

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 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		
Ms. O'Brien	X		
Ms. Skumurski	X		
Ms. Taylor	X		
Mr. Yeboah			7:03 P.M.
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 thanked the principals, security team, staff and teachers for their rapid and safe response to the emergency situation that occurred at Columbia High School on March 3rd, 2022. He asked if going forward students could be notified with the same information as parents in an emergency. He felt if the students were informed it would be a more calm and stable environment at the school.

Emma Marchiony reported that student council raised \$1000 for Columbia Kicks Cancer through the two ice cream fundraisers. She said the money will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Emma also said the students were very happy that the District was able to remove the mask requirement.

Mr. Buono suggested Ryan and Emma speak with Mr. Harkin about why the students are not given information during an emergency. He said they may understand the safety reasons more if they reach out.

4. MINUTES

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2022.

Motion by Ms. Curtin, 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 February 16, 2022.

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

Motion carried

5. BOARD FORUM

Ms. Taylor expressed her condolences to the family of Judy Markessinis, a former teacher in the District.

6. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Ms. Amanda Klopett stated her frustration and disappointment in the way the District has handled her concerns about her Kindergarten student.

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Assemblyman John McDonald

Mr. McDonald reported the Assembly is in the final stages of negotiating the budget. He stated that Governor Hochul has introduced a very strong budget that really focuses on foundation aid to help close the gaps that have been a problem for the last 10-20 years. He said they are hoping the foundation aid will help allocate the proper resources where it is needed. The Assemblyman said they expect a 3 billion dollar increase in education aid throughout State of New York, and said that East Greenbush should expect an 8-9% increase. He reported that there is an item on the agenda to increase funding of BOCES CTE educators over the next three years. Mr. McDonald also stated that the budget is dedicating about \$30-\$40 million to address mental health issues that have grown through the pandemic, to be used by the schools as they deem fit.

Mr. Dunn thanked Mr. McDonald for all he does for East Greenbush Central School District, and mentioned all work the Assemblyman does advocating for the students and families. Mr. Dunn asked to keep in mind the gaps in mental health that will impact next year and said he thought other types of interventions might be needed to address these problems. He stressed how much he appreciated Mr. McDonald's work, and that he always keeps the District in mind when making decisions.

Mr. Simons expressed his appreciation of all Mr. McDonald does for the schools, particularly the foundation aid increase and Pre-K funding. He also thanked him for his continued communication, advocacy for the schools and all he has done over the years to support the public schools in this area.

B. Goff Middle School - Grade 6 Jump Start Program/Upgrades to Technology Classrooms

Ms. Barker explained that the Jump Start Program is a new program that began last fall to assist incoming sixth graders who needed a little extra help transitioning to the middle school. She stated the program has been very successful and the students are showing progress and successes that in some cases they have never been able to achieve before.

Ms. Dunn gave a day to day overview of the program, stating that the program uses differentiated instruction and creates an environment of social emotional learning and academic support to students that have been identified as needing support transitioning. She stated that the program could provide for 15 students, but due to different reasons this year's program has eight students in enrollment.

Special Education teacher, Ms. L'Etoile explained that in elementary school a lot of the problem was attendance issues, but said because of the small class size and confidence the students are gaining, the students attendance has greatly improved.

Ms. Dunn reported that they already have two student's transitioning back into regular classroom settings for certain core subjects, and are hoping to have 2-4 more students transfer to some regular classes soon.

She said they will begin to start conversations with elementary principals and teachers about next year's program in April, and hoped to have a larger enrollment next year and continued support of the program.

The team presented a video with students currently in the program stating about how the Jump Start program has helped them.

Ms. Skumurski asked how many students they would like to have in the program next year.

Ms. Dunn said ideally they would like to start the year with 13 students, leaving room for students who transfer into the District.

Mr. Buono asked what the parents of the current children think of the program.

Ms. Dunn and Ms. L'Etoile said the parents have been very happy with the program and are so pleased to hear positive feedback about their children.

Mr. Simons stated how impressed he is with how the team organized and got the program up and running. He said he was also glad to see the children transitioning and using the program as a bridge to success.

Mr. Cirincione reported on the updates to the Technology classrooms and how the improvements have made the technology department more modern and safer for the students.

C. School Enrollment Projections

Mr. Simons explained that the Capital District Regional Planning Commission provided a report and are projecting the enrollment will remain fairly steady over the next five years.

D. New NYS Department of Health Guidance for Schools/Universal Masking No Longer Required

Mr. Simons reported on the newest COVID-19 guidance:

- Masks are optional in schools and on buses.
- Students/staff identified as contacts are not required to quarantine as long as they remain asymptomatic and should wear a mask for ten days and test twice within a five-day period. If they have had COVID-19 in the last ninety days they do not need to wear the mask.
- Masks are required upon return from isolation on day 6 through 10 after infection.
- Schools must continue to contact trace using six foot distancing and notify parents/guardians of students who have been exposed.
- East Greenbush CSD will continue its current testing program and state reporting.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2022- 2023 School Budget, Preliminary Tax Cap

Ms. Wager explained how the tax cap is calculated and stated that this year's cap is 4.94%. She explained the tax cap was the amount the District could increase the tax levy without a super majority vote, not necessarily the amount the District is planning to increase the tax levy.

Mr. Buono reiterated that the tax cap is the maximum allowable amount, but not the amount the Board is planning on requesting in the budget.

B. Summary of the Federal Grants

Ms. Wager reported first on the \$3.9 million CRSSA grant. She stated that some of this grant was used for additional staff and since they didn't all start at the beginning of the school year and some chose individual insurance plans, there is approximately \$561,000 available to

re-allocate to other expenses. She suggested one area is to continue to fund the RTI Coordinator position.

Secondly, Ms. Wager reported on the \$3,084,534 ARP grant. She explained that \$700,000 was for a State allocation, that was just approved last month, and is specifically for learning loss, summer enrichment and after school programs. Ms. Wager said the grant is available to use until September 30, 2024, and the District originally allocated to use about \$1.4 million, but only used about \$1.2 million. She said the \$200,000 can be used to cover the staff salaries that are now paid through the General fund.

Mr. McHugh gave an update on some of the items funded by the Federal grants. He explained the Renaissance Star Program and stated that 74% of the student in grades K-5 are hitting or exceeding their targeted growth score at mid-year.

He also presented a listing of all the professional development available to staff and reported how this has helped in the success of the students.

Mr. McHugh said that the District has started to secure instructional resources to help teachers provide targeted instruction, and teachers are now re-engaging in curriculum mapping. He also discussed the RTI Coordinator, Lisa Mahar, and how she has been integral in the success of the universal screening process.

Mr. Buono asked the principals in attendance to comment on the growth they have seen with the interventions that were put in place this year.

Mr. Garab thanked the Board, Mr. Simons, and Mr. McHugh for the support of the ELA programs. He said it was really exciting to see the successes and gave a shout out to Lisa Mahar and all she does in her role as RTI Coordinator.

Mr. Grignon said he was very happy to see Math remediation services at the elementary level, and said he felt it was important to provide the support to the students in elementary and thought it would allow the Math Labs at the middle school level to have smaller more targeted classes. He also stated that not just the additional staff, but all staff has stepped up to try to close the learning gaps that occurred from the pandemic.

C. Pre-K Program Update

Mr. Simons stated the District would like to increase the enrollment to three Pre-K classrooms next year, but is in the process of looking for space in the elementary buildings. He also introduced the idea of having an integrated class outside of the District. He asked the Board for their input and how they felt about expanding the program. He reported that the allocated Pre-K monies will not cover the cost of the program, but there is federal money available to offset the costs.

Ms. Wager stated that while the District receives \$5400 in aid per student, the approximate cost is \$10,000 per student. She explained she did allocate \$200,000 in federal money for next year's program and has about \$40,000 left from last year's allocation that was budgeted for supplies that were not needed.

Mr. Mann asked what the cost is to the District from the general fund money.

Ms. Wager said next year's program will be fully funded with Federal and State money.

Mr. Buono stated if the funding is there, the District should go ahead and meet the community's need.

Mr. Dunn said he felt the District should be transparent and let the community know that if the funding does not continue, this program may not be available in future years.

Ms. Wager agreed and said the District is planning to put information about next year's Pre-K program on the website in the coming weeks, and have a lottery selection in April.

9. REGULAR BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENT CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Motion by Mr. Dunn, 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- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Ms. Cannon stated the Calendar Committee is almost finished with next year's calendar and will present a draft calendar at the next Board meeting.

B. Linda Wager, Director of Business and Finance

None at this time.

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

Mr. McHugh presented the minutes of the latest Committee for Curriculum Studies and Professional Development Committee Meetings.

D. Jeffrey Simons, Superintendent- BRAC- Long Range Facilities Planning Committee Meeting Minutes 2-28-2022

Mr. Simons stated that in addition to the Capital District Regional Planning Commission report he spoke of earlier, Mr. Adam Yagelski and Mr. Jack Conway, representatives from the Town of East Greenbush discussed residential and commercial development in the town. He stated that this information is very helpful in assessing the impact on enrollment and tax base contributions.

11. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time

12. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

13. CONSENT AGENDA**A. Financial Reports**

2022-03-09 Claims Auditor Report for Warrants- 0071, 0072, 0073, 0074, 0075

2022-03-09 Treasurer's Report- January 2022.pdf

2022-03-09 Revenue Status Report- January 2022.pdf

2022-03-09 Budget Status Report- January 2022.pdf

2022-03-09 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report-CHS- January 2022pdf.

2022-03-09 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report- Goff- January 2022.pdf

B. 2021-2022 Non-Resident Tuition Rates**C. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo****A. DISCONTINUANCE****1. Resignation**

a. Cirincione, Amy - .5 Special Education/Part-time Teaching Assistant, Columbia High School, effective 3/10/22.
To accept a full time special education position.

b. Irwin, Ashley - Teaching Assistant, Bell Top Elementary School, effective 3/16/22.
Date of Hire: 9/3/19

c. Koshykar, Lauren - Part time Teaching Assistant, Howard L. Goff Middle School, effective 3/10/22.
To accept a full time teaching assistant position.

2. Leave of Absence

a. Andresen, Alyssa - Gr. 1, Bell Top Elementary School requesting an unpaid child-rearing leave of absence from 3/9/22-5/13/22. Planned return 5/16/22.

B. APPOINTMENTS**1. Probationary Appointment**

a. Cirincione, Amy - Special Education, Columbia High School
(Replacing Mary Lally)
Tenure Area: Special Education
Probationary Period: 3/10/22-3/9/26
Certification Status: NYS Permanent Special Education
NYS Permanent Art
Step Placement: 7M = \$59,887.00
Prior: 9/16-present Part Time Special Ed. EGCSd; 2/16-
6/19 Per diem sub EGCSd; 11/16-present part time TA;
9/99-6/05 Special Education EGCSd
Degrees: B.S. SUNY, Geneseo
M.S. SUNY, Albany

2. Probationary Appointment - Teaching Assistant

a. Koshykar, Lauren - Teaching Assistant, Howard L. Goff Middle School
(Replacing Nicole Izzo, Resignation)
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant
Probationary Period: 3/10/22-3/9/26
Certification Status: NYS Teaching Assistant, Level I
Salary: Step 1 = \$20.75 per hour
Hours per day: 6.5

3. Per Diem Substitute Teacher

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification Area</u>	<u>Degree Status</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Brandow, Chelsea	Dental Hygiene Degree	A.A.S.	3/10/22
Izzo, Nicole	Occupational Therapy Assist. Degree	A.A.S.	3/10/22
Meracle, April	Communications Degree	B.S.	3/10/22

Sanefski, Amanda	Communication Sciences/Disorders	B.S.	3/10/22
Trimmer, Jason	Coaching Degree	B.S.	3/10/22

C. OTHER**1. Salary Adjustments - Credit Hours**

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Compensation</u> (prorated for 1/2 year)
Decker, Hannah	B+24	M+0	\$647.50
DiGiorgi, Kimberly	M+9	M+48	\$1,014.00
McHugh, Kayla	B+0	B+21	\$546.00
Walkley, Carol	B+6	M+0	\$778.50

D. MISCELLANEOUS**1. Volunteer Coaches - 2021-2022 Spring Sports Season**

The following will volunteer for our spring athletic programs. All hold current certification in CPR/AED, First Aid, Blood Borne Pathogens, DASA, Concussion Management, SAVE and Child Abuse.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sport</u>
DeJohn, Frank (Rick)	Boys' Lacrosse
DeJulio, Victoria	Field Hockey
Gelatt, Heather	Girls' Lacrosse

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Bauer, Karen	Account Clerk Typist-Administration	04/02/2022	Resignation
Brown, Randy	Bus Driver	04/28/2022	Retirement
Connell, Kelly	Typist-Bell Top	03/12/2022	Resignation
Rudolph, Steven	Bus Driver	03/10/2022	Resigned to accept position as an Automotive Mechanic

Appointment as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Rudolph, Steven	Automotive Mechanic Probation: 03/10/2022-09/09/2022	03/10/2022	Step 7 = \$31.08 per hour 8 hrs/12 months
Wood, Eleanor	Monitor-Bell Top Probation: 03/10/2022-09/09/2022	3/10/2022	Step 1 = \$15.02 per hour 3.25 hrs/10 months

Stipends:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Defruscio, Kathleen	Extra Registered Professional Nurse Duties	03/01/2022- 03/31/2022	\$75 per day
Secor, Marjorie	Extra Registered Professional Nurse Duties	03/01/22- 03/31/2022	\$75 per day

Substitute employees as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Backmon, Veronica	Monitor	02/11/2022	Step 1 = \$15.02 per hour
	Senior Monitor	03/10/2022	Step 1 = \$15.74 per hour
Dole, Elizabeth	Aide	03/10/2022	Step 1 (BA) = \$19.97 per hour
Hall, Julie	Typist	03/10/2022	Step 1 = \$18.38 per hour
	Aide	03/10/2022	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour
	Monitor	03/10/2022	Step 1 = \$15.02 per hour
	Food Service Helper	03/10/2022	Substitute rate = \$13.78 per hour
	Custodial Worker	03/10/2022	Substitute rate = \$15.74 per hour
Izzo, Nicole	Aide	03/10/2022	Step 2 = \$21.04 per hour

Kot, Aimee	Monitor	02/15/2022	Step 3 = \$15.72 per hour
Murphy-Taylor, Ann	Monitor	03/01/2022	Step 1 = \$15.02 per hour

Appointment Adjustment:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Murphy-Taylor, Ann	Substitute Aide	02/18/2022	Step 1 (BA) = \$19.97 per hour (receipt of transcript)
Tillman, Kristy	Substitute Aide	02/22/2022	Step 1 (BA) = \$19.97 per hour (receipt of transcript)

E. Health and Welfare Services Contract- North Greenbush Common School District

G. Health and Welfare Services Contract- Taconic Hills Central School District

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

I. Boys & Girls Bowling NYSPHSAA State Championship Overnight Trip

J. Disposal or District Property- Assets

K. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Motion by Ms. Kennedy, Seconded by Mr. Mann

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 #2

None at this time

17. BOARD FORUM #2

Ms. O'Brien stated how happy she was to be able to go to the Columbia High School musical, Little Women, and see the students singing without their masks. She said it was a great effort by staff and students and a really great show.

Mr. Buono said he also enjoyed the play. He gave a shout out to the Odyssey of the Mind team at Red Mill, the athletics teams, the Teacher of the Week, Valerie Gordon, and the three teachers, Tara Thompson, Sean Crall, and Dan Wagner who have been nominated for Teacher of the Year.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays-0

Motion carried

Time: 8:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Mann, Seconded by Ms. Curtin to Adjourn the Meeting

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time:10:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kennedy
Assistant District Clerk