approval of Draft Minutes dated October 6, 2021

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2021.

Tabled until next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

**5. BOARD FORUM #1**

Mr. Buono reported that the recent Blue Ribbon National School Excellence Event was a success and thanked staff for all their work on making it an enjoyable event for all.

**6. PUBLIC FORUM #1**

David Jones, a district resident, asked if the District has hired or is planning to hire an administrator with the title "Director of Equity, Inclusiveness and Diversity" and he asked if so, why and how will this position be funded? He also asked if the District has entered or thinking of entering a course of study centered around critical race theory?

Mr. Simons stated the District has not hired a separate administrator for initiatives related to diversity, equity and inclusion, but did form a committee, which he oversees. He stated the focus of that committee is to make sure the District offers an inclusive school culture. The Superintendent reported that professional development has been provided to the staff to ensure they use inclusive practices both in and outside the classroom. He stated the district is not adopting a course of study around critical race theory and is not planning to at this time.

**7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

A. Special Presentation - School Board Recognition Week

The Chamber Singers, under the direction of Ms. Badger, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "Autumn Leaves" for the Board.

Mr. Buono thanked everyone for supporting the Board members. He said the reward of the job, is seeing the students activities and accomplishments.

B. 2020-2021 Audit Report- Review of Financial Statements

Ms. Wager presented an overview of the audit of 2020-2021 school year. She stated the District was given an Unmodified Opinion on the audit, which is the auditors highest level of assurance. She explained that the district was slightly over the allotted fund balance allowed by the State and said she would like to discuss some ideas with the Board, such as establishing a capital reserve for future projects throughout the District.

C. Columbia High School Clay Target Enrichment Program

Ms. Gedney and Mr. Zilgme gave an overview of the Clay Target Enrichment Program they would like to offer the high school students as a spring sport.

D. K-5 Renaissance Star Update

Mr. McHugh and Ms. Mahar explained the Renaissance Star testing and discussed how successful and quickly the program has helped identify the students who need academic help and how the information has helped to target the needed staffing at each of the schools.

## 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2022-2023 Budget Calendar & District Vote

Ms. Wager presented the calendar to the Board and explained the dates.

Mr. Buono asked if the workshops could be flexible and not always be on a meeting night, so the Board could have more time to discuss the budget items.

Ms. Wager said she will add on the calendar that the dates are flexible depending on the need of discussion.

Mr. Simons suggested adding March 16, 2022 as a tentative workshop, if needed.

B. Process to Fill Vacant Board Seat

Mr. Buono shared that Ms. Muth has moved out of the district and has resigned her seat. The Board agreed to proceed to fill the seat by advertising and conducting interviews of prospective candidates.

C. Commencement of E-Cigarettes and Vaping Litigation

Mr. Simons explained that the District's attorneys have asked if the District would like to join into a mass litigation suit with other schools against Juul, relating to the marketing of vaping products towards children. He said the cost of the litigation is funded through a portion of whatever settlement is reached. He said in other states the settlements are reached by determining how the district is effected by the students' vaping and not only current costs associated, but also future costs incurred by tackling the problem. He said in the District, there are already programs to educate the students about drugs and other harmful products.

Mr. Buono said he felt educating the students about vaping and other harmful substances was a better use of the District's efforts. He said Mr. Dunn also did not support the litigation. He asked Mr. Simons to get more information for the Board to look over, but didn't think it was something they were looking to pursue.

## 9. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Approval of Programs for Resident Children with Disabilities

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENT CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Motion by Ms. Curtin, Seconded by Ms. Taylor

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Programs for Resident Children with Disabilities.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

B. Resolution for Tenure - Domalewicz

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR TENURE

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Seconded by Ms. Curtin

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Resolution for Teacher Tenure.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. Resolution for Tenure - Ferlazzo

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR TENURE

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Ms. Skumurski

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Resolution for Teacher Tenure.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

D. Resolution for Tenure - Harkin

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR TENURE

Motion by Mr. Mann, Seconded by Mr. Yeboah

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Resolution for Principal Tenure.

Vote: Ayes-7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

E. Resolution for Tenure - Pagones

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR TENURE

Motion by Ms. Curtin, Seconded by Mr. Mann

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Resolution for Teacher Tenure.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

F. 2020-2021 Audit Report and Financial Statements

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE INDEPENDENT AUDIT PRESENTATION.**

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Seconded by Ms. Kennedy

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby accepts the audit reports for the year ended June 30, 2021 as prepared and presented by Bonadio & Company, LLP, independent auditors.

Vote: Ayes-7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

**G. Window Replacement Project Bid****RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE WINDOW REPLACEMENT PROJECT BID.**

Motion by Mr. Yeboah, Seconded by Ms. Curtin

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby accepts the Window Replacement Project Bid.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

**H. Resignation of Board Member, Deanna Muth**

Mr. Buono thanked Ms. Muth for her service to the school community. He said the Board is grateful for her dedication and the giving of her time as a representative of the community to help guide the District during these difficult times.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER, DEANNA MUTH.**

Motion by Mr. Mann, Seconded by Ms. Skumurski

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Resignation of Board Member, Deanna Muth

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS****A. Marissa Cannon, Director of Human Resources - Staffing Vacancy Update**

Ms. Cannon discussed the current openings within the District, she reported some interviews are being scheduled and stated some hard to fill positions will be advertised in the Times Union.

**B. Linda Wager, Director of Business and Finance**

None at this time.

**C. James McHugh, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction**

Mr. McHugh presented his minutes for the Education Committee. He said the committee was looking into the elementary recess, at parental request. He said that with required instruction it is challenging to find more time for recess, but the committee and principals are still discussing it. He stated he has also reached out to neighboring districts to review their plans. Mr. McHugh also reported the Committee for Curriculum Studies has recently met and presented the projects they have been working on over the summer.

**D. Jeffrey Simons, Superintendent - Committee for Global Education Meeting 10/12/21**

Mr. Simons said at the recent meeting the committee discussed how to best utilize the diversity and equity resources offered by the State Education Department, and suggested the resources be discussed and made available to staff at faculty meetings, department meeting and grade level meetings. Mr. Simons said the committee reviewed the efforts in the schools to make sure families are welcomed and can orient successfully to the school community. He also said the website is being updated to include local resources for new families entering the District.

**11. TABLED MOTIONS**

None

**12. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Buono asked for an update on the compliance of the winter sport vaccine mandate enacted on September 29, 2021.

Mr. Simons said the district will compile that information and that no exemption forms have been submitted. He also reported that seven Suburban council schools have now mandated vaccination for all winter sports athletes.

**13. CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Skumurski thanked everyone for the generous donations to the District.

**A. Financial Reports**

2021-10-20 Claims Auditor Reports for Warrants- 0027, 0028, V028.pdf

**B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo****.A. DISCONTINUANCE****1. Resignation**

a. Davies, Anna - Substitute Teacher, effective 10/14/21

Reason: accepted position elsewhere

b. Hammill, Shane - Substitute Teacher, effective 10/5/21

Reason: accepted position elsewhere

c. Myers-Collins, Joshua - Teaching Assistant (part time), effective 10/21/21

Reason: To accept the full time Teaching Assistant position

**B. APPOINTMENTS:**

**1. Probationary Appointment - Teaching Assistant**

- a. Myers-Collins, Joshua - Teaching Assistant, Columbia High School  
(New Position)  
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant  
Probationary Period: 10/21/21-10/20/25  
Certification Status: NYS Teaching Assistant, Level I  
Salary: Step 2 = \$21.04 per hour  
Hours per day: 6.5
- b. Salo, Kathryn - Teaching Assistant, Donald P. Sutherland Elementary School  
(replacing Dana Freemantle)  
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant  
Probationary Period: 11/15/21-11/14/25  
Certification Status: NYS Students with Disabilities B-2 Emergency COVID  
NYS Early Childhood Education B-2 Emergency COVID  
Salary: Step 1 = \$20.75 per hour  
Hours per day: 6.5

**2. Per Diem Substitute Teacher**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification Area</u>	<u>Degree Status</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Mostachetti, Julian	English	M.A.	10/21/21

**3. Other Appointments - 2021-2022 School Year**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
a. DiBacco, Audra	Food for Families Coordinator	\$1,500.00 (prorated \$125/month)
b. Valenti, Sheri	Bell Top Coding Club Appendix D	\$1,071.00
c. Virnelli, Sarah	DPS Coding Club Appendix D	\$1,071.00

**C. Salary Adjustments - Bachelors to Masters Degree**

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Compensation Adjustment</u>
a. Cooke, Emily	B+0	M+0	\$2,805.00
b. Dunaief, Amy	B+15	M+0	\$2,025.00

**C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo****Discontinuance as listed:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Hammill, Shane	Substitute Aide	10/05/21	Resignation

**Appointments as listed:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
McHugh, Melissa	Registered Professional Nurse-Goff	11/01/21	Step 1 = \$26.66 per hour
	Probation: 11/1/21-04/30/22		7hrs/10 months

**Substitute employees as listed:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Boniface, Michele	Aide	10/06/21	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour
	Monitor	10/06/21	Step 1 = \$15.02 per hour
	Senior Monitor	10/06/21	Step 1 = \$15.74 per hour
	Typist	10/06/21	Step 1 = \$18.38 per hour
Garrigan, Amy	Aide	10/21/21	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour
Hadden, Joan	Aide	10/21/21	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour
Hadley, Craig	Bus Driver	10/21/21	Substitute rate = \$20.46 per hour
Mangione, Claudia	Senior Monitor	09/30/21	Step 1 = \$15.74 per hour

**D. Acceptance of Gifts and Authorization to Increase the 2021-2022 Budget****E. Disposal of District Property- Assets****F. Library Materials Recommended for Weeding-Columbia High School****G. Approval of Consent Agenda****RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Seconded by Ms. Curtin

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Consent Agenda.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried**14. ADDENDUM**

None at this time

**15. NEW BUSINESS**Mr. Buono asked for an update on surveillance testing. Mr. Simons reported he and other area superintendents met with Questar and the Rensselaer County Department of Health and they anticipate the testing kits will be delivered soon. He said that employee

testing will begin first. Mr. Simons reported the online vaccination submission software has just been installed and employees will soon be able to confidentially upload their information directly into the portal. He stated the District has had talks with the bargaining units, and they are discussing the needed agreements.

Mr. Simons said that due to the unknown amount of future test kits, the District might have to limit testing to unvaccinated students. He reported that if all goes according to the tentative timeline, the employee testing should be in place soon after November 1, 2021, followed by the student testing in late November or early December, then the point of care testing, but everything is subject to receiving the test kits and discussions with the bargaining units.

#### **16. PUBLIC FORUM #2**

None

#### **17. BOARD FORUM #2**

Ms. Curtin thanked the Chamber Singers for their performance and stated how much she missed seeing student presentations. Mr. Buono echoed her feelings and also thanked the District for their gifts.

#### **18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Seconded by Ms. Taylor to enter Executive Session for purposes of contractual items and personnel matters.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 8:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn  
District Clerk

#### **19. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Yeboah, Seconded by Ms. Skumurski to Adjourn

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 9:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kennedy  
Acting Assistant District Clerk