

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023
Central Administration Boardroom**

1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER- Mr. Buono- 6:00 P.M.

B. ATTENDANCE

	Present	Absent	Arrival
Mr. Buono	X		
Ms. Curtin	X		
Mr. Dunn	X		
Ms. Kennedy	X		
Mr. Mann			X 6:55 P.M.
Ms. O'Brien	X		
Ms. Skumurski		X	
Ms. Steinbach		X	
Ms. Taylor	X		

Also Attending

Mr. Simons	X
Ms. Cannon	X
Mr. Stiles	X
Ms. Wager	X

Student Council

Emma Marchiony	X
Roan Butterfield	X

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Curtin, Second by Ms. Taylor to enter Executive Session

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time:6:02 P.M.

Motion by Ms. Curtin, Second by Mr. Dunn to return to Public Session

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 6:55 P.M.

4. EX OFFICIO STUDENT COUNCIL COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Student Council Representatives: Emma Marchiony - President; Roan Butterfield -Vice President

Emma Marchiony reported that Student Council decorated the Columbia High School lobby pink to spread Valentine's cheer. She also mentioned planning a blood drive and a senior poetry contest, where the winning poem would be shared at graduation.

Roan Butterfield reported that \$2037 was raised in honor of Christopher Bascom, a student who tragically passed away in 2003, at the Salvation Army bell ringing in December. He said the Student Council was very proud and happy about what they accomplished at this event.

5. MINUTES

A. Approval of Draft Minutes dated February 1, 2023

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2023.

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Second 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 1, 2023.

Vote: Ayes- 5, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 2 (Buono, Dunn)

Motion carried

6. BOARD FORUM #1

Ms. O'Brien mentioned the recent Snowball Dance at Columbia. She thanked the volunteers for their help and stated she was glad to see the event return.

7. PUBLIC FORUM #1

None at this time.

8. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Capital Project Planning

Mr. Simons gave a brief update stating that the Architects, March Associates, have begun the process to submit the building conditions survey to the State. He reported the five year construction plan is still under review, and the District and Construction Team are still having conversations to bring more information to the Board about a potential Bond vote. Mr. Simons said they are still in discussions with Genet and Red Mill about their playgrounds. He stated that the costs associated with the playgrounds is of concern, and the District would like to reach out to other vendors for quotes on the projects.

Mr. Buono asked if they would still be able to complete the projects this summer.

Mr. Simons said it is possible they would not be able to have them completed this summer, but are still investigating and looking at other designs and contractors to see what can be done.

B. Attendance / Tardy Report - J. McHugh & M. Harkin

Mr. McHugh presented an absentee/tardy report for the first semester of Goff. He explained the guidance counselors, school resource officer and assistant principals have been calling and making home visits to students who are chronically absent. He said every week they pull the chronic absentee list, share it, and all try to reach out to the students to make connections with them. He said while absences are lower than last year, tardies are still an issue. Mr. McHugh said they have been trying to encourage the students to take the bus to school, since parent drop-offs back up the parking lot and cause many delays. He said the new Family Intervention Specialist has started and has been a big asset for assisting families and connecting them with county resources. He explained that the addition of this position has helped remove some of the obstacles that keep the kids out of school.

Mr. Harkin also reported a reduction in the number of absences from last year. He stated that the social workers and attendance committee have been working from the first day of school to identify and reach out to the chronically absent students. He said tardies continue to be a problem, since the parent drop-offs cause back-ups and block the student drivers from entering the lower parking lot. Mr. Harkin said the high school is sending a letter home to families encouraging students to take the bus. He said he understands the bus picks up early, but it is the most efficient and safest way to arrive at school.

C. PE: Fit for Life Foundations Course Presentation

Mr. Jones, Mr. Libardi and Mr. Hosley presented information about a new Physical Education course they would like to offer aimed at students who do not usually participate in physical education classes. Mr. Libardi discussed the growing obesity rates and stated that the department would like to offer this class to non-athletic students, and help them feel comfortable learning how to use gym equipment. Mr. Hosley explained the cardio based class, and outlined the equipment that would be needed. They both stated they would like to educate and inform these students how to take care of their bodies, and so they will be comfortable going into a gym later in life.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Executive Budget- State Aid:

Mr. Simons explained the foundation aid offered to the District is not a windfall, but actually makes up for reductions of the past.

Ms. Wager reiterated that the 21% increase in foundation aid makes the District whole again after gaps in the past. She explained in the foundation aid there is a set aside amount, approximately 10% for small group tutoring sessions in math and reading for grades 3-8, provided 2x week for 30 minutes or more. She reported that the monies are only to be used to supplement, not supplant the service.

Ms. Wager also discussed the increase in the UPK funding. She stated that even though there is a huge increase in aid, the allocation is still at \$5400 per student, and if the District continues the current program, it will only use about \$329,400 of that money. She said that is one of the topics the District will be advocating for on February 16, 2023 with the Legislators.

Ms. Wager said the BOCES aid and the transportation aid have increased, but said she would like to analyze these amounts further.

B. Preliminary Tax Cap Calculation

Ms. Wager explained how the tax cap is calculated and stated that at this point, the cap is 2.61%. 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. She said she this is very preliminary and she will expect some of the numbers to change as she works on finalizing the budget.

Mr. Mann asked if a zero percent increase was possible this year.

Mr. Simons said the District will be talking to the Board more about the tax levy in the coming weeks.

Ms. Wager reminded everyone that they all need to be aware that the federal funds are expiring

Mr. Buono said he would like to remind the Board members that there is quite an increase in State aid, and they should all think hard about where they would like the budget amount and tax levy to be for the taxpayers.

Ms. Wager stated that the increase in foundation aid is reflective of what it takes to operate and educate our students.

C. Federally Funded Positions- Intervention Specialists

Ms. Wager presented the plan going forward, on how the District can pay the salaries for staff that were originally hired with the grants, once the federal money is expended.

Mr. Stiles and Ms. Cannon also explained how the intervention specialist salaries will be absorbed into the general fund.
Mr. Buono asked if the District could use the set aside foundation aid for tutoring could be used for this program.
Ms. Wager said if this passes in the budget, the District may be able to use some of those funds to supplement the program.

D. School Budget Vote Location

Mr. Simons reported that the District would like to adjust the locations of some of the school voting sites due to safety concerns. Ms. Wager said the District would like to move Bell Top's location from the front hallway to a room in the back, next to the library. She explained this area would be handicap assessable and could also be locked out from any student areas. She said at Donald P. Sutherland they would like to move the location from the bus bay to the library at the front of the building. Ms. Wager explained there is a door near that area that could be used. She also discussed moving the East Greenbush voters from Goff Middle School to Central Administration.
Mr. Mann stated he was concerned that moving from Goff would affect the number of voters because of parking and traffic concerns at Genet. He asked if the District could look to see if there was any other space at Goff that could be used that would have a separate entrance, and would be away from the students.
Mr. Dunn agreed with Mr. Mann about the traffic issues and also thought Goff was a better location.
Mr. Simons suggested the Goff Cafeteria as a location and moving the students to the gym for lunch.
Mr. McHugh thought that could be arranged.
Ms. Wager said she will visit Goff and discuss the use of space and accessibility for the public.

E. Enrollment Projections

Mr. Simons explained the Enrollment Projection process is very preliminary and is based on the numbers that are available right now. He said it is a very fluid process at this point, but just gives the District an idea of how many teachers are needed for the following year. He said he knows there are concerns, but these numbers are subject to change.
Ms. Wager said the goal is to have enough staffing for adequate size classes.
Mr. Buono stated this report is very preliminary, and the District will work to address resident concerns that have come up in the Bell Top zone.

F. Volunteer Firefighter- EMT Property Tax Exemption

Mr. Buono explained this is recent legislation that allows for municipalities and school districts to look at a potential tax exemption for firefighters and EMT workers. He also stated how much everyone appreciates and values the emergency workers service to the community.
Ms. Wager gave a presentation explaining the new legislation and gave examples of what the emergency workers could expect to save, and how the district would reallocate the taxes amongst the remaining taxpayers. She explained the Board would have to decide on the years of service, percentage of exemption, and if they also would allow the lifetime and Line of Duty death exemptions.
Ms. O'Brien said she would support this program., but realizes that they would need to approve this very soon.
Mr. Buono asked if there was a minimum of service or attendance for the volunteers to apply.
Ms. Wager explained all the choices and said the members need to be active in order to be approved.
Mr. Garab thanked the Board for discussing and considering this legislation. He explained the governing body would determine eligibility.
Mr. Mann said he thought the East Greenbush volunteer numbers seems low.
Ms. Wager said the emergency worker would have to own a home in the district to qualify.
The Board agreed to meet on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. to have a public hearing to vote on the resolution.
Mr. Mann said he would like to approve 2 years service and a 10% exemption, and all the other items, and everyone agreed.
Firefighters Frank Curtis and Mike Buckbee were in attendance and gave Ms. Wager information from Rensselaer County's approved resolution, and thanked everyone for agreeing to move forward the program.

10. 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, Second 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

B. Resolution to Approve EGTA MOA

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH EGTA.

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

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement with EGTA.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. New Textbook Request for 2023-2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE NEW TEXTBOOK REQUEST FOR 2023-2024

Motion by Ms. O'Brien, Second by Ms. Curtin

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby Approves the New Textbook Request for 2023-2024.

Vote; Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

D. New Course Proposal for Fall 2023

Mr. Mann said he was in full support of this new course and hoped it can start as soon as possible. He also asked about the proposed garage door between the weight room and multi purpose room.

Mr. Simons said they have not agreed to the door at this time, but are keeping it as a possibility in the next capital project.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FALL 2023

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Mr. Mann

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby Approves the New Course Proposal for Fall 2023

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Marissa Cannon, Director of Human Resources - Meeting Minutes Appendix D

Ms. Cannon reported that in the last meeting, the committee discussed the Musical Choral Director position. She stated that they have not had an internal music teacher apply to that position in a number of years, but have been fortunate to have a community member step up to fulfill that position. She explained the committee is concerned that at some point the community member will not be available, so they are looking for creative ways to entice a music teacher to apply. Ms. Cannon reported the committee also looked at a new unpaid club proposal, the Bell Top TV morning program, which would provide 5th grade students with opportunities to develop presentation and communication skills by presenting the news each morning to all the Bell Top classrooms.

B. Linda Wager, Director of Business and Finance

None at this time

C. Roy Stiles, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

None at this time.

D. Jeffrey Simons, Superintendent Advocacy Committee 2-13-23; Committee to Promote Global Education 2-14-23

Mr. Simons reported the Advocacy Committee recently met to come up with topics and proposals to present to the NYS Legislators on Advocacy day, February 16, 2023.

He also reported that the District is preparing for the One District, One Community, One Book Initiative that will be launching on March 1, 2023.

He said there is a lot of activities planned and local businesses will be involved with the program.

Ms. Curtin asked if the topics for advocacy can be put up on the website to encourage the community to voice their opinions to the Legislators.

12. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time.

13. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

14. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Buono congratulated Ms. Wager on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for all she has done for the District. He said they appreciate all the work she has done, and her commitment to the District.

He also thanked the East Greenbush Police Benevolent Association and the Goff Middle School staff and students for their generous donations to the Goff Middle School backpack program.

A. Financial Reports

2023-02-15 Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants -0068, 0069, 0070, 0071, 0072, 0073, 0074, V023, V025, V030, V061

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

a. Van Alstyne, Ruth - Elementary, Howard L. Goff Middle School, effective 6/30/23.

Date of Hire: 9/6/88

B. APPOINTMENTS

1. Part Time Appointments

a. Diehl, Nicole - .6 Health, .2 Goff Middle School/.4 Columbia High School

(Replacing Carol Walkley, resignation)

Effective: 2/16/23 - 6/30/23

Certification Status: NYS Initial Health Education

Step Placement: 1M = \$47,242.00 x .6

Prior: 9/22/22-present Per diem sub EGCSO; 3/22-6/22 Long
 Term Substitute, Colonie High School
 Degrees: B.A. Siena College
 M.S. Russell Sage

b. Majewicz-Hefley, Amy - .4 Psychologist, Columbia High School
 (Replacing Rocco Persico, resignation)
 Effective: 3/3/23 - 6/30/23
 Certification Status: NYS Permanent School Psychologist
 Step Placement: 6M = \$58,403.00 x .4
 Prior: 9/15-8/21 Scotia-Glenville SD; 1/15-6/15
 Shenendehowa CSD; 9/13-12/13 Schenectady CSD;
 9/11-6/13 PT North Colonie CSD; 9/08-6/11 North Colonie
 Degrees: B.M. Nazareth College
 Ed.S. Michigan State University

2. Archery Coordinators 2022-2023 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a. Jette, Gregory	\$39.00 per hour
b. Rose, Tyler	\$39.00 per hour
c. Yearsley, Shawn	\$39.00 per hour

(max of 160 hours for the 22-23 SY)

3. Unpaid Club 2022-2023 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Building</u>
a. Devine, Felice	Bell Top TV Morning Program	Bell Top

D. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Athletic Coaching Positions 2022-2023 Spring Sports Season

- a. **Joseph Hoxie** **Junior Varsity Boys' Lacrosse**
 Non-Certified Teacher - Temporary Coaching License
Experience: **Lacrosse** JV Boys' Lacrosse - Columbia - 2022
Base Salary: \$3,936.00
Start Date: March 13, 2023
- b. **Megan Jankowiak** **Modified Softball**
 Certified Teacher - Science - Goff Middle School
Experience: **Softball** No prior experience coaching softball
Base Salary: \$3,009.00
Start Date: March 27, 2023
- c. **Audra DiBacco** **Unified Integrated Basketball**
 Certified Social Worker - Columbia
Experience: **Basketball** Unified Integrated Basketball - Columbia - 2014-2022
 G. Varsity Basketball - Catholic Central - 2010-2015/2017-2021
 G. Varsity Assist. Bball - Columbia - 2016
 G. Varsity Assist. Bball - Catholic Central - 2007-2009
 G. Varsity Basketball - Bishop Gibbons - 2001-2006
 Soccer G. Varsity Soccer - Columbia - 2017-2019
 G. J.V. Soccer - Columbia - 2011-2015
Base Salary: \$2,200.00
Start Date: April 1, 2023

2. Unified Sports Program/Youth Activation Committee Facilitator

<u>Name</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a. Dyer, Chelsea	\$700.00

3. Volunteer Coaches 2022-2023 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>
Joseph DiBella	Lacrosse
Anthony Servidone	Softball

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Bornt, Meghan	Substitute Occupational Therapist	2/4/2023	per employee's request
Smith-Wilhelm, Marianne	Typist-CHS	5/6/2023	Retirement
Wager, Linda	Director of Business and Finance	7/1/2023	Retirement

Appointment as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Caska, Cecelia	Acting Payroll Specialist	3/20/2023-8/27/2023	\$35.00 per hour
Gadreault, Marcelle	Senior Monitor-Goff Probation period: 2/16/23-10/15/23	2/16/2023	Step 1 = \$15.75 per hour 6.5 hours/10 months
Leahy, Lauren	Acting Supervising Accountant/Treasurer	3/20/2023- 8/27/2023	EGOTSA Step 1 = \$83,352

Substitute employees as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Dancer, Roxanne	Aide	2/16/2023	Step 1 (BA) = \$19.97 per hour
Ero, April	Custodial Worker	2/16/2023	substitute rate = \$16.66 per hour
Tafilowski, Meggan	School Registered Nurse	2/16/2023	Step 1 = \$26.66 per hour

Appointment adjustment as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Carpinello, Marjorie	Aide-Transportation	2/2/2023	Step 8 (HS) = \$20.70 per hour (revised salary)

Leave of absence:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Leahy, Lauren	Payroll Specialist	3/20/2023-8/27/2023	To become Acting Supervising Accountant/Treasurer while Mary Ridzi is on maternity leave
Race, Wendy	School Bus Driver	02/13/23-02/17/23	Unpaid personal leave to attend military graduation

D. Acceptance of Gifts and Authorization to Increase the 2022-2023 Budget

E. Library Materials Recommended to be Weeded- Columbia High School

F. Disposal of District Property - Assets

G. Request to Correct Tax Rolls

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

I. Greenbush Child Caring Rental Agreement 2023-2027

J. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Second by Mr. Mann

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

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

15. ADDENDUM

None at this time.

16. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

17. PUBLIC FORUM #2

None at this time.

18. BOARD FORUM #2

All the Board members congratulated Ms. Wager on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for all her hard work.

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None at this time

20. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Curtin, Second by Ms. Taylor to enter Executive Session for purposes of

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time:8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kennedy
Assistant District Clerk