

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024
Central Administration Boardroom**

1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER- Mr. Buono- 7:00 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

Mr. Buono asked everyone to respectfully recognize a moment of silence for the loss of National Guard helicopter pilot, Casey Frankoski, and the other members of her unit.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MINUTES

A. Approval of Draft Minutes dated February 28, 2024- Public Hearing

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2024- PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Second by Mr. Temple

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 February 28, 2024- Public Hearing

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

Motion carried

B. Approval of Draft Minutes dated February 28, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2024-

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Mr. Temple

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 February 28, 2024

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

Motion carried

4. BOARD FORUM #1

Ms. O'Brien congratulated the Girl's Bowling team on their undefeated season, and on winning the NYSPHSAA Championship.

Ms. Steinbach stated she went to the Columbia High School play, Beauty and the Beast, and thought it was a great production.

5. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Dr. Wanda McQueen, Transportation Supervisor, thanked the Bell Top staff and PTO for hosting a bus driver appreciation breakfast. She said the bus drivers were deeply appreciative of the event.

Ms. Alison Savoca, EGTA president, gave a shout-out to kindergarten teacher, Julie Hamill, for her recent News Channel 13-Broadview Top Teacher recognition.

Ms. Savoca thanked the Board and Administration for their collaboration on reaching a fair and reasonable agreement. She stated that the EGTA remains committed to the school and will continue to provide the excellence the community has come to expect, and will also continue to make the East Greenbush Central School District proud.

6. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. The Columbia Café

Andrew Gabriel, Cole Mellen, and Carter Norton presented their proposal to improve the Snack Shack at Columbia High School. Their idea is to have special education students and the general student body work together in the cafe. The special education students would benefit by being able to learn life and communication skills right in the high school, while interacting with their peers. The general ed students would be able to attain their needed volunteer hours while working with students who they normally would not have a chance to work with, teaching them compassion, patience and understanding. The seniors also stated they would like to broaden the menu with a wider variety of food options.

The seniors discussed the costs and the items needed to renovate and equip the cafe, and asked the Board for their support to make this initiative happen.

Ms. Skumurski asked if the students assessed how much the District will make from the improved Snack Shack.

Cole Mellen stated that currently the cafe makes about \$6000, and with the inclusion of additional offerings, they expect the profits to increase.

Mr. Temple said he thought it was very admirable that the students want to include the special education students, and asked if any of them had personal connections.

Cole Mellen said they recognized there is not a lot of interaction among the two groups, and thought it would be beneficial for the special education students to be able to work with their peers. Andrew Gabriel stated that the collaboration would also help the general education students understand and interact with different types of people, giving them a crucial life skill.

Mr. Temple stated that the world is made up of many different people that share the world together, and the experiences we share help develop our own ideas and connect with who we are.

Carter Norton explained that he had an opportunity to run track with a special needs student, and he realized that having a disability doesn't make others much different than anyone else.

Andrew Gabriel said that not all of the students are inclusive, and he thinks having the students all working together will help educate them and make them realize they can all work together and learn from each other.

Ms. O'Brien said she was very impressed by their presentation and thinks it is a fantastic idea. She said she would be supportive of moving this initiative forward.

Ms. Steinbach said she thought the caliber of the presentation was very impressive. She said she applauds them for coming up with this idea and being inclusive and accepting of others. Ms. Steinbach said the more we can show this acceptance, and show it is the way things should be, really matters.

Mr. Dunn thanked the students for the presentation and said the Board and the whole District are very proud of their initiative. He said this idea is exactly what the Board strives for; to create an environment where everyone has a place and feels welcome.

Mr. Dunn encouraged the students to continue their work and leadership into the future, and always pay it forward.

Ms. Skumurski praised the students work, and thanked them for inspiring everyone with their idea.

Mr. Buono stated his appreciation of the teachers for fostering ideas and guiding the students. He stated the Board is very supportive, and will facilitate this proposal in moving forward.

B. 2024-2025 Budget Workshop Presentation Workshop #1

Mr. Simons gave a preliminary look at the 2024-2025 budget discussing the revenues and expenditures. He explained how Governor Hochul changed the Foundation aid calculations, and due to that, East Greenbush is expecting less aid than anticipated. Mr. Simons reported that the preliminary budget is at \$112 million at this point and there is a gap of approximately \$1.9 million. The Superintendent reported that he has been recently notified that advocacy efforts at the Legislature may result in some level of aid restoration. He said the team is still working on the numbers, but expects to be able to close the gap.

Mr. Simons explained the PILOT programs and the tax cap calculations. He said every year since prior to 2016-2017, the Board has strived to keep the tax levy increases below the tax cap, especially in the last three years through the pandemic. The Superintendent stated the Board and the District made decisions to help the students and the taxpayers by keeping the tax levy 0% in 2021, 0% in 2022, and .5% in 2023, which accounts for an average of .17% increase during that time. He reported that the current tax cap comes in very low, at .55%. He said the Board of Education can exceed the tax cap by a super majority vote, which includes 60% of the voters authorizing the Board to go over the tax cap amount. He said while they are not proposing this at this time, they are projecting the preliminary budget would include a tax levy of 3.3%, but they are hoping when the final State budget is reached, that number can be lowered.

Mr. Buono thanked everyone for all the work they put into the budget and said the gap seems manageable and reasonable at this point in the process.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Capital Project Update - Scope of Work Based on Cost Estimates

Mr. Simons explained that he, Ms. Mulligan, Mr. Bickel, Turner Construction and LaBella Architects have been working for many months to provide a \$116 million cost neutral scope of the capital project to the Board and community. He explained that original cost estimates were actually quite low, so the team worked to prioritize projects the Board indicated they wanted to provide to the students and the community. The Superintendent stated that some items had to be shifted to a Tier 2 level, but the District would still try to include those items if costs allow.

Mr. Buono explained that he and Mr. Mann have also been attending meetings and walk-throughs to ensure the scope represents the items the Board members felt were the most important, not only for the students, but also for the families and the community.

Mr. Simons gave a summary of some of the Tier 1 projects, such as air conditioning in all elementary schools, new elementary playgrounds, and upgraded Library media centers. At Columbia High School, a full roof replacement, parking lot upgrades, a new access road, upgraded athletic fields and courts, and a restructured entrance with safer sidewalks. At Goff Middle School, plans include improvements to the grass fields, a new turf field with a six lane track, replacing the baseball field, upgraded locker rooms, some new flooring and ceiling replacements. He stated that if project bids come in lower than expected, the District and Board will discuss and evaluate the possibility of adding Tier 2 projects, but also be mindful that other projects later in the scope, may come in higher than expected.

Mr. Buono said he likes that there is a balance to the scope, with each school getting much needed items.

Ms. Skumurski asked what kind of contingency is built into Tier 1.

Mr. Kevin Hennion, from Turner Construction, said as they have gone through the design process, their team has designed high level concept drawings of projects the District has prioritized. He said they then analyze the information using historical data and current market trends in order to project out the costs down the road. He explained there is usually a 5%-7% contingency built into construction costs. Mr. Hennion said that the Construction teams have been trying to go into all the areas to see the actual scope of work needed to get a more accurate idea of what is needed, and what the costs will be.

Ms. Skumurski asked if there would be research done to find funding or energy grants for Tier 3 items.

Mr. Hennion said he thought there might be other sources of funding outside of the capital improvement project available.

Mr. Simons discussed the original proposal of adding up to ten new classrooms. He said the team has done a review of underutilized and unused space at Genet Elementary School, and with design changes and reconstruction, there is the possibility of 3-4 classrooms there, without adding to the footprint of the building. The Superintendent explained that when you add classrooms to the footprint, the State aids the addition at a lower rate than renovating existing buildings. He said sometimes the State Education Department will not aid an addition based on the capacity of the building. Mr. Simons said there is a meeting scheduled on March 20, 2024 with LaBella, and representatives of the State Education Department to discuss how many classrooms the District would like to add, and to find out what additional information is needed to support those additions. He said the District does not have sufficient information to know the cost of these additions or if the District will be able to include the additions in the \$116 million capital project.

Ms. Skumurski said she was confused by the items on the scope that are in both Tier 1 and Tier 2, and wondered how they would decide what work would be done.

Mr. Bicke explained that, for example in the parking lots, in Tier 1 they would just mill the surface and then apply a top coat, but if the bid came in low, they would take the lot down to nothing and rebuilding the pavement, as noted in Tier 2. He explained the Tier 2's are alternates, and they will be bidding them out as additional work. Mr. Bicke said if the bids are favorable, those items will be included in the project.

Mr. Temple asked for feedback from the Administrators in the buildings, so the Board can decide what to include or cut according to the people actually using the facility.

Mr. Simons assured the Board that the Administrators were involved in the process, and the team has tried to preserve the items that were wanted.

Ms. Steinbach asked about the costs of the additional cameras.

Mr. Simons said in the last project, Columbia High School didn't receive a camera upgrade because their cameras were newer at the time. He said those cameras now need to be replaced, and administrators at the other schools would like to add cameras in spaces that they are unable to see.

Mr. Bicke said the Columbia High School cameras are starting to fail and need to be replaced. He said additional cameras need to be added to different spaces at all the schools. He said the elementary schools are lacking cameras in hallways and cafeterias and in outside areas as well.

Ms. Steinbach asked if the cameras were used for safety, or to know what is going on in the schools.

Mr. Simons explained that the cameras are used daily to investigate incidents and allegations, such as student to student interactions or disagreements, to obtain facts to support discipline matters, and to monitor after hours outside activity at all the buildings. He explained that law enforcement also has access to the cameras, in case of an emergency.

Ms. O'Brien said she appreciates all the work that has went into narrowing down the scope, and said she was glad items for the community are still included as Tier 1.

Ms. Skumurski said she wants to be mindful that the students are priority.

Ms. Simons explained that due to the cost of the new turf field, some of the other fields will get basic upgrade improvements.

Mr. Buono said with the new turf field at Goff, some of the activities will move to those new fields, where there is ample space and sufficient parking.

Mr. Dunn stated that the District has enough fields, and with upgraded drainage plans, those fields can be better utilized. He stated that is why the investment in the drainage and infrastructure is vitally important, because water is the reason the parking lot and fields don't work as they are intended.

Mr. Bicke explained the District is trying to tie into the drainage and sewer systems wherever possible to help alleviate some of the water issues.

Mr. Simons said it is important to note the plans for site work includes reviews for a SEQRA type 1, due to more disturbance of the land than in prior projects.

Mr. Andrew Rymph, from LaBella Associates, said they sent a Wetland Biologist out to look at the grounds surrounding Columbia, Goff and Bell Top. He said they know that the water issues at Columbia and Goff can be constrained, and are now re-evaluating plans to mitigate those issues.

Mr. Buono asked the team to take another look at the Columbia High School baseball fields, and see if it is possible to bring down the costs of that project.

Ms. Skumurski thanked the team for listening to the wants of the families and the community, and that she fully supports those projects.

Mr. Simons encouraged everyone to review the scope as it's a balance of facility improvements that support the learning environment, and athletic field improvements for students and the community.

Mr. Temple stepped out of the meeting - 8:39 P.M.

8. REGULAR BUSINESS A. Approval of Programs for Resident Children with Disabilities RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENT CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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

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- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Mr. Temple returned to the meeting - 8:44 P.M.

B. Revised Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office SRO Rate Agreement

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED RENSSELAER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SRO RATE AGREEMENT

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Ms. Skumurski

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Revised Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office SRO Rate Agreement.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. Memorandum of Agreement with CSEA

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH CSEA.

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

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement with CSEA.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

D. 2024-2025 School Calendar

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Motion by Ms. Kennedy, Second by Ms. Skumurski

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the 2024-2025 Calendar.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

E. Memorandum of Agreement with East Greenbush Teachers' Association

Mr. Simons stated negotiations with any bargaining unit is a process where both sides need to work together to come to an agreement. He thanked Alison Savoca, EGTA President, Dan Wagner, EGTA Vice President and all the other EGTA representatives for their collaboration. He said that even though its has been a long process, he knew with the exceptional quality teachers involved, that they would be able to come to a fair agreement for the teachers that would also benefit the District long-term.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE EAST GREENBUSH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Motion by. Mr. Dunn, Second by Ms. Skumurski

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement with the East Greenbush Teachers' Association.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

9. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Financial Reports

2024-03-13 Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants - 0132, 0133, 0134, V067, V122, V130

2024-03-13 Treasurer's Reports - Treasurer's Report for the Month of July, 2023

2024-03-13 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Reports - Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report for Columbia High School and Goff Middle School for the Months of November and December, 2023

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

a. Rudat, Adrienne - Teaching Assistant, Genet Elementary School, effective 4/5/24.
Date of Hire: 11/13/03

2. Leave of Absence

a. Anane, Owusu - Teaching Assistant, Columbia High School, requesting an unpaid leave of absence for personal reasons from 4/8/24-6/30/24. Planned return 7/1/24.

3. Resignation

a. Dunn, Catherine - Special Education Teacher, Howard L. Goff Middle School, effective 6/30/24.
Date of Hire: 9/26/23 Reason: personal

b. Watson, Michael Jr. - Substitute teacher, effective 2/27/24.

B. APPOINTMENTS

1. Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Name	Certification Area	Degree Status	Effective Date
Abare II, Michael	Childhood Ed & Students w/Disabilities	M.S.	3/14/24

2. Substitute Teaching Assistant 2023-2024

a. Rudat, Adrienne, Step 11 \$27.59 per hour

3. Student Teachers/Interns 2023-2024 School Year

Building	Student	Content Area	Cooperating Teacher	College/Term
Bell Top	Era Crenshaw	Elementary	Melanie Lyte	St. Rose/Spring 2
Columbia	Isabella Sokaris	English	Nicole Weiss	St. Rose/Spring 2
Goff	Ashley Angelo	Elementary	Jaclyn Duncan	St. Rose/Spring 2
Goff	Simon Lindmark	Music	Dave Bresnahan	SUNY Potsdam/Spring 2
Green Meadow	Rachel Horgan	Elementary	Michelle Ecker	St. Rose/Spring 2
Red Mill	Paul Wright	Special Education	Amy Morgan	St. Rose/Spring 2
Red Mill	Ayana Butler	Special Education	Paula Sobol	St. Rose/Spring 2

C. OTHER

1. Salary Adjustments - Credit Hours

Name	From	To	Compensation (prorated for 1/2 year)
Coco, Paul	M+0	M+12	\$312.00
Fancher, Bret	M+0	M+48	\$1,248.00
Kuhn, Zachary	B+0	B+6	\$156.00
Preston, Jacob	B+0	M+0	\$1,420.00
Reddy, Jennifer	M+0	M+3	\$78.00
White, MacKenzie	M+31	M+37	\$156.00

D. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Volunteer Coach 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
Kennedy, Siobhan	Girls' Flag Football

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Appointment as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Warman, Elizabeth	Monitor-DPS Probation: 3/14/24-11/13/24	3/14/24	Step 1 = \$15.93 per hour 3.75 hours/10 months
Substitute employees as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Abare, Michael	Aide	3/14/24	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.19 per hour

Hansen, Madeline	Aide Monitor	3/14/24 3/14/24	Step 1 (HS) = \$17.11 per hour Step 1 = \$15.93 per hour
Kraz, Julianne	Aide	3/14/24	Step 1 (HS) = \$17.11 per hour
Walters, Peyton	Aide Monitor	3/14/24 3/14/24	Step 1 (HS) = \$17.11 per hour Step 1 = \$15.93 per hour

D. 2023-2024 Non-Resident Tuition Rates

E. Tuition Rates for Wynantskill Union Free School

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

G. Health and Welfare Services Contract- Wynantskill Union Free School District

H. Health and Welfare Services Contract- South Colonie Central School District

I. Library Materials Recommended for Weeding-Columbia High School Library

J. Howard L. Goff Middle School Science Olympiad State Competition - East Syracuse, NY

K. Disposal of District Property - Assets

L. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Motion by Mr. Temple, Second by Ms. Steinbach

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

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

12. ADDENDUM

None at this time.

13. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

14. PUBLIC FORUM #2

None at this time.

15. BOARD FORUM #2

None at this time.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Temple, Second by Ms. Steinbach to enter Executive Session for purposes of Negotiations and Contractual Matters

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 8:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Ms. Steinbach to Adjourn the Meeting

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 10:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kennedy
Assistant District Clerk