

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024
Central Administration Boardroom**

1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER- Mr. Buono- 7:11 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
Mr. 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. Student Council Representatives: Roan Butterfield~President; Kole Hardy~Vice President

Roan Butterfield reported that the Student Council had a holiday fundraiser where staff and students had the opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa. He thanked Mr. Kilmartin, Mr. Malloy for their help and also thanked the Blue Devil mascot for dressing up as Santa.

Kole Hardy said Student Council is planning many fundraisers, including a celebration for National Hot Chocolate Day and a community-wide dance-a-thon. He also stated they are making preparations for their end of the year field trip.

4. MINUTES

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2023.

Motion by Mr. Temple, Second by Mr. Mann

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 December 6, 2023.

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 1 (Kennedy)

Motion carried

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 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 December 20, 2023.

Vote: Ayes- 5, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 2 (Skumurski, Temple)

Motion carried

5. BOARD FORUM #1

None at this time.

6. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Ms. Heather James, a Bell Top parent and PTO President, stated her support of the teachers and said she hoped the District could come to an agreement on their contract soon.

Ms. Deanine Lena, Genet parent and PTO treasurer, echoed the support.

Mr. Buono explained that the Board and Administrators are in the midst of contract negotiations with the teacher's union. He said meetings are ongoing, and the District supports and respects the teachers, but as with any negotiation, both parties have to come together to hammer out an agreement. Mr. Buono thanked the members for attending the meeting, and said he is hopeful they can work together to come to an agreement.

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Capital Project Planning ~ Public Campaign Presentation Schedule

Mr. Simons said the District has been meeting at each building with LaBella Associates and Turner Construction to review the scope of the proposed capital project. He said Turner Construction has been working to get more detailed information so they can provide accurate cost estimates. The Superintendent said they are also working to calculate building aid and once all the information is confirmed it will be bought to the Board.

Mr. Simons reported that his team has begun to reach out to the community at local town board and firehouse meetings to inform the residents of the upcoming project. He provided a schedule for the Board members and asked them to try to attend some of those meetings.

Additionally, Mr. Simons explained the funding of a capital project is in a different manner and separate from the general fund budget. He said typically projects are funded over a 15 year period, and during the period that the District is paying back the loan, State Aid is received at 75% for eligible expenses. The Superintendent explained the State aid with the addition of the capital reserve will keep the local share at zero additional impact, since the District will be retiring debt from previous borrowing at about the same time as this project will begin in 2025-2026.

B. New Course Proposal - College Physics

Mr. Stiles reminded everyone that last year, Science teacher, Mr. Tom Ross spoke to the Board about his two-year plan to begin a Physics honors course and then add a college Physics class. He said the Curriculum Studies Committee is endorsing this plan and would like to now add the college physics course to next year's program of studies. Mr. Stiles stated this will give students a Science pathway that is not calculus based. He stated no additional staff will be needed, just some summer curriculum writing.

C. New Course Proposal - Apocalyptic Fiction & Film

Mr. Stiles said the Apocalyptic Fiction and Film course is also being endorsed by the committee and also would not need additional staffing, just summer curriculum writing.

Ms. Kate Hastings, Columbia High School English teacher, spoke about her plan for a semester long Apocalyptic Fiction and Film course. She said that since this genre is quite popular now, she feels it would be a good way to encourage critical thinking. Ms. Hastings described how these stories represent real fears in our society, such as the social fears, fear of a pandemic, fear of losing one's identity in a mass consumer culture, etc. and gives us a way to face those fears and consider how those fears affect our lives. She went on to explain that in the end humanity always prevails, they tend to be about human connection, human resilience and the importance of human relationships. Ms. Hastings stated that during the class, students would read a book, and then watch a film and be asked to draw comparisons to show how they are similar. She said she hoped it would help the students think beyond the literal, use critical thinking skills and become comfortable questioning and critiquing the world around them. Ms. Skumurski asked if East Greenbush is the first district to offer this course and if the seniors have enough flexibility in their schedules to be able to take the course.

Ms. Hastings said the course was her idea, so she thinks the District is the first to offer a course of this nature. She also explained that seniors have to take both a reading and a writing course, and this would be offered as one of the reading choices. Mr. Temple expressed his support of the course and feels it will encourage students to think outside of the box.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Investments

Mr. Simons stated that through a task asked of her during interview process for the position of Director of Business and Finance, Ms. Mulligan realized the District would be able to yield more revenue by taking a look at the reserves and suggested the District make some prudent investments. He praised her hard work and said he was happy to see she was able to begin accomplishing those goals for the District.

Ms. Mulligan explained that with interest rates in excess of 5% currently, she worked with Keybank to purchase some treasury bills. She explained they are conservatively laddering the maturity of the treasury bills so money is available to cover payroll costs every other week. She reported that those treasury bills will initially yield about \$125,000, and said she will continue to monitor the interest rates and roll the money, if prudent. Additionally, Ms. Mulligan stated that they also purchased a treasury bill with a six-month maturity for the reserve money, and that will return investment earnings of approximately \$450,000.

Ms. Mulligan also explained she would like to review the investment policy and banking relationships, and try to find opportunities to diversify the relationships and also look into some liquidity data management so the District can maximize the value of the idle cash.

Mr. Buono asked where the interest money will be allocated.

Ms. Mulligan stated the interest gained with the reserve funds will go back into the reserve accounts, and the interest earned through the operating cash will be added to the general fund revenues.

Ms. Skumurski said she fully agreed with the plan, but said she would like to investigate a full review of the investment policy. She said she would like to have a formal investment committee and maybe look into retaining an investment advisor.

Mr. Simons said he and Ms. Mulligan have discussed reaching out for professional services to assist the District in the investing process.

Ms. Mulligan said there are limitations in what the District is allowed to do, but there are lots of opportunities to diversify and expand as she gets more comfortable with the District's finances.

Mr. Temple asked how the District is planning the process of laddering the treasury bills.

Ms. Mulligan explained that some expenses are predictable and overall there is a systematic cash flow, but she stated she is starting very conservatively as she is still learning the peak times, what is available and when it is available.

Mr. Dunn thanked Ms. Mulligan for her forward thinking. He said this will give the District the opportunity to update the policy about investments, and asked the District to be mindful to create a policy that gives the flexibility to make adjustments. Ms. Skumurski also suggested working with vendors, and using purchasing power to bring down some costs.

9. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Approval of Programs for Resident Children with Disabilities

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENT CHILDREN DISABILITIES

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Second by Ms. Kennedy

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. New Course Proposal - College Physics

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2024 NEW COURSE PROPOSAL - COLLEGE PHYSICS

Motion by Ms. O'Brien, Second by Mr. Temple

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the 2024 New Course Proposal - College Physics.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. New Course Proposal - Apocalyptic Fiction & Film

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2024 NEW COURSE PROPOSAL - APOCALYPTIC FICTION & FILM

Motion by Mr. Mann, Second by Mr. Temple

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the 2024 New Course Proposal - Apocalyptic Fiction & Film.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

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10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Marissa Cannon, Director of Human Resources

Ms. Cannon reported that the anticipated Bell Top principal vacancy has been posted and she will be accepting applications until January 26, 2024.

B. Jennifer Mulligan, Director of Business and Finance

None at this time.

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

None at this time.

D. Jeffrey P. Simons, Superintendent~Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting of 1/3/2024

Mr. Simons reported the committee reviewed the newly required Public Employer Workplace Violence Prevention Act policy. He stated Ms. Cannon and Ms. Lyons from Questar III, will be working together on a policy stating that the District will have a program, will comply with that program, and will continuously review the program. He said that policy will be brought for a first reading at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Simons said the Policy Committee and Administrators are reviewing the recommendations of the NYSSBA's Policy Review Service and are beginning the updating process with policies that can be eliminated or rescinded. He said a template has been created to ascertain if the policies are aligned with current practices, need to have revisions, or should be eliminated altogether. Additionally, Mr. Simons reported NYSSBA recently updated two policies, homebound instruction and the use of time-out rooms and physical restraint, and said the District will need to review and update those policies to comply with the new regulations. He said these policies are being drafted, and will be brought to a future meeting as a first reading.

11. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time.

12. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Buono asked the Board members to consider the Addendum for approval with the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Skumurski asked why donations are received for the Goff Middle School lunch debt.

Mr. Simons stated that the donations are not solicited, but since the non-shaming policy came into effect, many community members and organizations have become aware of the lunch debts and have come forward to relieve some of that debt. He explained these donations are used to offset debts incurred prior to Goff students becoming eligible for free lunch through the Community Eligibility Provision program.

Mr. Simons said there have been ongoing discussions about how things are going with the CEP program, and a report will be shared with the Board shortly. He said there have been increases in students partaking in breakfast and lunch, and staff adjustments might be needed as a result. He also reported that an advocacy session has been scheduled with Assemblyman

John MacDonald to discuss the inequities of the free lunch program. Mr. Simons said he is hoping Governor Hochul will address the issue in her upcoming State address.

Ms. Skumurski asked if free lunch for the ineligible schools is still being considered in the budget planning.

Mr. Buono congratulated the two newly announced teacher retirements. He thanked Maureen McHugh and Carol Willis for their many years of dedicated service to the District and the students, and wished them well.

A. Financial Reports

2024-01-10 Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants - 0072, V072, 0074, 0087, 0089, V041, V067, 0095, 0101

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. **DISCONTINUANCE**

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

- a. McHugh, Maureen - Elementary Education, Genet Elementary School, effective June 30, 2024.
Date of Hire: 9/3/91
- b. Willis, Carol - Reading, Bell Top Elementary School, effective June 30, 2024.
Date of Hire: 9/7/93

2. **Resignation**

- a. Klein, Michael, Substitute teacher, effective 1/2/24

B. **APPOINTMENTS**

1. **Part Time Appointment**

- a. Fancher, Bret - .8 Computer Literacy, Howard L. Goff Middle School
(Replacing Brian Fox, resignation)
Effective: 1/16/24 - 6/30/24
Certification Status: NYS Permanent Business & Distributive Ed.
NYS Permanent Mathematics 7-12
NYS Permanent N-6; NYS Permanent SAS & SDA
Step Placement: 19M = \$87,422.00 x .8 (prorated)
Prior: 9/11-6/18 Tupper Lake CSD; 9/08-6/11 Addison CSD;
11/90-12/02 Hornell City Schools
Degrees: B.S. SUNY, Fredonia
M.S. SUNY, Fredonia
C.A.S. SUNY, Brockport

2. **Mentor Teacher Appointments - 2023-2024 School Year**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
a. Morrow, Catherine	\$1,606.00 (prorated for 1/2 year)
b. Hosier, Alison	\$1,606.00 (prorated for 1/2 year)

3. **Per Diem Substitute Teacher**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification Area</u>	<u>Degree Status</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Gioia, Ariel	Art	B.A.	1/11/24
Pierce, Matthew	Childhood Education	B.A.	1/11/24

4. **Tutor/Home Instruction**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification Area</u>	<u>Effective</u>
a. Pauli, Abigail	Students w/Disabilities (all grades) Childhood Education 1-6 Students w/Disabilities 1-6	1/11/24

5. **Student Teachers/Interns 2023-2024 School Year**

<u>Building</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Content Area</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>	<u>College/Term</u>
Bell Top	Ayana Butler	Elementary	Heather Gigliello	St. Rose/Spring 1
Bell Top	Olivia Jones	Physical Therapy	Kathryn Biel	Russell Sage/Spring 1

Columbia Kelsea Royce Counseling

Ashley Rickson

St. Rose/Spring 1 & 2

C. MISCELLANEOUS**1. Volunteer Coach 2023-2024 Winter Sports Season**

The following will volunteer for our winter athletic programs. She holds current certification in CPR/AED, First Aid, Blood Borne Pathogens, DASA, Concussion Management, SAVE and Child Abuse.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sport</u>
Sheehy, Jaime	Indoor Track

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo**Discontinuance as listed:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Charbonneau, Mary	Substitute Custodial Worker	01/03/2024	Resignation
Hoffman, Tara	Registrar - Stipend	12/29/2023	Resignation

Appointment as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Natalie, Keith	Custodial Worker-Green Meadow	01/11/2024	Step 1 = \$18.61 per hour
	Probation: 01/11/24-07/10/24		8 hours/12 months

Substitute employees as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Hawkins, Emily	Aide	01/11/2024	Step 1 (HS) = \$17.11 per hour
Pierce, Matthew	Aide	01/11/2024	Step 1 (BA) = \$21.19 per hour
Siver, Lily	Aide	01/11/2024	Step 1 (HS) = \$17.11 per hour
	Monitor	01/11/2024	Step 1 = \$15.93 per hour
	Senior Monitor	01/11/2024	Step 1 = \$16.70 per hour

Adjustment to Stipend:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Stipend</u>	<u>Proration</u>
Hoffman, Tara	Registrar	From: \$13,000 To: \$6,500

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

E. Disposal of District Property - Assets

F. Approval of Consent Agenda

14. ADDENDUM

A. Goff Middle School Science Olympiad Invitational Competitions ~ Jan. 19, 2024 in Levittown NY & Feb. 4, 2024 in Cambridge MA

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND THE ADDENDUM

Motion by Ms. Temple, Second by Mr. Dunn

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

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried**15. NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

16. PUBLIC FORUM #2

None at this time.

17. BOARD FORUM #2

Ms. Skumurski congratulated Goff on their recent acknowledgement by U.S. News & World Report naming it the #1 Middle School in Capital Region.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Temple Second by Mr. Dunn to enter Executive Session for purposes of Personnel and Contract Negotiations

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 8:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk

19. ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 9:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kennedy