

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mr. Buono- 7:04 P.M.

B. ATTENDANCE

	Present	Absent	Arrival
Mr. Buono	X		
Ms. Curtin	X remote		
Mr. Dunn	X		
Ms. Kennedy	X		
Mr. Mann		X	
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 reported that Student Council held an ice cream fundraiser that raised over \$300 for the Columbia Kicks Cancer campaign and will hold another sale next week. Ryan also mentioned that the SADD club is holding a spirit week to promote a healthy and drug free lifestyle.

Emma Marchiony said Student Council was in the process of finalizing potential field trips for the spring to honor members who went above and beyond this year.

B. Donald P. Sutherland Elementary School Board Recognition Memo

Mr. Alvey and Physical Education teacher, Mr. Holtz gave a presentation regarding the rationale and process for obtaining portable indoor turf inside the Donald P. Sutherland gymnasium and how it is being utilized by students and the community. They also thanked the PTO, the Columbia Youth Lacrosse Club and the Board of Education for their gifts and contributions to make it possible.

4. MINUTES

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2022.

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

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 26, 2022.

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2022.

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Ms. Skumurski

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 February 2, 2022.

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 2 (Dunn, Yeboah)

Motion carried

5. BOARD FORUM #1

None at this time

6. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Mr. Benjamin Kissel, a parent of a Goff student, expressed his frustration with the mask and vaccine mandates. He stated he refused to wear a mask and described the confusion for everyone since the mask mandate has been removed elsewhere. He asked the Board to revisit the mask decision.

Ms. Victoria Hennesey, a parent of Goff and Red Mill students, echoed Mr. Kissel's concerns and also asked the Board to remove the mask requirement.

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**A. Overview of EGCSD Special Education Program**

Ms. McGrath and Ms. Wager gave an overview of the Special Education program. Ms. McGrath discussed the special education process, the programs offered and the duties of the staff.

Ms. Wager explained how and where the District budgets for the Special Education programs. She explained that salaries and benefits of the staff constitutes approximately 15% of the overall cost. Ms. Wager presented a chart to show the revenue sources that fund the program, showing the amounts provided by State Aid, Federal Aid, Medicaid Reimbursements and the local taxpayer contribution.

Ms. McGrath said going forward the department would like to pursue a district wide social emotional program, explore a K-5 resource rooms option, ensure consistency of programs and interventions throughout the district, advance the use of assistive technology, offer more professional development for the staff and expand the life skills classes.

B. NYS Comptroller's Fiscal Stress Monitoring System for School Districts

Mr. Simons explained that every year the New York State Comptroller's office issues a report that monitors the fiscal stress of the districts. He reported this process is used to identify districts that are at risk of fiscal or educational insolvency.

The Superintendent stated that each year East Greenbush CSD has received favorable indicators that it is fiscally stable. He explained the success of the District is a product of the Board, the administration and the entire community working together to recognize the long-term stability of the District, by setting aside fiscal resources is critically important to maintaining student services.

Ms. Wager explained that there is a two level scoring process, the fiscal stress score and the environmental stress score. She reported the District received the score of no designation for both levels, the highest designation that can be achieved.

Mr. Buono commented that it shows how hard the District, Boards, and Administration have worked to make sure the District is fiscally sound; being very careful with spending, putting resources where they are needed, especially in those very difficult times to stay positioned to support the school community and the students.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**A. Update on COVID-19 Protocols-NYS Mask Requirements**

Mr. Simons explained the District is awaiting guidance from the governor about the mask mandate. He explained that Governor Hochul is planning on revisiting the issue after February break. He said that while he does not know on what the decision will be based, a large amount of at home tests have been sent to the districts. He said the governor is encouraging families to test their children before returning from break. Mr. Simons said he was hopeful that with things getting better the District will be able to allow some flexibility regarding the masks. He explained that in order for that to occur, the stakeholders would have to weigh in on the decision, and they would also need to know what the State guidance is.

The Superintendent also reiterated that the vaccine mandate enacted in the Fall was something that was decided based on the information available at the time. He stressed that things are different at this time, and the District is not planning on requiring a vaccine for spring sports.

Mr. Dunn thanked the public for their comments and said he would like the Board to have a plan of action in place if and when the governor's office does change the mask guidance. He stated that he agrees with Mr. Kissel that there is confusion with the mask mandate lifted in public places. He said he would also like to have a plan in place if the State does not provide a plan that is acceptable to the community. Mr. Dunn reported he has written to the elected officials asking for change and encouraged everyone to do the same to make it known that the mandates are not acceptable to the community.

Ms. O'Brien agreed with Mr. Dunn and stated if the State does not change the guidance after break, the Board needs to discuss what they can do to proceed.

Ms. Kennedy stated she agrees they need to discuss the options. She said she is done with the masks in schools, and is against mandates.

Mr. Buono said he supported the comments of the other Board members and agreed they need to have discussion about how to proceed if the State doesn't loosen the masks requirement. He recognized the frustration of everyone with the inconsistencies of the mask mandate for the community and schools.

Ms. Skumurski stated that it is really important for the community to write to the elected officials and advocate for clear guidance.

Mr. Simons stated that if the District is given flexibility with the mask mandate, he would like to have an environment where everyone's choice is respected. He stated he would like a safe and inclusive environment for all.

9. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Approval of Programs for Resident Children with Disabilities

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENT CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Motion by Mr. Yeboah, Seconded by Ms. Kennedy

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- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

B. Internal Audit- Payroll

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - PAYROLL

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Seconded by Ms. Taylor

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Internal Audit Report - Payroll.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. Health and Welfare Services Contract- Bethlehem Central School District

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT WITH BETHLEHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Motion by Ms. Kennedy, Seconded by Ms. Taylor

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

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

D. Memorandum of Agreement with School-Related Personnel

Mr. Buono explained the agreement is in regards to a one-time \$2000 stipend to compensate district nurses for administering point of care testing.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL-RELATED PERSONNEL

Motion by Mr. Yeboah, Seconded by Mr. Dunn

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the agreement with School-Related Personnel.

Vote: Ayes-8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Marissa Cannon, Director of Human Resources - Staffing Update & Calendar Committee

Ms. Cannon provided information on the recruitment and hiring of available positions throughout the District. She also said the Calendar Committee has finished a preliminary school calendar for next year, and she will present a draft calendar at a future meeting.

B. Linda Wager, Director of Business and Finance

Ms. Wager discussed the recent Health Insurance Committee meeting and the transition to the Highmark prescription formulary that will take place on July 1, 2022. She explained more information will be sent to the members in April, but they should not see much change from their current plan.

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

None at this time.

D. Jeffrey Simons, Superintendent

None at this time.

11. TABLED MOTIONS

None

12. OLD BUSINESS

None

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Skumurski asked to pull item C for a separate vote.

A. Financial Reports

Claims Auditor Report for Warrants- V062, 0066, 0067, 0068, 0069, V069, 0070.pdf

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

- a. LaVoie, Lorraine - Music, Howard L. Goff Middle School, effective 6/30/22.
Date of Hire: 9/5/89
- b. McDonald, Lisa - Elementary Education, Donald P. Sutherland Elementary School, effective 6/30/22.
Date of Hire: 9/5/95
- c. Vlieg, Donnamarie - Science, Howard L. Goff Middle School, effective 6/30/22.
Date of Hire: 9/2/97

2. APPOINTMENTS**1. Part Time Appointment - Instructional Support Staff**

- a. Kellman, Lisa - Teaching Assistant, Columbia High School
(Replacing Joshua Myers-Collins, resignation)
Effective: 2/28/22
Certification Status: NYS Teaching Assistant, Level III
Salary: Step 1 = \$20.75 per hour
Hours per day: 3.5

2. Per Diem Substitute Teacher

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification Area</u>	<u>Degree Status</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Apelanz, Ildefonso	Degrees in Spanish, Business, Economics, Latin American Studies	M.S.	2/17/22
Das, Epali	Degree in Education	B.A.	2/17/22
Dole, Elizabeth	Degree in Business	B.S.	2/17/22
Hammond, Jennifer	Degree in Psychology	B.A.	2/17/22
Ryan, Patrick	Degree in Business	B.S.	2/17/22

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Carey, Edward	School Bus Driver	04/25/2022	Retirement

Appointment as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Bradley, Margaret	Senior Monitor-Goff Probation: 2/17/22-8/16/22	02/17/2022	Step 1 = \$15.74 per hour 6.5 hrs/10 months
White, Andrea	Registered Professional Nurse- District Wide Probation: 3/14/22-9/13/22	03/14/2022	Step 10 = \$35.81 per hour 7.5 hrs/10 months
Wood, Brianna	Aide-Transportation Probation: 2/17/22-8/16/22	2/17/2022	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour 4.5 hrs/ 10 months

Stipends:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Defruscio, Kathleen	Extra Registered Professional Nurse Duties	2/1/22- 2/28/22	\$75 per day
Secor, Marjorie	Extra Registered Professional Nurse Duties	2/1/22- 2/28/22	\$75 per day

Substitute employees as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Flanagan, Maggie	Aide	2/17/2022	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour
Hammond, Jennifer	Aide	2/17/2022	Step 1 (BA) = \$19.97 per hour
James, Heather	Aide	2/17/2022	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour
	Typist	2/17/2022	Step 1 = \$18.38 per hour

Keefner, Todd	Custodial Worker	2/17/2022	Substitute rate = \$15.74 per hour
Stagnitta, Sharon	Senior Monitor	3/2/2022	Step 11 = \$20.49 per hour
	Typist	3/2/2022	Step 11 = \$22.74 per hour
Tillman, Kristy	Aide	2/17/2022	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour
	Monitor	2/17/2022	Step 1 = \$15.02 per hour
	Food Service Helper	2/17/2022	Substitute rate = \$13.78 per hour
	Custodial Worker	2/17/2022	Substitute rate = \$15.74 per hour

D. Acceptance of Gifts and Authorization to Increase the 2021-2022 Budget

E. Disposal or District Property- Assets

F. Boys & Girls Indoor Track NYS Qualifiers Overnight trip to Staten Island, NY

G. CHS Science Olympiad Overnight trip to LeMoyne College, Syracuse, NY

H. Board of Education Approval for State, Regional Overnight Trips 2021-2022

I. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM A-I WITHOUT ITEM C.

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Mr. Dunn

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Consent Agenda Items A-I without Item C.

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM C.

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

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Consent Agenda Items A-I without Item C.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 1 (Skumurski)

Motion carried

14. ADDENDUM

None

15. NEW BUSINESS

None

16. PUBLIC FORUM #2

Mr. Grignon gave a shout out to the Art Department and the all the students for providing art work for the Town ceremony recognizing Edmonia Lewis, a famous area African American and Native American sculptor who will be featured on a US postage stamp. He also gave a shout out to Genet student council for collecting over 1500 cans of food for ConcernsU. Mr. Grignon reported that Genet students will be participating in a Read Across America challenge to support the Ronald McDonald House. He stated that if the students reach the goal, the students have voted for him to kiss a pig.

17. BOARD FORUM #2

Mr. Buono congratulated the staff members announcing their retirements. He thanked them for all their years of service and and their work with the students.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Mr. Yeboah to enter Executive Session for purposes of contractual, personnel matters, and litigation pending in Rensselaer County State Supreme Court and assigned Index No: EF2020-266807.

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays-0

Motion carried

Time: 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk

19. PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Ms. O'Brien to return to Public Session

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays-0

Motion carried

Time: 9:57 P.M.

20. ADDENDUM

A. Litigation pending in Rensselaer County State Supreme Court and assigned Index No.: EF2020-266807

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LITIGATION PENDING IN RENSSELAER COUNTY STATE SUPREME COURT AND ASSIGNED INDEX NO. : EF2020-266807

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Seconded by Ms. Skumurski

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Litigation Pending in Rensselaer County State Supreme Court and Assigned Index No.: EF2020-266807

Vote: Ayes-8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

21. ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 9:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kennedy
Assistant District Clerk