

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 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	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 on a recent Blood Drive and the upcoming Snowball Dance to be held at Columbia High School.

Emma Marchiony stated Student Council is in the process of collecting permission slips for the end of the year field trip to Six Flags theme park to reward all its hard working members. She also mentioned an upcoming 2023 class fundraiser at Salsa Latina.

4. MINUTES

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

Motion by Ms. Taylor, 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 March 16, 2022.

Vote: Ayes -6, Nays -0, Abstentions -1 (Mann)

Motion carried

B. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2022.

Motion by Mr. Dunn, 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 March 23, 2022.

Ayes- 7, Nays -0

Motion carried

5. BOARD FORUM #1

None at this time.

6. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Jill Bonesteel, resident and current bus driver, addressed the Board with her concerns about the resolution to abolish the School Bus Driver Trainer position on this agenda. She said she has been training for the position and was disappointed that all her work was for nothing. Ms.

Bonesteel gave her opinion of the organization of the department, and said she did not like the new structure decided upon by Administration.

Shawn Masters, resident and current bus driver, spoke about how the transportation staff has stepped up to keep the all the runs going. He said he felt the District should compensate the staff for all the extra work. He said he also felt the Head Bus Driver and Bus Driver Trainer positions should not be abolished and he didn't feel the new position of Assistant Transportation Supervisor had the correct qualifications.

Carol Harper, current bus aide, stated that her position does not have a contract yet this year. She explained that she was recently notified that she was working less hours than she was supposed to, so she had been overpaid. She said she understands what happened, but asked if the District could reconsider the repayment plan and extend the time, so less money could be taken out over a longer time frame. Ms. Harper stated it was a hardship for most of the aides to have such a large amount taken every pay period.

The boys varsity Lacrosse team voiced their support of volunteer coach, Mr. Rick DeJohn, and asked the District to reconsider the disciplinary action taken against him.

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Simons reported that the District has worked hard over the last few weeks to reduce the amount of the proposed budget as well as to reduce the tax impact on the local community.

Mr. Simons discussed more highlights of the District:
 Goff eighth grade band received NYS Gold Rating
 Columbia High students in CTE programs at Questar BOCES won medals at the SkillsUSA Regional Competition
 Growth in Elementary Reading and Math Mid-Year assessments
 Math Department at Columbia High School celebrates PI day

He explained the District is utilizing the resources of the Federal Grants, and the budget reflects the spending necessary to support the District successes.

He described a small example of how the students and staff support the community:

Stuff a Bus for Ukraine
 Students volunteering at the Nassau Resource Center
 Elementary students donating canned goods for the Souper Bowl Food Drive.

Mr. Simons reported the District is proposing a budget of \$104,840,470, and will be able to maintain and add a few programs with a 0% increase in the tax levy. He stated the proposed budget is a 1.26% increase from last year with 0% tax increase. He explained an increase in Foundation aid, additional PILOTS, state aid increases, federal reimbursements and the fund balance enabled the District to keep the tax levy at 0%.

Mr. Simons said the District is able to use the fund balance of this year's budget to purchase some needed items, therefore reducing expenditures in next year's budget.

The Superintendent discussed the purchase of eight new buses using the bus reserve approved by the district voters. He also spoke about establishing a capital reserve to help fund future building projects within the District.

Ms. Skumurski thanked Ms. Wager and everyone for all their work on the budget. She said she was amazed that the District was not only maintaining, but adding additional programs with a 0% increase in the tax levy. She said she hoped the community would come out in support of the proposed budget.

Mr. Dunn thanked everyone for maintaining a good fiscal plan, and said he wholeheartedly supports the proposal.

Mr. Buono echoed the comments and said the District has always been very conservative, aware of the impact on the taxpayers, and tries to deliver the best budget they can. He stated with the reserves and use of the fund balance, the District always tries to plan for the long range financial stability of the District. He stated he appreciated all the work that it took to offer the budget.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2021-2022 Fund Balance Projection

Ms. Wager presented her Fund Balance Projection for the 2021-2022 school year as of March 31, 2022. She explained that the District maintains a general fund restricted reserves plan which promotes transparency to residents of reserve balance, planned funding or expenses from the reserve and anticipated year-end balances. The reserves are also describe in the annual financial statements and the property tax report card, approved by the Board in April of each year.

Mr. Buono stated his concerns about funding the capital reserve, saying he likes to have unassigned fund balance available in case of emergencies. He stated that while he likes reserves, he would like to see another projection in June before deciding to fund the capital reserve this year. He stated if you fund a reserve, you cannot use the funds within the same year. Mr. Buono said he would like more information and to have more conversations on how to fund the reserve and how the reserve will be used.

Ms. Skumurski said she thought it was important to stay within the 2-4% fund balance and thought the capital reserve was a good way to stay there.

Ms. Wager said with the unknowns of COVID and the hybrid learning plan, the District had a higher fund balance, but now that things are more normal, she expected to stay within the required 4% this coming year.

Mr. Mann asked if the proposition was to establish a capital reserve or to fund a capital reserve.

Ms. Wager explained the proposition was just to establish a reserve. She stated that if the Proposition passes with the voters, the Board would be given another fund balance projection in June and at that time can decide if they want to fund the reserve this year. She reported that future building aid could also be used to fund the reserve.

9. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET 2022-2023

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Seconded by Ms. Curtin

Resolved, that the Board of Education adopts and approves the 2022-2023 budget as recommended by the Superintendent in the amount of \$104,840,470 and authorizes Proposition #1 for presentation to District residents on the annual budget vote date of May 17, 2022 as follows: Resolved, that the operating budget in the amount of \$104,840,470, as proposed by the Board of Education, be adopted for the school fiscal year 2022-2023 and the levy of taxes be assessed therefore in accordance with law.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays -0

Motion carried

B. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF BUSES

Mr. Mann asked if the purchase of buses is put through a bid process. Ms. Wager stated it comes through State contract, and the District has been working with Leonard Bus Company to get the best prices.

Motion by Mr. Yeboah, Seconded by Ms. Skumurski

Resolved, that the Board of Education adopts and approves the 2022-2023 Purchase of Buses as recommended by the Superintendent in the amount of \$752,468 and authorizes Proposition #2 for presentation to District residents on the annual budget vote date of May 17, 2022.

Vote: Ayes -7, Nays -0

Motion carried

C. RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH A CAPITAL RESERVE

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Mr. Yeboah

RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District adopts and approves the 2022-2023 Establishment of Capital Reserve as recommended by the Superintendent and authorizes Proposition #3 for presentation to District residents, as follows:

Section 1. The proposition hereinafter set forth is hereby authorized to be submitted for the approval of the qualified voters of the District on the 17th day of May 2022 (the "Vote").

Section 2. The proposition set forth below shall be submitted at the Vote and the District Clerk shall include notice of the proposition in substantially the following form in the notice of the Vote: NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that at the Vote to be held on May 17, 2022.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Ayes -0

Motion carried

Ms. Taylor asked for clarification regarding the drivers concerns. She asked about the positions and their responsibilities.

Mr. Simons explained that the District has met with the unions and discussed the changes. He stated it is the intent of the District, that existing employees who have 19A certification be involved in the testing as well as the new federal ELDT process. He said the idea is instead of having one position of Driver Trainer, there will be multiple people within the department doing the work. The Superintendent said the Assistant Transportation Supervisor would oversee that process. He also stated that the job descriptions are drafts, and the District will continue to discuss the descriptions with the unions. Mr. Simons explained the Assistant Transportation Supervisor is a civil service position, represented by the EGOSTA bargaining unit. He stated the transportation department is a complex department with a lot of employees and demands, and he feels two supervisory positions will better be able to deal with the division of responsibilities and hopefully provide more support and direction to all of the employees.

D. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATOR FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Seconded by Ms. Curtin

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the establishment of an Administrator for Transportation Services, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Vote: Ayes -7, Nays -0

Motion carried

E. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASSISTANT TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR

Motion by Mr. Yeboah, Seconded by Ms. Curtin

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the establishment of an Assistant Transportation Supervisor, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Vote: Ayes-7, Nays-0

Motion carried

F. RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH THE SUPERVISOR OF TRANSPORTATION POSITION

Motion by Mr. Mann, Seconded by Mr. Dunn

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the abolishment of the Supervisor of Transportation position, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Vote: Ayes -7, Nays -0

Motion carried

G. RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH THE BUS DRIVER TRAINER AND HEAD BUS DRIVER POSITIONS

Motion by Mr. Yeboah, Seconded by Ms. Curtin

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the abolishment of the Bus Driver Trainer and Head Bus Driver positions, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Vote: Ayes -7, Nays -0

Motion carried

H. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 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 -7, Nays -0

Motion carried

I. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE OPT-IN AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RENSSELAER COUNTY SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM.

Mr. Mann said the County is approving the program and then school districts can opt-in. He said the program will be managed and controlled by the Sheriff's department and should be up and running by September.

Motion by Mr. Mann, Seconded by Ms. Taylor

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Opt-In Agreement to Participate in the Rensselaer County School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program.

Vote: Ayes -7, Nays -0

Motion carried

Mr. Buono mentioned the confusion of the Transportation staff, and asked if the District could reach out and explain their position so everyone understands what direction the department is going.

Mr. Dunn stated he wished the Transportation staff had stayed at the meeting longer, because he wanted the opportunity to say he recognizes the diligence and work that the staff does and just because there is a restructuring, does not mean the Board does not hear and is not trying to address their concerns.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Marissa Cannon, Director of Human Resources

Ms. Cannon gave an overview of the job openings within the District. She also stated the Special Grant Committee has met and she will be preparing recommendations for Mr. Simons' review. Ms. Cannon reported those recommendations will be brought to the Board for approval in May.

B. Linda Wager, Director of Business and Finance

None at this time

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

None at this time

D. Jeffrey Simons, Superintendent

Mr. Simons reported the Committee of Global Education has chosen a theme for next year, "There is Unity in Community" He said he felt it was an appropriate theme because the District wants to celebrate diversity and inclusion by recognizing that we are all working together, celebrating differences and supporting each other. He said the committee is now working to identify fiction books that would be of high interest to kids and community. Mr. Simons said the committee hopes to launch the theme October, and more details will come.

The Superintendent stated the committee is also still working on ways to help the people of Ukraine, and is looking into the program "World Central Kitchen" that helps feed refugees, particularly the ones impacted in Poland.

11. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time

12. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

13. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Financial Reports

2022-04-12 Claims Auditor Reports for Warrants- 0076, 0081, 0082, 0083, 0084, 0085, 0086, 0087

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE**1. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement**

- a. Clum, Joanne - Teaching Assistant, Columbia High School, effective 7/1/22.
Date of Hire: 9/6/96

2. Resignation

- a. Bayly, Carrie - Teaching Assistant, Columbia High School, effective 4/25/22.
Date of Hire: 3/14/19

3. Leave of Absence

- a. Banks, Katelynn - Library/Media Specialist, Columbia High School, requesting an unpaid child-rearing leave of absence from 3/30/22-6/30/22. Planned return September 2022

B. APPOINTMENTS**1. Proctor for Exams**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Salary</u>
a. Flynn, Maddison	\$150 per day
b. Rumpf, Dianna	\$150 per day

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Felock, Elizabeth	Substitute Custodial Worker	04/01/2022	Per employees request
Ferrone, Gerard	Substitute Custodial Worker	03/28/2022	Resignation
Smith, Jeffrey	School Bus Driver	04/13/2022	Resignation
Webb, Theresa	School Bus Driver	06/30/2022	Retirement

Appointment as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Neudecker, Alexandra	Typist-Bell Top Provisional	04/26/2022	Step 1 = \$18.38 per hour 7.5 hrs/10 month
Smith, Jeffrey	Senior Bus Driver Probation: 4/13/2022-10/12/2022	04/13/2022	Step 6 = \$29.36 per hour 8 hrs/12 months
Tillman, Kristy	Aide-Transportation Probation: 4/13/2022-12/12/2022	04/13/2022	Step 1 (BA) = \$19.97 5.25 hrs/10 months

Substitute employees as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Carey, Edward	School Bus Driver	04/27/2022	Step 3 = \$24.35 per hour
Das, Epali	Aide	04/13/2022	Step 1 (BA) = \$19.97 per hour
Kinley, Mary	Aide	04/07/2022	Step 1 (BA) = \$19.97 per hour
Raczkowski, Randee	Aide	03/15/2022	Step 1 (BA) = \$19.97 per hour
Warner, Mark	Custodial Worker	04/13/2022	Substitute rate = \$15.74 per hour

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

E. Library Materials Recommended to be Weeded- Red Mill Elementary

F. Disposal or District Property- Assets

G. Health and Welfare Services Contract- Pawling Central School District

H. Columbia High School Athletic Department Summer Strength & Conditioning Program

I. Memorandum of Agreement with SRP

J. Health Services Contracts 2021-2022

K. Calendar 2022-2023

L. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Ms. Skumurski

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

None at this time

16. PUBLIC FORUM #2

None at this time

17. BOARD FORUM #2

Ms. Skumurski gave out shout-out to the middle school Science Olympiad team for their 3rd place finish. She said she appreciated all of Ms. Vlieg's years coaching the team, and hoped she would come back after her retirement as a coach.

Mr. Buono congratulated Columbia High School senior, Italia Verdi, for winning a \$1000 scholarship for her entry in the Leonard Bus Sales 4th annual "A Day in the Life of a School Bus" art competition.

Mr. Buono thanked Ms. Wager and the team for the budget. He stated his appreciation for reaching the Board's goals and said he hoped the community will come out on May 17, 2022 and support it.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Curtin, Seconded by Ms. Skumurski to enter Executive Session for reasons of personnel matters.

Vote: Ayes -7, Nays -0

Motion carried

Time: 8:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk

19. ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Ayes -7, Nays -0

Motion carried

Time:10:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Taylor
Acting Assistant District Clerk