

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023  
Green Meadow Elementary School**

**1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Ms. Skumurski- 7:00 P.M.

**B. ATTENDANCE**

	Present	Absent	Arrival
Mr. Buono		X	
Ms. Curtin			X 7:18 P.M.
Mr. Dunn	X		
Ms. Kennedy	X		
Mr. Mann		X	
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. EX OFFICIO STUDENT COUNCIL COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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

Roan Butterfield reported that Student Council has scheduled a blood drive for Friday, March 31, 2023. He invited all students and staff to participate. He also announced students will be wearing green on Friday, March 24th, to show support for Cerebral Palsy.

Emma Marchiony reported that Student Council is planning many events and fundraisers, and are happy to be back to Pre-COVID activities. She also announced that the Student Council's end of the year field trip will be held at Six Flags again this year.

B. Green Meadow Elementary School Presentation

The Student Council representatives from Green Meadow with the help of their advisors, Mr. Flanagan and Mrs. Kusche, presented a slide show showing all the events and fundraisers they are able to accomplish. The students are very active and hold food drives, promote awareness of various causes and attend learning field trips, such as visiting the Legislators at the Capitol.

**4. MINUTES**

A. Approval of Draft Minutes dated February 27, 2023

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 27, 2023.

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Ms. Kennedy

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 27, 2023

Vote: Ayes- 5, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 1 (Curtin)

Motion carried

B. Approval of Draft Minutes dated March 8, 2023

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2023.

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Ms. Taylor

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 8, 2023.

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0  
Motion carried

## 5. BOARD FORUM #1

None at this time

## 6. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Ms. Marie McBride, member of the All Sports Club, invited everyone to attend the All Sports Club Hall of Fame Celebration that will occur on May 13th, 2023 at Franklin Terrace in Troy.

## 7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### A. 2023-2024 Budget Workshop Presentation and Board Feedback and Discussion

Mr. Simons presented the updated preliminary budget. He announced the school budget total was decreased to \$108,812,882 and the tax levy increase was cut in half from 1.0% to 0.5%. The Superintendent stated the preliminary budget maintains all current programs and services, and includes staffing additions, technology upgrades, facility improvements and funding to continue the Pre-K Program. Mr. Simons said the District anticipates the Board will adopt the final budget on April 25, 2023, and the District will continue to make adjustments based on continued feedback from the Board and community.

Mr. Dunn asked if the State did not announce the no emission bus mandate, would the District still want to purchase the eight buses.

Mr. Simons said yes, the buses that are slated to be traded have high miles and are not reliable. He explained the District removed two buses from the purchase plan thinking it would save money to use towards a non emission bus, but realized it was a better financial choice to purchase the eight since the lifespan of the buses will end at the same time the mandate becomes effective.

Mr. Dunn said he will support adding the two additional buses, especially since costs are continuing to increase.

Mr. Dunn said he liked that the District is prioritizing the needs and wants of the community. He stated that he would like to look forward and begin to make decisions if the State decides to fund Universal Pre-K. He said the District needs to decide if they have the ability to expand the program without a huge impact to other areas.

Mr. Simons reported that the number of applicants for the UPK lottery is more than 140, so it is definitely wanted by the community. He announced the District has received a request from another community based entity that would be interested in having a Pre-K program, and hopes to bring more information to a future meeting. He said they can also look into the possibility of adding Pre-K accommodations to the next capital project.

Mr. Dunn asked about classroom sizes at Bell Top, and if the growth of North Greenbush is being considered.

Mr. Simons said subsequent to the meeting he confirmed that there are three classrooms available at Bell Top. He also said they may need to shift staff to address the larger class sizes in the second and third grades, but projections are very preliminary at this time. Mr. Simons explained the architects are in the process of doing a capacity study to determine where more space is needed in the District.

Ms. Skumurski said she liked the presentation and was glad the District could bring the tax levy increase down to .5%. She asked if there was any more the District could purchase now to bring the budget down further for 2023-2024. She also asked if the District has heard of any rebates for health insurance.

Mr. Simons said the benefits costs are accurate expenditures, and they do not feel they have room to make additional adjustments. He said the budget is much more accurate and tighter than budgets of the past.

Ms. Wager explained there are significant increases to the health insurance costs for next year. She reported that CDPHP went up 14.2%, High Mark/Blue Shield is going up 9.8% and the market increase for prescriptions went up 6.6%.

She said they are using some of the prescription reserve next year.

Ms. Skumurski asked if they should budget more so they don't deplete the reserve.

Ms. Wager said they currently have a six month reserve, but only need to have four.

Ms. Skumurski said she would support the budget and the bus purchase, but would like to wait to have the full Board in attendance before making a decision on the budget.

Ms. Curtin said she was glad to hear they are deciding to go back to the teams at Goff.

### B. Science: Physics Honors Course

Mr. Ross explained that the Science curriculum the District currently offers makes it difficult for students to take multiple science classes and does not prepare them well for college physics. He said the current AP physics is not aligned to the NYS regents curriculum, and he would like the Board to consider an addition of a Honors Physics at this time and eventually a College Physics class to prepare the students better for Science classes in college.

Mr. Simons asked what colleges would the District partner with for College Physics credits.

Mr. Ross said he has talked with Siena, HVCC and SUNY Albany.

Mr. Stiles said they would need to add the Honor Physics this upcoming year first. He stated that the SUNY/HVCC credit would transfer better than the Siena credit.

Ms. Steinbach said she took University in High School and AP classes and said the University at High School classes transferred better. She said she would be supportive of the new classes.

Ms. Taylor said she appreciated all the options offered. She asked why Anatomy and Physiology classes are not offered to students interested in the medical fields.

Mr. Ross said interest in the Anatomy and Physiology classes seems to ebb and flow, but is hopeful it can be added in the future.

Mr. Dunn said they need to explain to parents that the District would be partnered with the State system, and the credits will not transfer to private colleges.

Mr. Curtin asked the cost difference between the AP credits and the college credits through the high school program.

Mr. Ross said the high school college credits are about a third of the price.  
Ms. Steinbach asked if the District absorbs the costs of the credits.  
Mr. Simons explained that parents pay for the credits, but if it is a hardship, a fund is available to defer the cost.

#### C. Employee Attendance Report

Mr. Simons reported on employee attendance and substitute costs from September 2022 to January 2023.  
Ms. Taylor expressed the importance of good attendance and setting an example for students.

#### D. Chromebook Sustainability Program-Peter Goodwin, Director of Technology

Mr. Goodwin presented information on a strategy to sustain the Chromebook program. He said if the District purchases eligible network projects, it will be reimbursed 50% of the cost through the E-Rate program, and those rebates can be used to purchase Chromebooks. Mr. Goodwin said for safety reasons, the District needs to increase the WIFI signals within the schools to a 5G format. He explained that upgrading this issue will increase the E-Rate refund which can be utilized to purchase new Chromebooks.

Mr. Dunn stated his support and said strategic planning is important, and the reliance on technology is always increasing.

### 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### A. School Calendar 2023- 2024

Mr. Simons shared the school calendar for 2023-2024, that was approved by the Calendar Committee, and stated that if there are no amendments, it will be added to a future meeting for adoption.

### 9. REGULAR BUSINESS

#### A. Approval of Programs for Resident Children with Disabilities

##### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENT CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Second by Ms. Curtin

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- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

#### B. Notice of Public Hearing

Mr. Simons explained to the Board that the original Public Hearing listed the normal purchase schedule of eight buses, but was altered to six buses when thinking it was prudent to save money for future no emissions buses. Upon further review the District now realizes the best financial choice is to purchase eight buses now that will have a lifespan reaching until 2034, which is when all no emission buses are required. He asked the Board to consider a revision to the Public Notice reflecting that change.

##### RESOLUTION TO REVISE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TO ADD TWO 30 PASSENGER BUSES AT A COST OF \$165,432, FOR A TOTAL BUS PURCHASE OF \$965,386

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Ms. Curtin

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the revision of the Public Hearing Notice.

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

##### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Ms. Curtin, Second by Ms. Taylor

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Notice of Public Hearing, Registration of Voters and Voting on 2023-2024 School Budget, Revised School Buses Proposition, and Election of Board Members.

Vote: Ayes - 6, Nays - 0

Motion carried

#### C. New Course Proposal - Honors Physics for Fall 2023

##### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2023 NEW COURSE PROPOSAL - HONORS PHYSICS

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Ms. Kennedy

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the 2023 New Course Proposal - Honors Physics.

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

### 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. Marissa Cannon, Director of Human Resources

None at this time.

#### B. Linda Wager, Director of Business and Finance

None at this time.

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

Mr. Stiles presented the minutes from the Committee for Curriculum Studies meeting. He said the committee discussed program review updates for Athletics, CTE and World Languages. He said once the program reviews are complete, they will be presented to the Board.

D. Jeffrey Simons, Superintendent  
None at this time.

#### **11. TABLED MOTIONS**

None at this time.

#### **12. OLD BUSINESS**

None at this time.

#### **13. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### A. Financial Reports

2023-03-022 Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants -0082,0084,0085,0086,0087,0088,0090.pdf

2023-03-22 December Treasurer's Report

2023-03-22 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report-CHS- December 2022

2023-03-22 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report-Goff- December 2022

2023-03-22 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report-CHS- January 2023

2023-03-22 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report-Goff- January 2023

##### B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

#### **A. DISCONTINUANCE**

##### **1. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement**

- a. Ostwald, MaryKay - Art, Bell Top/Donald P. Sutherland Elementary Schools, effective 6/30/23  
Date of Hire: 9/6/88

##### **2. Resignation**

- a. Gutierrez, Patricia - Teaching Assistant part time, Columbia High School  
Date of Hire: 1/26/23 Reason: to accept full time TA position

##### **3. Leave of Absence**

- a. McTarnaghan, Lauren - Special Education, Goff Middle School requesting and unpaid child-rearing leave of absence from 3/22/23 - 5/9/23. Planned return 5/10/23.
- b. Sullivan, Kara - K-3 Interventionist, Genet Elementary School requesting an unpaid child-rearing leave of absence from 3/14/23 - 5/11/23. Planned return 5/12/23.

#### **B. APPOINTMENTS**

##### **1. Probationary Appointment - Teaching Assistant**

- a. Gutierrez, Patricia - Teaching Assistant, Columbia High School  
(Replacing Mark Oliver, transfer to CTAEP/Bryce Schimanski resignation)  
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant  
Probationary Period: 3/23/23-3/22/27  
Certification Status: Teaching Assistant, Level III  
Salary: Step 2 = \$21.04 per hour  
Hours per day: 6.5

##### **2. Per Diem Substitute Teacher**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Certification Area</u></b>	<b><u>Degree Status</u></b>	<b><u>Effective Date</u></b>
DeGray, Tracey	Speech & Language Dis.	B.S.	3/23/23
Gallo, Betsy	Degree in Business Admin.	B.S.	3/23/23
Noel, Stacey	Psychology Degree	B.A.	3/23/23
Quell, Rachel	Childhood Ed 1-6	B.S.	3/23/23
Trongone, Deanna	School Counselor	B.S.	3/23/23

##### **3. Proctor for Exams**

**Name                      Salary**

a. Trongone, Deanna    \$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>
Fiske, Anna	Substitute Custodial Worker	3/10/2023	Per employees request
Halsey, Mark	School Bus Driver-Transportation	3/23/2023	Resigning to accept Assistant Transportation Supervisor position
Tillman, Kristy	Bus Aide-Transportation	3/18/2023	Resignation

**Appointment as listed:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Covell, Daniel	Custodial Worker-Red Mill Probation period: 3/23/23-9/22/23	3/23/2023	Step 1 = 18.11 per hour 8 hours/12 months
Hadden, Joan	Bus Aide-Transportation Probation period: 3/23/23-11/22/23	3/23/2023	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour 5.25 hours/10 months
Halsey, Mark	Assistant Transportation Supervisor- Transportation Provisional	3/23/2023	Step 6 = \$81,416

**Substitute employees as listed:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Backmon, Mikelle	Bus Aide	3/23/2023	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour
Carpenter Jr, Carl	Custodial Worker	3/23/2023	Substitute rate = \$16.66 per hour
Coyne, Lucas	Custodial Worker	5/15/2023	Substitute rate = \$16.66 per hour
Eveland, Connor	Aide	3/23/2023	Step 1 (BA) = Step 1 \$19.97
Hadley, Craig	Aide	3/23/2023	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour
Knott-Defoe, Georgette	Custodial Worker	3/23/2023	Substitute rate = \$16.66 per hour
Peura, Sharon	FSH	3/23/2023	Substitute rate = \$14.58 per hour
	Monitor	3/23/2023	Step 1 = \$15.02 per hour
	Senior Monitor	3/23/2023	Step 1 = \$15.74 per hour
	Bus Aide	3/23/2023	Step 1 (HS) = \$16.13 per hour

**Transfer:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Ingoldsby Jr., Vincent	Custodial Worker	3/13/2023	Transfer from Green Meadow to CHS

**Leave of Absence:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Giordano, Sandra	Typist-Genet	5/9/2023- 5/11/2023	Unpaid personal leave of absence
Oddy, Deborah	Senior Monitor-Goff	3/9/2023- 3/10/2023	Unpaid personal leave of absence

**D. 2022-2023 Non-Resident Tuition Rates**

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

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

**G. Health and Welfare Services Contract- Scotia-Glenville Central School District**

**H. Library Materials Recommended to be Weeded - Bell Top Elementary School**

**I. Approval of Consent Agenda**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Second by Ms. Kennedy

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

Vote: Ayes- 6, 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. Taylor reminded everyone about the Education Foundation Gala that will take place on March 31, 2023. She said tickets are still available to purchase in the Superintendent's office.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Ms. Steinbach to enter Executive Session.

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn  
District Clerk

Motion by Ms. Curtin, Second by Ms. Steinbach to Return to Executive Session

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 10:32 P.M.

The Board of Education considering the information supplied to it regarding an employee of East Greenbush School District, on motion of Mr. Dunn, Seconded by Ms. Curtin, it is

Resolved, that charges be preferred against an employee of the East Greenbush School District in accordance with Civil Service Law § 75 and the employee be given notice of such charges. Al Riccio is hereby appointed hearing officer. Because of the need to proceed expeditiously, request for proposals have not been made but it is noted that Mr. Riccio has the background and qualifications to serve as hearing officer and had acted in the past as hearing officer for other Boards of Education.

Vote; Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Second by Ms. Steinbach to Adjourn

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 10:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kennedy  
Assistant District Clerk