

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, October 18, 2023
Bell Top Elementary School Gymnasium

1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mr. Buono - 7:02 P.M.

B. ATTENDANCE

	Present	Absent	Arrival
Mr. Buono	X		
Mr. Dunn		X	
Ms. Kennedy	X		
Mr. Mann	X		
Ms. O'Brien	X		
Ms. Skumurski		X	
Ms. Steinbach	X		
Ms. Taylor	X		
Mr. Temple	X		

Also Attending

Mr. Simons	X
Ms. Cannon	X
Ms. Mulligan	X
Mr. Stiles	X

Student Council

Roan Butterfield	X
Kole Hardy	X

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. EX OFFICIO STUDENT COUNCIL COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Bell Top Elementary School Board Recognition

Mr. Mahar welcomed everyone to Bell Top. He thanked the Board for giving freely of their time and skills to support the school community. Bell Top students, Jazmarie Garcia and Kyle Rodgers thanked the Board for their service and presented the members with personalized cards made by the students.

Mr. Temple thanked the students for their gifts and said being a Board member is a very rewarding experience.

Ms. O'Brien also thanked the students and said she hopes that as they get older they will reach out and help others in the community.

4. MINUTES

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF OCTOBER 11, 2023

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Second by Ms. Steinbach

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 October 11, 2023

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

5. BOARD FORUM #1

Mr. Mann thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also thanked Mr. Mahar, the students and the Bell Top community for welcoming the Board to their school.

Ms. Taylor said it was great to be back at Bell Top, and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Ms. Steinbach echoed the sentiments.

6. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Keith Frank, a parent of a Bell Top Kindergarten student, thanked the District for listening to his concerns about providing families adequate information in regards to the lockouts. He said he has seen an improvement in the communication, and appreciates that the District was receptive to his concerns.

Alison Hosier, EGTA President acknowledged the hard work, dedication, and resilience of the teachers she represents. She highlighted the many challenges faced by educators, especially in recent times, and commended their unwavering commitment to the students and the educational community. She urged the Board to recognize the efforts of these teachers, stressing the importance of their roles in the academic community and beyond.

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Long Range Capital Project Planning

Mr. Simons provided information about a new capital project, explaining the initial assessment that led to the proposal, the current infrastructure gaps, and the anticipated benefits for the District. He said the District is developing a new capital project that would improve facilities and grounds across the district including items such as adding air conditioning throughout all five elementary schools, classroom additions for Universal Pre-K, library renovations, new playgrounds, athletic field improvements, new tennis courts at Columbia, new and reconstructed sidewalks, and infrastructure improvements.

Ms. Mulligan and Mr. Ganci, the District's Financial Advisor, gave a breakdown of the costs, explained the Building Aid Units, the Regional Cost Factor, the Construction Cost Index and the Maximum Cost Allowance, and how all the factors are evaluated to determine the timing of the phases to maximize the State aid. Ms. Mulligan reported the estimated cost for the proposed project is \$116 million, but due to state building aid and expiring debt, there would be no additional impact to local taxpayers. It is estimated that the state will reimburse the district approximately 75% of eligible costs for this project ensuring no additional tax burden for district residents.

Mr. Marchese, the District's Architect, presented information about the scope of the project. He gave more specific information on the upgrades and provided an expected timeline for the project's phases and completion. He discussed continuing the work throughout the school year and how arrangements will be made to handle any potential disruptions to daily district operations.

Mr. Simons emphasized the long-term advantages of the project, discussing its potential to enhance the district's academic and extracurricular environment, and how it would serve the community in the years to come.

B. CTE Program Review

Ms. Shepardson presented a five year review of the Career and Technical Department. She reported the achievements of the department and provided her recommendations to enhance the program going forward. She suggested hiring additional staff to help provide stability since the majority of the current staff is nearing retirement. She requested the reinstatement of popular courses that were eliminated during cutbacks to support students interested in entering engineering and hands-on technical careers. Ms.

Shepardson asked for consideration of restoring a special education teacher in the Business and Technical Math class, so students with IEP's and 504 plans can be included and supported. Additionally, she recommended a formerly required parenting/financial literacy class be re-established. She said many students graduate lacking financial literacy, parenting, and basic life skills. Overall, Ms.

Shepardson said the CTE program needs to continue to develop and implement a curriculum that prepares college and career-ready graduates with an emphasis on preparing students for a career after high school, as opposed to the college for all (or most) philosophy. Mr. Mann said that CTE needs have been incorporated into the Board goals for the coming year. He stated the Board understands that not all students go on to college, and the board is interested in providing pathways for all of the students.

Ms. Taylor commended the CTE staff for their positivity and perseverance in light of all of the cutbacks over the years.

Mr. Temple stated he thought business and CTE classes align with the Board's goal of future driven education. He expressed his concern about the loss of the special education teacher in the Business Math classes and said all students should have the necessary supports to take any classes they are interested in.

Ms. Steinbach said she thinks learning how to manage financials, parenting and basic life skills are very important, and would like the Board to support the Business department with these programs.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Overview of Fund Balance, Reserve Balances & Funding of Reserves

Ms. Mulligan reported the financials for school year 2023-23 are currently in audit, but the District has a pretty good idea of the fund balance. She explained that only 4% of the previous year's budget can be retained as unassigned. Ms. Mulligan recommended funding the bus reserves with the \$810,000 that falls over that threshold, to keep the District in compliance with New York State Real Property tax laws and sustain the current bus replacement program. She explained the current tax certiorari reserves and suggested updates to adjust them and establish a new one for this year's claims. Next, Ms. Mulligan reported an over funding in the retirement reserves and suggested transferring some of the funds to the capital reserve, to lower the impact of the capital project costs on the taxpayers. She explained the District would be required to hold a public hearing to explain the process, and a resolution will need to be added to a Board agenda for approval.

B. Goff Middle School Therapy Dog

Mr. McHugh explained that Goff teacher Sandra Yovine is working with a puppy to become a certified therapy dog for Goff Middle School. He stated that Ms. Yovine is incurring all the costs, and is following all the EGCSd guidelines.

Ms. Yovine said the dog, Baxter, has begun training to become therapy dog certified, but he cannot be certified until he is a year old. She asked the Board if it would be permissible to bring Baxter into Goff on occasion to get him acclimated to the environment.

Ms. Taylor said she fully supports the program, but said she is concerned about calling Baxter a therapy dog when he has not yet met the requirements. She recommended letting the families to know that Baxter is a therapy dog "in training".

Mr. Simons reported that the District's liability insurance does cover issues associated with a dog, but an individual policy is also recommended. He said the District will work with Ms. Yovine to figure out what is needed. The Superintendent stated that once Baxter is certified, insurance will be available through Therapy Dog International.

Mr. Temple said he is supportive of the program, and wondered if the District could take on some of the costs associated with the dog.

Mr. Simons agreed that it can be costly and suggested reaching out to community organizations and businesses to assist with funding, as well.

Mr. McHugh said he can send out a notice to inform the parents that Baxter is in training and will be in the building sporadically.

The Board verbally authorized Mr. McHugh to go forward with the program.

Ms. O'Brien stepped out of the meeting.

C. 2024-2025 Proposed Budget Calendar and District Vote

Ms. Mulligan discussed the dates and provided information about the regulations of the proposed timeline. She said there is some flexibility in the workshop dates, but most of the other dates are State mandated and not subject to change.

9. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Tax Certiorari Reserve Funding 2022-2023

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDING OF THE TAX CERTIORARI RESERVE

Motion by Mr. Temple, Second by Ms. Taylor

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Funding of the Tax Certiorari Reserve

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

B. Bus Purchase Reserve Funding 2022-2023

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDING OF THE BUS PURCHASE RESERVE

Motion by Mr. Mann, Second by Mr. Temple

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Funding of the Bus Purchase Reserve

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Ms. O'Brien returned to the meeting.

C. Snow Removal Bid 2023-2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 SNOW REMOVAL BID.

Motion by Mr. Mann, Second by Ms. Kennedy

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the 2023-2024 Snow Removal Bid.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Marissa Cannon, Director of Human Resources - Staffing Update

Ms. Cannon provided an overview of the current recruitment process.

B. Jennifer Mulligan, Director of Business and Finance - Health Insurance Review Committee Meeting 10/16/23

Ms. Mulligan said that at the recent Health Insurance Review Committee meeting discussed retiree billing options. She explained that she recently learned that Amsure can administer the billing, and offers the service as part of their relationship as part of the CASHIC consortium at no additional cost to the District. She said due to the staffing challenges in the Business Office, she would like to implement this service in January. Ms. Mulligan explained there will be communications sent out to the retirees, but the District would still accept payments if some were uncomfortable with a new process.

Mr. Mann said he is supportive, but wants to make sure it is an easy transition for the retirees.

Ms. Mulligan explained that the billing process will remain virtually identical with the retirees receiving payment coupons in the beginning of the year, and will now have the option for automatic payments.

Additionally, Ms. Mulligan announced that retirees that are part of Medicare Advantage will see a reduction in their rates, and if allowed to go forward with the billing services, the new rates can become effective in January as opposed to waiting until July. She explained communications will go to the retiree representatives in each bargaining unit so they can start rolling out the information and the District will follow up.

C. Roy Stiles, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction - SEL Committee

Mr. Stiles announced Ms. Pennock will be the new chair of the SEL Committee. He discussed some of the Professional Development occurring in the schools. Additionally, Mr. Stiles reported that the Zones and Regulation pilot program that is occurring at the elementary level is going very well and they think they will be implementing the program in all K-5 classrooms next year.

D. Jeffrey P. Simons, Superintendent

None at this time.

Ms. Steinbach left the meeting 9:56 P.M.

11. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time.

12. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Simons asked if the Board could add the Approval of the Budget Calendar and District Vote to the Consent Agenda at Item H for Approval.

A. Financial Reports- None at this time

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

a. Hurd, Daniel - Technology, Howard L. Goff Middle School, effective 11/9/23.

Date of Hire: 9/5/95

b. Rudat, Adrienne - Teaching Assistant, Genet Elementary School, effective 12/9/23.

Date of Hire: 11/13/03

B. APPOINTMENTS

1. Unpaid Clubs & Activities 2023-2024 School Year

Name	Club/Activity	Building
Devine, Felice	Bell Top TV Morning Program	Bell Top
Henderson, Chris	Columbia Dramatic Production	CHS/Goff
Mathis, Rachel/Omecinsky, Alex	No Place for Hate	Goff

2. Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Name	Certification Area	Degree Status	Effective Date
Bradford, Alexandra	Elementary	M.S.	10/19/23
Rossetti, Alaina	Psychology Degree	B.A.	10/19/23
Walters, Thomas	Accounting Degree	B.B.A.	10/19/23

3. Student Teachers/Interns 2023-2024 School Year

Building	Student	Content Area	Cooperating Teacher	College/Term
Columbia	Ariel Gioia	Art	Valerie Gordon	Adelphi/Fall 2
Genet	Megan Washock	Elementary	Christina Rudzinski	St. Rose/Spring 1
Green Meadow	Kathleen Stuto	Elementary	Michelle Baldwin	St. Rose/Spring 1
Green Meadow	Jenna Almon	Elementary	Jaimee Kusche	St. Rose/Spring 1

4. Appointment Adjustment

a. Dupont, Melissa - Reading, Howard L. Goff Middle School (Term Substitute)

Adjustment to Effective Date

From: 8/31/23-10/31/23

To: 8/31/23-11/9/23

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Best, Julie	Substitute Account Payable Associate	10/11/23	Resignation
Carmody, Kathleen	Senior Monitor-Goff	10/12/23	Resignation

Appointment as listed:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Flintrop, Katelynn	Typist-CHS Provisional	10/30/23	Step 1 = \$19.50 per hour 3.5 hours/10 months
Rosario, Neissa	School Bus Driver -Transportation Probation: 10/19/23-4/18/24	10/19/23	Step 3 = \$26.90 per hour 5 hours/10 months

Substitute employees as listed:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Cook, Linda	Typist	10/19/23	Step OS = \$26.33 per hour
DiMartino, Deberah	Typist	10/3/23	Step OS = \$26.33 per hour
Ingram, Zachary	Automotive Mechanic	10/2/23	Step 2 = \$26.67 per hour
Sherman, Amy	Custodial Worker	11/30/23	Substitute rate =\$17.12 per hour

Appointment adjustment as listed:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Polaski, Eric	Account Clerk Typist/Extraclassroom Treasurer - District Wide	10/16/23	7.5 hours per day/12 months (corrected contractual hours)

D. Library Materials Recommended for Weeding - Bell Top Elementary School

E. Acceptance of Gifts and Authorization to Increase the 2023-2024 Budget

F. Columbia High School Wrestling Tournament-Orlando Florida

G. Disposal of District Property - Assets

H. Approval of Budget Calendar and District Vote

I. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A-I

Motion by Mr. Temple, Second by Ms. Taylor

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

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

Mr. Simons stated his deep appreciation to the Board. He said he was very fortunate to work with all the Board members and commended them for always focusing on the kids and the betterment of the community, and always striving to make the East Greenbush Central School District the best it can be.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session not needed at this time.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Mann, Second by Ms. O'Brien to Adjourn the Meeting

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 10:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk