

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024**  
Genet Elementary School Auditorium

**1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Mr. Buono- 7:01 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  
None at this time.

**4. MINUTES**

A. Approval of Draft Minutes dated January 24, 2024  
Minutes were tabled until the February 28, 2024 meeting due to lack of a quorum.

**5. BOARD FORUM #1**

Ms. Taylor acknowledged the Columbia High School students involved in the Columbia Kicks Cancer campaign. She said she is really proud of the work they are doing. Ms. Taylor announced that in the last 3 years, the students have been able to raise over \$75,000 for the cause. She asked if the students could come to a future meeting and share their story.

**6. PUBLIC FORUM #1**

Ms. Alison Savoca, EGTA president, thanked the Administrators and the Board for movement in the negotiation process. She mentioned the capital project plans and asked the Board and the District when investing in the District, to remember that it is the people that make the District invaluable.

Mr. Wayne Grignon acknowledged the three Genet teachers, Ms. McHugh, Ms. Hammill and Ms. Beams that recently announced their retirements. He stated that collectively they have over 90 years of service to the District. He thanked them for all they do, and said they will be deeply missed.

**7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

A. Capital Project Planning

Mr. Simons stated that the team has been meeting with various community groups to present the proposed project. He also reported that the team in collaboration with Labella Associates and Turner Construction have been working together to review estimates for the scope of the proposed work. He said some of the larger projects planned are air conditioning in all the elementary schools,

improvements to library media centers, improvements to the athletic fields, and other infrastructure issues. Mr. Simons said they hope to have an update on the scope and budget of the project available for the March Board of Education meeting. He reported the \$116M project is structured to have no additional impact on the local property taxes. Mr. Simons explained the District will be retiring old debt and replacing it with the new debt, so the project will be tax neutral to the taxpayers.

#### B. East Greenbush CSD 2022-2023 NYS Assessment Summary

Mr. Stiles reviewed the NYS Assessment Summary and stated overall the students have been very successful and have progressed in proficiency since the 2022-2023 school year. He also reported that the District's students are scoring not only over the State average, but also higher than comparable districts. Mr. Stiles stated that even though the students are progressing and out-performing other districts in the State, it is important to continue gaining, and he presented steps that will he is planning to implement to achieve continued growth.

Mr. Temple stated he was very encouraged to see the metrics and how well the children are performing. He said he was glad the District is striving to continue to grow and improve.

Mr. Buono discussed how the COVID funding was used to support the students and staff to reduce much of the learning loss during the difficult periods.

Ms. O'Brien said she knows there were losses, especially in Math, but was glad to hear the interventions are working. She thanked the teachers, faculty and staff for all their hard work to help achieve these results.

### 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### A. Investments- Next Steps

Ms. Mulligan recommended enhancing the work of the Finance and Audit Committee to include investments and other finance related matters rather than creating a new committee. Additionally, she reported she has met with Three+one, a financial company that provides liquidity management strategies and would like to have them meet with the committee to discuss services they can offer to maximize the value of the excess cash, and expand the capacity to develop an investment policy for the District.

Ms. O'Brien asked who was included in the Finance and Audit Committee.

Ms. Mulligan stated the committee is made up of staff, two Board members and a few community members.

Mr. Buono said he liked the idea of tying the work into the Finance and Audit Committee instead of creating a new committee, and asked if they would need to modify a policy to allow the committee to do this type of work.

Ms. Mulligan stated she would just need to modify the charter, and then the Board would have to approve those changes.

#### B. Projected Enrollment Report - 2023-2024

Mr. Simons discussed the projected enrollment report provided by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission. He explained the report is provided annually because it is important to planning the future of the District, and has implications for both the capital project and budget planning. He said East Greenbush is one of the only districts with stable enrollment, and is actually growing by about 100 students next year.

Mr. Buono stated that even though there have been some declines in enrollment at times, there are also many different needs being addressed than previously. He said class sizes have also been decreased to help address and support those needs.

#### C. 2024-2025 Budget Timelines/Preparations

Mr. Simons reported that he and Ms. Mulligan have met and are reviewing and confirming some of the State Aid numbers. He also explained the tax cap calculations, and he expects that the number will be provided at the next meeting. Additionally, Mr.

Simons reported that the Advocacy Committee will be attending various sessions at the Capital to advocate for more funding and changes to the Foundation Aid formula.

#### D. Tax Exemption - Senior Citizen & Persons with Disabilities

Ms. Mulligan explained that Rensselaer County had notified the District of adjustments to the current exemption for Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities to account for cost of living increases. She said the amendment raises the income thresholds to increase eligibility. Ms. Mulligan stated the County is proposing an incremental increase. She explained the tax levy will remain the same with the tax redistributed amongst the other taxpayers, with about a .25% increase. She said she would like to hold a public hearing at the February 28, 2024 Board of Education meeting seeking approval, so the exemption can begin to take place in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

#### E. PILOT Overpayment

Ms. Mulligan explained that one of the PILOT agreements had accidentally advanced their payment schedule and have overpaid the taxing jurisdictions in the amount of \$50,000. She explained the County has refunded the full amount back to the PILOT to get them back in accordance, and the District will receive a smaller amount from the County this year to account for that overpayment.

### 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. O'Brien

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. Policy #4327~Homebound Instruction-First Reading

Motion by Mr. Temple, Second by Ms. O'Brien to Approve the First Reading of Policy #4327- Homebound Instruction

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the first reading of Policy #4327- Homebound Instruction

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. Policy #4321.12 & #4321.12-R~Timeout and Physical Restraint-First Reading

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Second by Ms. Kennedy to Approve the First Reading of Policy #4321.12 & #4321.12-R- Timeout and Physical Restraint

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the first reading of Policy #4321.12 & #4321.12-R- Timeout and Physical Restraint

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

D. Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene BOCES Board Nomination- Mark Mann

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE BOCES BOARD NOMINATION OF MARK MANN

Motion by Mr. Buono, Second by Mr. Temple

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene BOCES Board Nomination of Mark Mann

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

Motion carried

Mr. Buono thanked Mr. Mann for serving on the BOCES Board and said it was important for the District to have a voice and bring the District's perspective to the group.

E. Transportation Bid- McKinney-Vento and Special Runs

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE TRANSPORTATION BID FOR MCKINNEY-VENTO AND SPECIAL RUNS

Motion by Mrs. O'Brien, Second by Ms. Steinbach

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Transportation Bid for McKinney-Vento and Special Runs

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

F. Goff Copier Lease Agreement

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GOFF COPIER LEASE AGREEMENT

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

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Goff Copier Lease Agreement

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

G. Resolution to Approve the Establishment of the Girls Flag Football Varsity Head Coach and Varsity Assistant Coach Positions

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL VARSITY HEAD COACH AND VARSITY ASSISTANT COACH POSITIONS

Motion by Mr. Mann, Second by Mr. Temple

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the establishment of the Varsity Head Coach and Varsity Assistant Coach positions for Girls Flag Football as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Ms. O'Brien asked if they were anticipating Flag Football to start this spring.

Mr. Simons said yes, and he stated that Mr. Stiles attended a kick-off event with the New York Giants. The team will be providing \$30,000 in funding for the program.

Mr. Simons thanked the EGTA for working with Administration on the stipend for the coaching positions.

## 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Marissa Cannon, Director of Human Resources - Workplace Violence Prevention Meeting Minutes 1-25-24

Ms. Cannon provide minutes of the Workplace Violence Prevention meeting.

B. Jennifer Mulligan, Director of Business and Finance - BRAC-Long Range Facilities Planning Committee Meeting Minutes 1-30-24

Ms. Mulligan reported Madison Hyrsko from the Capital District Regional Planning Commission presented information to the committee on projected enrollment. She also stated that Mr. Simons introduced information about the proposed capital project at the meeting, and the committee members contributed comments and questions for discussion.

C. Roy Stiles, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
None at this time.

D. Jeffrey P. Simons, Superintendent - Health and Safety Committee Minutes 1-22-24

Mr. Simons reported the committee discussed the new Workplace Violence Prevention policy and are working to meet those requirements. He stated that the School Resource Officers reported that they have been in the classrooms meeting with students, have contributed safety information on the podcasts, and have provided CRASE training to the families. Mr. Simons said they also have been providing programs to discuss the dangers of vaping and internet safety. The Superintendent said the committee discussed information received from the bus stop arm camera's and that there are certain areas on Columbia Turnpike that are concerning. He said he thinks people are not fully conscious they are passing a school bus illegally, and the committee has been discussing ways to educate the community and raise awareness of the regulations. Additionally, Mr. Simons reported that Dr. McQueen is working with her team on the implementation of Student Finder.

Ms. Steinbach asked if parents will have access to Student Finder.

Mr. Simons explained that Student Finder is the swipe pass for the District to know who is on the bus, Stop Finder, another service the District is looking to add, is an app on the phone where parents will be able to track the bus route and the location of the bus their child rides.

## 11. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time.

## 12. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

## 13. CONSENT AGENDA

### A. Financial Reports

2024-02-07 Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants - 0103, 0110, 0114, 0117, 0119

### B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

#### A. DISCONTINUANCE

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

- a. Maney, Tara - Special Education, Columbia High School, effective June 30, 2024.  
Date of Hire: 9/3/96

##### 2. Resignation

- a. Hulbert, Sara - Reading, Genet Elementary School, effective 1/31/24.  
Date of Hire: 9/3/19 Reason: personal

##### 3. Leave of Absence

- a. Andresen, Alyssa - Gr. 2, Bell Top Elementary School, requesting an unpaid child-rearing leave of absence from 2/1/24 - 3/26/24. Planned return 3/27/24.

##### 2. Rescind Appointment

- a. Nelson, Diana - Substitute Teacher
- b. Zilgme, Peter - Clay Target Enrichment Coordinator

### B. APPOINTMENTS

#### 1. Probationary Appointment - Teaching Assistant

- a. Willis, Sofie - Teaching Assistant, Donald P. Sutherland Elementary School  
(Replacing Lucy Lizotte, resignation)  
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant  
Probationary Period: 2/8/24-2/7/28  
Certification Status: NYS Teaching Assistant, Level I  
Salary: Step 1 = \$22.01 per hour  
Hours per day: 6.5

#### 2. Clay Target Enrichment Coordinator

Name	Stipend
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a. Batcher, Daniel     \$39.00 per hour (Maximum of 80 hours)

### 3. Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Name	Certification Area	Degree Status	Effective Date
DiStefano, Zoe	Occupational Therapy	A.A.S.	2/8/24
Timmons, Pamela	Finance & Business Degrees	M.B.A.	2/8/24

## C. MISCELLANEOUS

### 1. Athletic Coaching Positions - 2023-2024 Spring Sports Season

a. Scott Mocerine	Co-Modified Baseball Certified Teaching Assistant - Goff - Temporary Coaching License
Experience:	Baseball     Volunteer coach 2023 Soccer     JV Boys' Soccer - Columbia - 2023
Base Salary:	\$1,504.50 (pending EGTA negotiations)
Start Date:	March 25, 2024
b. Joseph DiBella	Varsity Girls' Assistant Lacrosse Non-certified Teacher - Temporary Coaching License
Experience:	Lacrosse     Volunteer coach - 2023
Base Salary:	\$3,936.00 (pending EGTA negotiations)
Start Date:	March 11, 2024
c. Shawn Gibson	Junior Varsity Softball Certified Teacher - Physical Education - Columbia
Experience:	Softball     J.V. Softball - Columbia - 2021-2023 Varsity Softball - Cohoes - 2020 J.V. Softball - Cohoes - 2018-2019 Football     Varsity Assist. Football - Columbia - 2022 J.V. Assistant Football - Columbia - 2021 Co-Varsity Football - Cohoes - (F2) 2021 Varsity Assist. Football - Cohoes - 2019 Modified Football - Cohoes - 2017-2018 Basketball     Freshmen Boys' Basketball - Columbia - 2022-2024
Base Salary:	\$3,936.00 + \$382.00 = \$4,318.00 (pending EGTA negotiations)
Start Date:	March 11, 2024

### 2. Volunteer Coaches 2023-2024 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.

Name	Sport
Gildart, Daniel	Boys' Lacrosse

## C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Nelson, Diana	substitute Aide	1/23/24	Resignation
	substitute Monitor	1/23/24	
	substitute Senior Monitor	1/23/24	
Rudnick, Gwen	Occupational Therapist-District Wide	6/30/24	Retirement
Wilson, Christina	Bus Driver-Transportation	2/3/24	Resignation

Appointment as listed:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Malkiewicz, Matthew	Educational Technology Specialist	2/26/24	Step 1 = \$39.76 per hour
	Provisional		8 hours/12 months

Washington, Latonya	Monitor-Bell Top Probation period: 2/8/24-10/7/24	2/8/24	Step 1 = \$15.93 per hour 3.5 hours10 months
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Substitute employees as listed:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
DiStefano, Zoe	Aide	2/8/24	Step 1 (AS) = \$19.42 per hour
Mann, Emily	Aide	2/8/24	Step 1 (BA) = \$21.19 per hour
Timmons, Pamela	Aide	2/8/24	Step 1 (BA) = \$21.19 per hour

D. Library Materials Recommended to be Weeded- Red Mill Elementary

E. Disposal of District Property - Assets

F. 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

#### **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. Steinbach stated that she knows that it is a very busy time of year, and she wanted to thank the Administrators for all their work on the presentations, advocacy efforts, etc.

Mr. Buono agreed, and thanked Ms. Steinbach for acknowledging the work. He said the Administrators have taken on a lot this year with the budget challenges, and with the capital project planning on a pretty aggressive schedule.

Ms. O'Brien agreed, and acknowledged all the information provided in the presentation of the capital project, and the ongoing engagement with the community. She said she thought the public is supportive and interested in the project and are trying to view it not only as a project for the District, but also for the community.

Mr. Buono thanked Ms. Savoca for her comments and said he appreciates that they have all been working together to try to come to an agreement. He also thanked the EGTA members for attending the meetings and for all the feedback.

#### **18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Temple, Second by Ms. Taylor to enter Executive Session for purposes of Negotiations

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 8:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn  
District Clerk

#### **19. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Second by Mr. Temple to Adjourn the Meeting

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 9:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kennedy  
Assistant District Clerk