

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024
Donald P. Sutherland Cafeteria**

1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER : Mr. Buono- 7:04 P.M.

B. ATTENDANCE

	Present	Absent	Arrival
Mr. Buono	X		
Mr. Dunn	X		
Ms. Kennedy	X		
Mr. Mann		X	
Ms. O'Brien			X 7:18P.M.
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 Student Council is sending out an interest form to the student body to gauge interest in having a Dance-a-thon in April.

Kole Hardy stated Student Council has decided to hold the end of the year field trip in Boston to celebrate the year and all their hard work. He also mentioned that some council members will be attending a Suburban Council Leadership Conference on March 5, 2024. He said this is an event where students from all over the region share ideas of leadership, innovation and their passion for all things related to student government.

B. Donald P. Sutherland Elementary School Board Student Program Presentation

Mr. Alvey discussed the Coding Club and their new STEM kit, Makey Makey, an educational system that brings engineering and coding concepts to life in exciting new way. Mr. Alvey explained that Ms. Conyers sets up the club so students work with different partners from different grade levels collaboratively to solve problems.

Ms. Conyers and the students explained some of the projects, and then the Board took a few minutes to walk around to observe and discuss the projects with the children.

Mr. Alvey also announced that Ms. Conyers was recognized as a Master teacher through the State University of New York and congratulated her on the achievement.

4. MINUTES

A. Approval of Draft Minutes dated January 24, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF JANUARY 24, 2024

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Second by Ms. Skumurski

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 dated January 24, 2024.

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

Motion carried

B. Approval of Draft Minutes dated February 7, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2024

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

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 dated February 7, 2024.

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

Motion carried

5. BOARD FORUM #1

Mr. Dunn thanked the DPS students, staff and Mr. Alvey for the presentation.

Ms. O'Brien thanked the DPS students for presenting and explaining their projects so well. She said she was also very impressed with the Columbia students and their efforts with the Columbia Kicks Cancer campaign and stated they were all doing such a great job.

Ms. Taylor thanked the Columbia students for their selfless efforts and stated how their work has pulled the whole community together. She said they should be very proud of what they have accomplished.

6. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Mr. Grignon gave a shout-out to Genet Kindergarten teacher, Julie Hammill for being recognized as a top teacher by News Channel 13/Broadview Federal Credit Union.

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Assemblymember John McDonald gave an update on some of the issues facing the District in the State budget. He explained that East Greenbush is projected to receive less aid this year. The Assemblyman said the legislators are meeting with the Governor's team to discuss the final revenues school districts can expect, and are hopeful that they can make up for the original short coming. He also stated he thought this year's budget would probably be delayed by a couple weeks.

Mr. Dunn thanked Mr. McDonald for attending and said he is continuing to advocate for East Greenbush CSD and feels frustrated by unnecessary mandates and said he feels that downstate carries a lot of the weight reflected in the budget. He also said he appreciates Assemblyman McDonald's work to continue to be the voice for the District.

Mr. McDonald said he knows how important education is and will continue to work for equality in the budget. He stated that New York has a very strong system, but needs the proper resources to be successful.

Mr. Buono discussed the UPK funding and stated that even though the District has been awarded funding, they are limited on how it can be used. He asked Assemblymember McDonald to work to change how the funds can be utilized.

Mr. Simons asked about the retiree waiver, and asked if he thought that waiver might be extended.

Mr. McDonald said they understand the challenges of finding candidates for teaching positions, so he thought the need to extend the waiver is important and will work for the waiver to be continued.

Mr. Temple discussed how education and healthcare go hand and hand and should both be considered equally.

Mr. McDonald agreed those issues should be the top two issues addressed in the budget.

Mr. Simons thanked Mr. McDonald for attending and for his effectiveness in the Legislature in regards to the District.

B. Columbia Kicks Cancer Team

Mr. Simons acknowledged the Columbia High School seniors that have given their time and efforts to a very powerful leadership activity called Columbia Kicks Cancer. This is an effort to raise money for Leukemia/Lymphoma research.

Team leaders, Cole Durivage, Patrick Donnelly and Corey Hamilton stated that they, along with 16 other senior classmates have been running 2-3 fundraising events every week to raise money to improve medical research for blood cancer patients.

Donations will be accepted until March 7, 2024. They thanked everyone for the donations and helping them raise money for this worthwhile event.

C. UPK Study for the East Greenbush CSD- Dr. Lee Bordick

Mr. Lee Bordick presented his study researching the sustainability and impact of the current UPK program.

Mr. Buono asked if the community based programs are subject to the same standards as other programs, and if the teachers are required to be State certified.

Mr. Bordick said the programs are required to have the same standards, the teachers are not required to be certified, but most of them are. He also added that the advantage of the community based programs is that they are more able to offer before and after school programs, which is a very valuable asset to many families.

Mr. Temple commented that he appreciates the information provided in the report, and stated the District needs to focus on mandated education while also balancing the Board priorities. He said he does not want to give the community false expectations that the District can advance UPK, especially when the district is entering a difficult fiscal environment. He said he doesn't want to say is there a potential to start a sustainable UPK program and then have to shift the focus to the mandated programs if there is additional fiscal strain. He explained it is not a lack of priority, but a recognition, that the District would prefer to create a steady path forward.

Mr. Bordick agreed that the District should move forward cautiously.

Ms. Skumurski said she would love to offer the program to everyone, but understands there is not enough space or community based programs to accommodate the approximate 300 students.

Mr. Simons commented that through the RFP process, the new community based programs would agree to provide services for the allotted \$5400, so there would be no additional cost to the District.

Mr. Dunn said he understands the needs of the families and feels the best way to move forward is to have an honest conversation with the community about the costs of the program, the priorities of the Board and how they are working to make full UPK possible, so the District is not misrepresenting any position than what is best for all the students in the District. He said he knows that the before and after care programs are really needed for working families, and feels the community based programs are great, because they provide opportunity and a solution all in one. Mr. Dunn agreed with Mr. Temple that the District

cannot sacrifice the mandated programs to provide UPK opportunities, and urged everyone to advocate for flexibility to use the allocated UPK funding as needed.

Mr. Stiles said he thinks it is very important to look at the long term feasibility of UPK. He said that as the application process has rolled out, a few community based agencies have reached out and may be interested in providing programs for the \$5400 per child. Mr. Stiles said if the Board is in agreement, he has been preparing an RFP that can be sent and will allow enough time for the District to notify the families of all the locations prior to an April lottery.

Ms. Skumurski asked if all of the programs were State funded.

Mr. Simons explained that the Questar III and Early Childhood Education Center classes are both State and taxpayer funded, since their charges are higher than the \$5400 the State allocates per child, but Holy Spirit and the newly interested providers would have to agree to accept the allocated amount. He said currently the total cost of the Questar III and ECEC programs is \$385,000, and that amount will be charged from the general fund.

Mr. Dunn asked if there was a deadline for families to apply.

Mr. Simons said the application is only available until March 8, 2024, and then the link will be taken off the website.

Mr. Stiles said he is still in discussions with area providers, and there may be more classrooms available through the RFP process.

Ms. Skumurski said she thinks many families will appreciate having wrap-around programs that work with their schedules.

Mr. Simons said the District is working on trying to set up before and after care programs for the in-school programs.

Mr. Buono asked for an estimated timeline on the RFP.

Mr. Stiles said he has been working on the RFP and it could be available to send out as early as the first week of March. He said he would like to keep the previous lottery timeline of mid-April, and thinks it is best for the families to be informed of all the locations before the lottery so they can make choices to fit their situation.

Mr. Buono agreed the District should move forward with the RFP.

Mr. Dunn stated he thought the District can provide information that the community based programs offer before and after services, but should let the families reach out to the provider for more information about those services if they are interested.

Mr. Temple expressed his concern about the programs all providing the same basic curriculum so there is not a problem when the students enter the District and take assessments in the future.

Mr. Stiles assured everyone the curriculum is State mandated, and there are requirements for assessments.

Mr. Buono asked if there should be a committee to review the RFP.

Mr. Simons said there was a committee initially, but the current RFP is essentially the same, just minor adjustments.

Mr. Buono said he has a high level of interest in seeing the RFP prior to it being sent out.

Mr. Dunn suggested Mr. Buono review the RFP to make sure everyone's interests are expressed, and then form a committee to review the responses after they are received back from the interested agencies.

Ms. Skumurski agreed, and suggested a small committee to review the responses.

Mr. Stiles said once he gets the RFP back from attorney review, he will share it with Mr. Buono, probably early next week.

D. Capital Project Planning

Mr. Simons reported he and some of his administrative team have been going out into the community to present the \$116M Capital Project. He said the team is working to provide two tiers, one with the Board priorities, and another in case some of the bids come in lower and other work can be added. The Superintendent said the team is still working on the scope, but will bring it to the next meeting for the Board to review.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Tax Cap Preliminary Calculation

Ms. Mulligan explained how the tax cap is calculated and stated that at this point, the cap is .55%. She explained the tax cap is the amount the District could increase the tax levy without a super majority vote, not necessarily the amount the District is planning to increase the tax levy. She said this is very preliminary and she will expect some of the numbers to change as she works on finalizing the budget.

Mr. Temple asked if the tax cap would be used to look at revenue projections going forward.

Ms. Mulligan said she will be trying to calculate what the tax cap will look like in future years, so she can understand the levying authority. She explained there are procedures in the law to allow districts to exceed the tax cap limit, if needed.

B. Budget Calendar & District Vote

Ms. Mulligan stated she added April 23, 2024 as the latest possible date of budget adoption. She explained she added the date for reference, in case they decide to wait for all the information about the State budget before adopting.

C. Draft School Calendar 2024-2025

Ms. Cannon presented the draft school calendar for school year 2024-2025, explained the changes, and said if there were no questions or changes, she will bring it to the next Board of Education meeting for approval.

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 Mr. Dunn

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. Citizen Genet Auditorium Video System Bid

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CITIZEN GENET AUDITORIUM VIDEO SYSTEM BID.

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Mr. Temple

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Citizen Genet Auditorium Video System Bid.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. Policy #4327~Homebound Instruction-Second Reading

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

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

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

D. Policy #4321.12 & #4321.12-R~Timeout and Physical Restraint-Second Reading

Motion by Ms. O'Brien, Second by Ms. Kennedy to Approve the Second 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

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Marissa Cannon, Director of Human Resources - Workplace Violence Prevention

Ms. Cannon reported that all the site assessments have been completed ahead of schedule. She said a number of areas were reviewed and now reports are being processed. She said next they will work to come up with a violence prevention program and training modules to bring to the staff.

B. Jennifer Mulligan, Director of Business and Finance

None at this time.

C. Roy Stiles, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction ~ CCS Meeting 2-7-2024

Mr. Stiles presented the minutes of the the last meeting and reported the members of the Committee for Curriculum Studies have met and reviewed the progress of the program reviews and discussed the goals of the upcoming professional development opportunities. Mr. Stiles said he recently attended a professional development opportunity at Questar III about AI and how it affects education.

Mr. Harkin provided some information regarding the AI program, and said he and some other staff were in attendance, and will be presenting some of the ideas to the staff, and showing them how the technology will aid them in the classroom.

Mr. Buono said students are already using these AI tools, and the staff needs to learn to use the technology, so they can help prepare the students for the future.

D. Jeffrey P. Simons, Superintendent ~ Advocacy Committee Meeting 2-14-2024

Mr. Simons reported that members of the Advocacy Committee have a meeting scheduled with area Legislators on March 8, 2024. He said they have written a letter outlining issues that are important to the District, such as the foundation aid adjustments, UPK funding, the retiree waiver, the free lunch and nutrition program and the momentum occurring, and how the District would like to continue that growth. He said the committee plans on delivering the letter, and discussing these issues at that visit.

11. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time

12. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Financial Reports

2024-02-28 Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants - 0120, 0122, 0123, 0126, 0128, 0130, 0131, V0110, V0119

May and June 2023 Treasurer's Reports

Activity Reports for Goff Middle School and Columbia High School for the Months of September and October

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Leaves of Absence

a. Colwell, Caroline - Special Education, Green Meadow Elementary School, requesting an unpaid child-rearing leave of absence from 2/15/24-3/22/24. Planned return 3/25/24.

b. Sorensen-Chase, Jennifer - Psychologist, Red Mill Elementary School, requesting an unpaid child rearing leave of absence from 2/5/24-4/26/24. Planned return 4/29/24.

2. Resignation

- a. Alviene, Susan - Substitute Teacher, effective 2/9/24
- b. Vitale, Michelle - Teaching Assistant, Donald P. Sutherland Elementary School, effective 3/14/24.
Date of Hire: 8/31/23 Reason: full time teaching position in another district

B. APPOINTMENT

1. Tutor/Home Instruction

Name	Certification Area	Effective
a. Hinkle, Ryan	Childhood Education Students W/Disabilities Mathematics 7-9 Ext.	2/29/24

2. Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Name	Certification Area	Degree Status	Effective Date
Mastroianni, Sarah	Childhood Education	B.S.	2/29/24
Tremblay, Cheyenne	Childhood Education 1-6	M.S.	2/29/24

C. OTHER

1. Adjustment to Leave of Absence dates

- a. Shaffer, Quinn - Teaching Assistant, Goff Middle School
From: 1/17/24-4/30/24
To: 1/17/24-5/8/24

D. MISCELLANEOUS

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

- a. T. Craig Cavotta
Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Certified Teacher - Special Education - Columbia
Experience: Football J.V. Assistant Football - Columbia - 2006-2009/2023
Varsity Football - Columbia - 2011-2016
J.V. Football - Columbia - 2010
Modified Assistant Football - Goff - 2005
Modified Football - Averill Park - 2004
Basketball Girls' Co-J.V. Basketball - Columbia - 2011
Wrestling Co-Modified Wrestling - Goff - 2005-2008
Lacrosse Co-Freshmen Lacrosse - Columbia - 2007-2011
Base Salary: \$4,628.00 + \$1,342.00 = \$5,970.00 (pending EGTA negotiations)
Start Date: March 11, 2024
- b. Melanie Boomhower
Girls' Varsity Assistant Flag Football
Certified Teacher - Mathematics - Columbia
Experience: Soccer J.V. Girls' Soccer - Columbia - 2021-2023
Bowling Varsity Unified Bowling - Columbia- 2024
Base Salary: \$3,936.00 (pending EGTA negotiations)
Start Date: March 11, 2024
- c. Joseph Hoxie
Junior Varsity Boys' Lacrosse
Non-Certified Teacher - Temporary Coaching License
Experience: Lacrosse JV Boys' Lacrosse - Columbia - 2022-2023
Base Salary: \$3,936.00 (pending EGTA negotiations)
Start Date: March 11, 2024
- d. Jacob Preston
Girls' Modified Lacrosse
Certified Teacher - Physical Education - Green Meadow/D.P. Sutherland
Experience: Basketball Freshmen Girls' Basketball - Columbia - 2022-2024

Football Varsity Football - Columbia - 2022-2023
 Varsity Assist. Football - Columbia-2021
 J.V. Co-Assist. Football - Columbia - F2-2021
 Track G. Outdoor Track Assist. - Columbia - 2021

Base Salary: \$3,503.00 (pending EGTA negotiations)

Start Date: March 25, 2024

3. 2023-2024 Police for Home Athletic Contests

Boniface, Jake Bruno, Matthew Finch, Brenden Milkiewicz, Zach

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Backmon, Mikelle	Substitute Aide	2/28/24	Per Request
Janowski, Vincent	Substitute Custodial Worker	2/28/24	Per Request
Lentz, Jackson	Substitute Aide	2/28/24	Per Request
Natalie, Keith	Custodial Worker-Green Meadow	2/28/24	Resignation
Roberts, Ashley	Substitute Aide	2/28/24	Per Request
	Substitute Monitor	2/28/24	
	Substitute Senior Monitor	2/28/24	
Roberts, Catherine	School Bus Driver	3/4/24	Resignation
Roy, Bonnie	Substitute Senior Bus Driver	2/28/24	Per Request
	Substitute Bus Driver	2/28/24	
	Substitute Aide	2/28/24	
Terwilliger, Karen	Substitute Aide	2/7/24	Per Request
	Substitute Monitor	2/7/24	
	Substitute Senior Monitor	2/7/24	
Wood, Brianna	Substitute Aide	2/28/24	Per Request
Appointment as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Callander, Corey	Bus Driver Probation: 2/28/24-10/27/24	2/28/24	Step 3 = \$26.90 per hour 6.75 hours/10 months
Substitute employees as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Forezzi, Karly	Aide	2/28/24	Step 1 (BA) = \$21.19 per hour
Hadley, Judith	Bus Aide	2/28/24	Step 1(AS) = \$19.42 per hour
Mastroianna, Sarah	Aide	2/28/24	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.19 per hour
Tremblay, Cheyenne	Aide	2/28/24	Step 1 (MS) = \$21.19 per hour

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

E. Disposal of District Property - Assets

F. Request to Correct Tax Rolls

G. Health and Welfare Services Contract - Bethlehem Central School District

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

I. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Second by Mr. Temple

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

15. NEW BUSINESS

None

16. PUBLIC FORUM #2

None

17. BOARD FORUM #2

Mr. Buono thanked everyone at Donald P. Sutherland for hosting the meeting, and providing the refreshments. He also acknowledged how busy things are with the budget, capital project, and UPK, and thanked all the Administrators and staff for all their efforts to provide information to the Board and community.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Mr. Temple to Adjourn the meeting

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 9:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn

District Clerk