

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION- PUBLIC HEARING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022  
COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**1. A. PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO ORDER-** Mr. Buono- 7:00 P.M.

**B. ATTENDANCE**

	Present	Absent	Arrival
Mr. Buono	X		
Ms. Curtin			X 7:01 P.M.
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. THE CALL OF THE MEETING**

Mr. Buono requested a motion to waive the reading of the public hearing document

**RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FOR THE MAY 17, 2022 VOTE**

Motion by Mr. Mann, Seconded by Ms. Curtin

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby waives the reading of the public hearing notice for the May 17, 2022 vote.

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Proposed 2022-23 School Budget - Superintendent Jeffrey Simons

The Superintendent reviewed a listing of information in the public hearing notice:

Location and time of the public hearing

Availability of budget documents

Voting date and propositions

Election of Board members process

Voting districts and polling sites

Voter registration, inspection of register

Qualifications of voters

Absentee Ballots

Mr. Simons said the public hearing notice was published in local newspapers four times within the forty-five days preceding the vote and made available on the website.

The Superintendent reviewed the availability of budget packets after May 4, 2022, during regular business hours in all school buildings, at local libraries, and on the District website.

Mr. Simons announced the voting date as Tuesday, May 17, 2022, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 9:00 PM. Voting will be conducted to fill three Board of Education seats. Voting will be by the electronic voting machines. Three propositions are up for consideration. The first relates to the proposed 2022-2023 budget, the second involves the proposed purchase of school buses, utilizing the bus purchase reserve, and the third is to establish a capital reserve for capital projects.

Four polling sites will be available to District voters dependent upon town of residence. Residents of the Towns of Sand Lake and Chatham and residents with Nassau mailing addresses will vote at the Donald P. Sutherland Elementary School. Residents of the Town of Schodack without Nassau mailing addresses will vote at Green Meadow Elementary School. Residents of the Town of East Greenbush will vote at the Howard L. Goff Middle School. Residents of the Town of North Greenbush will vote at the Bell Top Elementary School.

Voter registration is required in order to vote in the May 17, 2022 election. Individuals may register at the Rensselaer or Columbia County Board of Elections or at the District Clerk's Office on regular business days. Individuals will be deemed as registered if they voted in the school election in the last four years. The register of voters will be open for inspection from May 11, 2022 to May 16, 2022 during regular business hours at the Office of the District Clerk.

Mr. Simons explained that qualified voters are citizens of the United States, eighteen years of age or older, a resident of the District for 30 days preceding the day of the vote, and registered to vote.

Absentee ballots became available on and after April 20, 2022. An application is required and is available at the Office of the District Clerk and online at [www.egcsd.org](http://www.egcsd.org). The due dates for applications are Tuesday, May 10, by mail and Monday, May 16, 2022, if in person. After the application is received, an absentee ballot is issued to the voter with a return envelope. Ballots are due back by 5:00 p.m. on May 17 at the Office of the District Clerk.

Absentee ballots may only be issued to voters with a valid reason such as hospitalization, physical disability or illness, business commitments out of the area, vacation, or incarceration. Individuals with questions on absentee ballots or desiring to view the absentee ballot list should contact the District Clerk. Mr. Simons also explained the Governor's order to allow the illness box to be checked if the voter is concerned about the risk of transmission of the Coronavirus.

The Superintendent said that three candidates for the Board of Education submitted petitions with the required number of signatures by April 18, 2022. Mr. Simons announced the three candidates running for the Board: Ms. Jennifer E. O'Brien, Ms. Michele Kakely Skumurski, and Ms. Emily R. Steinbach

Mr. Simons gave an overview of the strategic plan goals set forth by the Board of Education for the current year. He spoke of the District's success in providing a safe and engaging educational experience through diversity, equity and inclusion. He reported the District wants to be progressive, innovative and provide inclusive pathways for all students through academic and trade education within all the schools. Mr. Simons stated that the budget reflects the efforts of the district to recruit, retain and support the best people to deliver the services to the students. He also mentioned the positive relationships and partnerships with families and the community.

The Superintendent explained that proposition #1 was for the proposed 2022-2023 budget, and carried a 0% tax levy increase. Mr. Simons stated that individual taxpayer impact will not be known until August when assessment totals, equalization rates, and residential and commercial shares would be known.

The Superintendent explained that if the budget is passed, it will be enacted effective July 1, 2022. If the budget is not passed, the Board has three options, including submitting the same or revised budget to the voters or adopting a contingent budget.

The Superintendent stated that the District reviews the status of the bus fleet each year and evaluates the need to replace existing buses. The District requests authorization to purchase eight buses, all from the Bus Purchase Reserve established by voter authorization in 2018. Mr. Simons highlighted the important factors in considering school bus replacement, including student and staff safety, mileage, operating and maintenance costs, fuel efficiency, estimated life, and the availability of state aid funding at 66.6% of cost. He reported the District is proposing to purchase eight buses this year.

Mr. Simons explained Proposition #3, the establishment of a Capital Reserve. He stated the reserve is a way to set aside money to be used for future a capital projects, saving money in borrowing costs. The community has to approve the establishment of the reserve and then the Board can fund it at its discretion.

#### B. Introductions of Candidates for the Board of Education

Ms. O'Brien said she was appointed to the Board, in November to fill a vacancy, and is now running because she is happy to be a part of all the good things that are happening in the District.

Ms. Steinbach thanked everyone for allowing her to speak. She explained she is running for her first term. She provided her background and experiences and stated she felt she would be a good fit for a seat on the Board and is looking forward to serving the District and community.

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time

### 6. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Mr. Dunn thanked the Administrative team for putting forth a thoughtful budget. He also asked the public to come out to vote and support the District.

Ms. O'Brien thanked Mr. Simons for a clear and understandable presentation. She also encouraged everyone to come out and vote on May 17, 2022.

Ms. Curtin thanked the three Board candidates for running. She stated it was a lot of work, but is very rewarding. She also stated she was sorry to see Mr. Yeboah leave the Board.

Mr. Yeboah thanked Mr. Simons for a fantastic presentation.

## **7. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Seconded by Ms. Kennedy to close Public Hearing

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn  
District Clerk