

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2022**

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 remote		
Ms. O'Brien	X		
Ms. Skumurski	X		
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 stated that Student Council is still looking for suggestions for spring events and fundraisers. He reported that two students, Lauren Preston and Mikayla Kendrick are running to be the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's students of the year, and will be holding multiple fundraising events between now and March 10, 2022. Student Council will be contributing to their cause by holding an ice cream fundraiser. Ryan also said students will be wearing red on February 4th, 2022, World Cancer Day, to raise awareness of the campaign.

4. MINUTES

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2022.

Motion by Ms. O'Brien, Seconded by Mr. Yeboah

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 January 12, 2022.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

5. BOARD FORUM #1

None at this time.

6. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Mr. Michael Seney, a police officer and father of children in the District, asked why the district continued to require masks on January 25, 2022, even though a State Supreme Court Judge overturned the ruling, stating the governor didn't have the legal authority to implement the mandate. He stated that even though a stay was enacted the following day, he felt that the District should've followed the law and let the students remove their masks. He asked if the mask mandate is once again found unconstitutional will the District allow families to make the choice?

Mr. Jeremy Shuhart, a parent in the District, expressed his disappointment in the District choosing to continue to require the masks on January 25, 2022. He also asked the Board if they would deny access to a student if the governor requires vaccination in the future.

Mr. Simons thanked the public speakers for attending and giving their concerns and questions. He stated that on the evening of January 24, 2022, the District was notified of mandate being overturned and within minutes received additional notification from the

New York State Education Department, BOCES and the District's attorney indicating that the New York State Department of Health had issued a petition to stay the decision. The Superintendent stated the New York State Education Department said that due to the petition, schools should continue to follow the mask requirement. He reported that all public schools and some private schools report and follow the policies of the New York State Commissioner of Education and since this was the guidance, the school continued with the mandate. Mr. Simons explained that he nor the Board have the authority to suspend the requirement.

Mr. Dunn thanked the public for their comments and explained the Board is bound by law. He reported that when the time comes and the Board is allowed to make decisions, the Board will take that responsibility very seriously and the discussions will take place in a public setting. He stated the Board's main goal is to do what is right for the children. He encouraged the public to reach out to the elected officials and make their concerns known in regards to this situation.

Mr. Buono that there have been updates about COVID guidelines at all the Board meetings. He stated the District and Board makes decisions based on how to keep the students in school every day and keep the students and staff safe. He explained that the Board represents the entire community and bases their decisions on the good of the whole.

Mr. Simons explained that in order for vaccines to be a requirement, the decision would have to come from the New York State Department of Health, and that has not been a topic of discussion at this time. He said he did not want to speculate on what the District would do since it is not an issue at this time. In regards to the vaccine requirement for winter high risk sports, the Superintendent stated the issue was discussed at many public Board meetings last Fall, and the majority of the Board agreed with his recommendation to instate the mandate. He explained the Center for Disease Control guidelines at that time recommended that communities with a high rate of transmission either cancel winter high risk sports or ensure that all participants are vaccinated. He stated that guidance also came from New York State Department of Health, so some Districts approved the mandate. The Superintendent stated the vaccine mandate will not be in effect for spring sports, since they take place outdoors.

Mr. Simons stated that none of the mandates are tied to Federal or State aid.

Mr. Jeremy Shuhart asked what would happen if the District pushed back to the State and said the District would not enforce the mandates.

Mr. Simons reiterated the the Board or District does not have the authority to do that. He explained the State Education Department has that authority. The Superintendent echoed what Mr. Dunn said, and suggested the families that had concerns reach out to the elected officials for change.

Ms. Christa Canfield, a parent in the District, commented that with all the break-through cases, is there a plan to revisit the mandate requiring the students to be vaccinated to play sports.

Ms. Curtin explained that when the Board made the decision in the Fall, it was for the one season only. She stated it was a very difficult decision at the time, and was not made lightly, but felt that is was the best choice to keep the children in school. She said since circumstances are constantly changing, the Board cannot say what decisions will be made in the future. Ms. Curtin stated that when issues come up, the Board looks at that moment and decides what is best.

Ms. Shana Edwards, a parent in the District, asked if the Board is revisiting the vaccine requirement and if the parent's can weigh in on the decision.

Mr. Simons reiterated that there will not be a vaccine requirement for any spring sports and stated the decision next year would be in conjunction with the State Education Department, the State Health Department and whatever guidance that is in effect at that time. He said while he hopes that things are better next year, if there were protocols that needed to be discussed, the discussions would occur in public Board meetings and with careful consideration and the decisions would be made for what is best for the community as a whole.

Ms. Shana Edwards asked why the District implemented the high risk sports vaccine mandate in the fall, when not all area schools did.

Mr. Simons reported that seven Suburban Council schools implemented the mandate and the decision was made in the best interest of the health and safety of the students. He explained that the District interpreted the guidance literally and felt they needed to implement the mandate or cancel high risk sports.

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. 4-Year Summary of College Credits and Advanced Placement Earned

Mr. McHugh gave an overview of the college credits offered and earned by students. He also talked about the AP course offerings and how many students have taken advantage of this opportunity. He stated that while not all colleges or university's accept the credits, the successful passing of an advanced placement or college credit course is a significant indicator of college and career readiness, and stated the District strives to offer as many of these courses as possible.

B. East Greenbush Central School District Course Failure Quarter 1 2021-2022

Mr. McHugh gave an overview of the Columbia High and Goff Middle School Absences.

Mr. Harkin and Ms. Barker explained how they identify the problems and described protocols they have in place to help remedy the situation. They both said they will continue to monitor the situation and will update the Board at a future meeting.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Strategic Plan Scorecard 2021-2022

Mr. Simons, Mr. McHugh, Ms. Cannon and Ms. Wager presented the Scorecard, reviewed the objectives of the Board, and discussed the strategies of the District to achieve those goals. Mr. Simons also presented a summary of the student participation in Questar/VOTEC programs over the last five years.

B. 2022-2023 Preliminary Budget Information

Ms. Wager presented the State Aid projections for this year and compared it with last year's aid.

Mr. Simons outlined the Administrator's requests and priorities and showed how they aligned with the Board goals. He stressed that it is very early in the process and these requests will be discussed in depth and more information will be presented at future meetings.

Mr. Dunn requested a report about the interventions included in last year's budget. He said he would like to know if they were successful, should be continued or changed in any way to make them more successful. He stated he didn't want to just add things because there was money, but wanted to be mindful of the sustainability of the budget.

Ms. Skumurski recognized the District's work in trying to hold the tax increase down and stated her appreciation of the District thinking of the taxpayers.

C. Changes for New York State Department of Health COVID Protocols-Implications for the District; 1. Contact Tracing 2. At Home Tests 3. Isolation, Quarantine, Testing

Mr. Simons reviewed the newest guidelines affecting the District. He stated the quarantine period for students and staff that tested positive or unvaccinated students exposed to a case of COVID-19 would be reduced 10 days to five, if they are feeling well enough to return. He stated the contact tracing program by the County has been suspended, but the schools still need to identify the students and employees who are potentially exposed and make sure they understand the new process. He explained the State and County have now moved to a self-service program where a person who has tested positive or has been in close contact with an infected person must go on the State website and fill out an affirmation form that will be turned into the school when they are ready to return to school. The Superintendent also reported that home test kits are now admissible and test kits have been provided to the school to distribute. Mr. Simons stated that a positive test for a middle school or high school student would make them eligible for live stream instruction, and elementary students would be eligible for tutoring.

Mr. Mann asked if the district were still doing temperature checks.

Mr. Simons said yes, but there are very few cases identified that way, and the District is thinking of eliminating it.

Mr. Buono stated his support for eliminating the temperature checks.

Ms. O'Brien also supported that decision and stated she was happy that the home tests were now admissible and thought it would help keep the students in school.

Ms. Skumurski asked if a doctor's note would still be required for students to return to sports.

Mr. Simons explained after conferring with the trainer and Dr. Albert they have decided to adjust the protocol to a three-day process where the athlete comes back slowly and is assessed by the school physician.

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 Mr. Dunn

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- 9 , Nays- 0

Motion carried

B. Request to Correct Tax Rolls**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO CORRECT TAX ROLLS**

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Ms. O'Brien

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Request to Correct Tax Rolls.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. Health and Welfare Services Contract- Wynantskill Union Free School District**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE WYNANTSKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT.**

Motion by Ms. Curtin, Seconded by Ms. Kennedy

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Health & Welfare Services Contract with Wynantskill Union Free School District.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

D. Special Education Services Cross Contract- Menands School District**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CROSS CONTRACT WITH MENANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT.**

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Seconded by Mr. Yeboah

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Special Education Services Cross Contract with Menands School District.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**A. Marissa Cannon, Director of Human Resources - Calendar Committee**

Ms. Cannon said the Calendar Committee has met and is working on the school calendar for the next school year. She also discussed the open positions within the district and where they are in the interview and hiring process.

B. Linda Wager, Director of Business and Finance -Advocacy Committee

Ms. Wager reported that the Advocacy Committee has recently met and have discussed three areas they are interesting in advocating for: extending the expiration dates of the federal funds, increasing the allowable amount of fund balance, and increasing the limit that retirees can earn to \$50,000.

C. James McHugh, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
None at this time.

D. Jeffrey Simons, Superintendent - Global Education Committee, Business Advisory Committee
Mr. Simons stated the Committee for Global Education met and reviewed the participation in professional development. He also discussed making sure everyone knew about the translation services available, so language is not a barrier to families in the District. He stated the Business Advisory Committee discussed providing resources to the students and families so they understand all the different pathways available after graduation.

11. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time.

12. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Financial Reports

2022-01-26 Claims Auditor Reports for Warrants 0061, 0062, 0063, 0064, 0065.pdf

2022-01-26 Treasurer's Reports- November 2021.pdf

2022-01-26 Extraclassroom Treasurers Report- CHS- November 2021. pdf

2022-01-26 Extraclassroom Treasurers Report- Goff- November 2021. pdf

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B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

a. Greene, David - Elementary, Howard L. Goff Middle School, effective 6/30/22.
Date of Hire: 1/3/06

b. Sheridan, Karen - Social Worker, Genet Elementary School, effective 6/30/22.
Date of Hire: 2/26/01

2. Resignation

a. Curtis, Wendy - Teaching Assistant, Howard L. Goff Middle School, effective 1/27/22.
To accept full time position.

b. Izzo, Nicole - Teaching Assistant, Howard L. Goff Middle School, effective 2/9/22.
Date of Hire: 9/10/20

B. APPOINTMENTS

1. Probationary Appointment - Teaching Assistant

a. Curtis, Wendy - Teaching Assistant, Howard L. Goff Middle School
(Replacing Linda Pavlick, Retirement)
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant
Probationary Period: 1/27/22 - 1/26/26
Certification Status: NYS Permanent PreK-6
NYS Permanent Reading Teacher
Salary: Step 6 = \$22.86 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>
Guzman, Sara	Criminal Justice Degrees	M.A.	1/27/22

C. OTHER

1. Federal Grant Stipend (IDEA)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>	<u>Amount</u>
a. Fuller, Ann	Job Coach	2021-2022 SY	\$500.00
b. Howe, Ann	Job Coach	2021-2022 SY	\$500.00

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Kelly, Colleen	Monitor-Red Mill	1/19/2022	resignation
Mangione, Claudia	Substitute Typist Substitute Monitor	1/27/2022 1/27/2022	Per employee's request
Maxwell, Christine	Monitor-Transportation	1/13/2022	resignation

Appointments as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Hogan, Heather	Senior Monitor-CHS Probation: 1/27/22-7/26/22	1/27/2022	Step 1 = \$15.74 per hour 6.75 hours/10 months
Madsen, Jennifer	Food Service Helper-RM Probation: 1/27/22-7/26/22	1/27/2022	Step 1 = \$14.19 per hour 3.75 hours/10 months
Mangione, Claudia	Typist-BT/RM Provisional	1/27/2022	Step 5 = \$20.05 per hour 7.5hrs/10 months

Substitute employees as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Asenbauer, Katharine	Aide	1/13/2022	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour
Backmon, Veronica	Aide	1/27/2022	Step 1 (BA) = \$19.97 per hour
Ellsworth, Colin	Monitor Senior Monitor	1/27/2022 1/27/2022	Step 1 = \$15.02 per hour Step 1 = \$15.74 per hour
Murphy-Taylor, Ann	Aide Senior Monitor	1/27/2022 1/27/2022	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour Step 1 = \$15.74 per hour
Schaefer, Mary	Senior Typist	1/6/2022	Step 11 = \$23.21 per hour
Scott, Tiffany	Aide Monitor Senior Monitor	1/27/2022 1/27/2022 1/27/2022	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour Step 1 = \$15.02 per hour Step 1 = \$15.74 per our
Wyant, Tammy	Aide Monitor	1/27/2022 1/27/2022	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour Step 1 = \$15.02 per hour

Leave of Absence:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Bisson, Kevin	Bus Driver	2/14/22-2/18/22	Unpaid Personal Leave of Absence

D. Acceptance of Gifts and Authorization to Increase the 2021-2022 Budget- None at this time

E. Disposal or District Property- Assets

F. Library Materials Recommended to be Weeded- Donald P. Sutherland

G. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Ms. Curtin

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

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried**14. ADDENDUM**

None

15. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

16. PUBLIC FORUM #2Mr. Benjamin Kissel expressed his concerns about the high risk sports vaccine requirement that was passed in the fall, and asked what the district will do if the State requires vaccination for all students be vaccinated to attend school.Mr. Buono thanked Mr. Kissel for his questions and comments and explained they have already provided responses about those issues. He invited Mr. Kissel to look back at the minutes and videos of previous Board meetings to better understand why the decisions were made. He explained the goal of the Board is to make sure the community is safe, the staff to be safe, and for the kids to be in school everyday. Mr. Buono explained that the Board continually looks at the information, discusses it, and makes decisions based on the best interest of the community.Mr. Seney asked the Board going forward to remember that not everyone is comfortable with the vaccine and to take that into account while making decisions.**17. BOARD FORUM #2**

None at this time.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Seconded by Ms. Skumurski to enter Executive Session for purposes of legal and contractual matters.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 9:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Curtin, Seconded by Ms. Taylor to Adjourn

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time:10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kennedy
Assistant District Clerk