

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, May 3, 2023
Columbia High School Library

1. A. PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO ORDER: Mr. Buono - 7:05 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. 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. THE CALL OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proposed 2023-2024 School Budget - Superintendent Jeffrey P. Simons

Mr. Simons stated that each time the District puts together the spending plan to propose to the community, the Board asks District Administration to ensure that the money the District plans to spend, and the programs and activities the District plans to fund through the budget, aligns with the goals of the Board.

Mr. Simons stated this year the Board has re-evaluated its goals to identify where the District is after the pandemic, as well as looking forward to future needs.

The Superintendent presented the Board's goals:

Future driven Education

Whole- Learner Focus

Safe, Inclusive and Diverse

The Superintendent explained that proposition #1 was for the proposed 2023-2024 budget of \$108,812,882, and carried a .5% tax levy increase. Mr. Simons stated that due to an increasing tax base, some residents will not see any change in their tax bills and some might even see a reduction in their taxes.

Mr. Simons explained Proposition #2 relates to the purchase of buses. 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 69.5% of cost. He reported the District is proposing to purchase eight buses this year.

The Superintendent said that four candidates for the Board of Education submitted petitions with the required number of signatures by April 17, 2023. Mr. Simons announced the four candidates running for the Board: current President, Mr. Michael Buono, current Vice-President Mr. Mark Mann, Mr. Jesse Temple and Mr. Andy Garrigan.

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 3, 2023, during regular business hours in all school buildings, at local public libraries, and on the District website.

Mr. Simons announced the voting date as Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 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. Two propositions are up for consideration. The first relates to the proposed 2023-2024 budget, and the second involves the proposed purchase of school buses.

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 16, 2023 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 19, 2023. An application is required and is available at the Office of the District Clerk and online at www.egcsd.org. The due dates for applications are Tuesday, May 9, by mail and Monday, May 15, 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 16 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.

The Superintendent explained that if the budget is passed, it will be enacted effective July 1, 2023. 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.

B. Introduction of Candidates for the Board of Education

Mr. Buono reported that four candidates were running for three seats on the Board, himself, Mr. Mann, Mr. Temple and Mr. Garrigan.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

6. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

None at this time

7. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by, Mr. Mann Second by Ms. Skumurski to Close the Public Hearing

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 7:37 P.M.