

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024  
Genet Elementary Auditorium**

**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		
Mr. Mulligan	X		
Mr. Stiles	X		
 Student Council			
Roan Butterfield	X		
Kole Hardy		X	

**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 has been working on finalizing their field trip plans to Boston. He stated they are also starting to prepare for the upcoming Student Council election and the annual Columbian Awards ceremony.

B. Volunteer Recognition - Genet Elementary School Principal~Wayne Grignon

Mr. Simons expressed his and the Board's gratitude to all the individuals who step up and give their time to provide programs, extra activities and give support to the staff and students. He said the District would not be as strong without the volunteers. Mr. Grignon said the volunteer's impact on the day to day operations cannot be overstated and they are essential and deeply valued.

All the Building Administrators, and the Directors of Technology and Athletics introduced their choices for Volunteer of the Year and explained how each volunteer has repeatedly stepped up to help, whether in the classrooms, library, or assisting with a school activity.

**4. MINUTES**

A. Approval of Draft Minutes dated March 27, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF MARCH 27, 2024**

Motion by Mr. Mann, Second by Mr. Dunn

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 March 27, 2024.

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 2 (Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Skumurski)

Motion carried

B. Approval of Draft Minutes dated April 9, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2024**

Motion by Ms. Taylor, 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 April 9, 2024.

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 2 (Mr. Dunn, Ms. O'Brien)

Motion carried

## 5. BOARD FORUM #1

Mr. Buono mentioned that some Genet parents have expressed concerns about class sizes in the upcoming school year. He said a document has been added to tonight's agenda to help give context and historical data on class size. Mr. Buono said the Board has heard the concerns and always look at the class sizes throughout the District to keep them comparable and consistent across the schools.

## 6. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Ms. Ingrid Espinosa, parent of a Goff student, asked the Board to implement a smartphone free school district. She said she appreciates that Goff Middle School has limited phone usage, but would like to see phones banned across all the schools. She also asked if it would be possible to filter more of the content accessible on the Chromebooks, because many gaming sites are still accessible, and are very distracting and addicting to students.

Ms. Jessica Sweeney, parent of a Genet student, thanked the Board and Administrators for listening to concerns about class sizes, and making efforts to keep the classes smaller.

## 7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### A. 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

Mr. Simons presented the latest budget numbers and explained that Governor Hochul's final budget partially restored the Foundation aid, but still left a gap of \$312,708. He explained the District will appropriate additional fund balance to close that gap.

Mr. Simons explained the revenues and expenditures and discussed the plan to use some of the reserves strategically to offset some of the costs. The Superintendent stated the District had to make difficult choices throughout the process, but he is happy to present a budget that will preserve all academic offerings, maintain extracurricular programs, and provide mental health supports all within the New York State tax cap.

Mr. Temple said he understands the concerns about class sizes and thanked everyone for looking carefully and making the effort to bring comfort to the families.

Mr. Simons said a lot of consideration goes into balancing a budget. He thanked the Board for all their ideas and collaboration to help make a budget that addresses both the needs of the students and the impact on the taxpayers.

Mr. Dunn said even if the class sizes are a little larger, with the work of the staff and the help of the volunteers, the Board and District has always been committed to providing an excellent education to all students.

### B. Elementary Class Size Averages - Prior Years & Next Year

Mr. Stiles presented current and historical data information about class sizes and showed how class sizes have decreased from two years ago. He said in the last five years all classes in the District have remained under the contractual size guidelines, and the current average class size is 19.3 students. Mr. Stiles explained that the enrollment data provided at this time is just a projection and class sizes can change as families move in and out of the district.

Mr. Buono stated that the District works with the Capital District Regional Planning Commission to have enrollment studies done. He said the District uses this information to do long range planning as it provides guidelines to make sure the District has the resources needed to support the students.

### C. Capital Project Public Information Session-May 2, 2024

Mr. Simons gave an overview of the proposed \$116 Million Capital Project and announced that a public presentation will take place on May 2, 2024 in the Columbia High School Auditorium. He said he would like the community to be engaged before the vote, because he understands the cost of the project may cause some sticker shock. Mr. Simons stated that the State will be reimbursing the District at 72% for 84% of the project, which is critically important to the stability of the District. The Superintendent explained the money for the Capital Project is borrowed and financed over a 15-20 year period, under very low interest rates due to the District's very high bond rating. He stated that project money cannot be used to offset concerns within the general fund budget. He explained the operating budget is paid by the local tax levy and State aid, and the Capital Project is funded through a borrowing plan. Mr. Simons stated there is nothing that can be used from the Capital Project money that could, for example, be used to restore a teacher position, they are two separate entities.

## 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. Skumurski, Second by Ms. Taylor

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- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

### B. Adoption of Proposed Budget 2024-2025

#### RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET 2024-2025

Motion by Mr. Mann, Second by Mr. Dunn

Resolved, that the Board of Education Adopts and Approves the 2024-2025 Budget as Recommended by the Superintendent in the amount of \$111,660,557 and Authorizes Proposition #1 for presentation to District residents on the annual budget vote date of May 21, 2024 as follows: Resolved, that the operating budget in the amount of \$111,660,557, as proposed by the Board of Education, be adopted for the school fiscal year 2024-2025 and the levy of taxes be assessed therefore in accordance with law.

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. Adoption of Questar III Administrative Tentative Budget for 2024-2025

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE QUESTAR III BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE TENTATIVE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,257,451

Motion by Ms. Skumurki, Second by Ms. Kennedy

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Questar III BOCES Administrative Tentative Budget in the Amount of \$7,257,451

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

D. Election of Members of the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services

RESOLUTION TO ELECT MARK MANN AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES

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

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves and Elects Mark Mann as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0, Abstentions -1 (Mann)

Motion carried

RESOLUTION TO ELECT MARY MARRO-GIROUX AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES

Motion by Mr. Mann, Second by Ms. Taylor

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves and Elects Mary Marro-Giroux as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties.

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

RESOLUTION TO ELECT FRANK ZWACK AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES

Motion by Mr. Temple, Second by O'Brien

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves and Elects Frank Zwack as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties.

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

E. Internal Audit Report - Cash Reconciliation June & July 2023- Risk Assessment 2022-2023- Extraclassroom Review 2022-2023

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS - CASH RECONCILIATION JUNE & JULY 2023- RISK ASSESSMENT 2022-2023- EXTRACLASSROOM REVIEW 2022-2023

Motion by Ms. Kennedy, Second by Ms. Taylor

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby Approves the Internal Audit Reports - Cash Reconciliation June & July 2023- Risk Assessment 2022-2023-Extraclassroom Review 2022-2023

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

F. Genet Playground Project Contract Amendment

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT WITH TURNER CONSTRUCTION

Motion by Mr. Temple, Second by Mr. Mann

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Amendment of the Construction Management Services Contract with Turner Construction.

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

G. UPK Expansion

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM EXPANSION FOR THE FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion by Mr. Temple, 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 Pre-Kindergarten Program Expansion for the 2024-2025 school year.

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

H. 2024-2025 Property Tax Report Card

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Motion by Ms. Dunn, Second by Ms. Kennedy

Resolved, the Board of Education adopts and approves the property tax report card as recommended by the Superintendent and authorizes the submission to the New York State Education Department.

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

#### I. Memorandum of Agreement with EGTA - Retirement Incentive

Mr. Simons explained that the original deadline for teachers to submit retirement paperwork was February 1, 2024, but due to the recent contract settlement the District is extending the deadline to May 15th, 2024.

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

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Second by Mr. Dunn

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- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

### 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Marissa Cannon, Director of Human Resources

None at this time.

B. Jennifer Mulligan, Director of Business and Finance - Finance & Audit Committee Meeting Minutes 3/6/24- Health Insurance Review Committee Meeting Minutes 3/7/24

Ms. Mulligan reported on the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting and stated that the committee discussed recent investments and the projection that those investments will yield in excess of \$1 million in revenue by the end of the fiscal year. She said they also reviewed the policy and charter and hope to expand these into the investment areas so the committee can advise the Board on cash flow initiatives. Ms. Mulligan also stated a representative from Three+One, a Liquidity Data Management Company provided an overview of how they could assist the District in developing a cash management plan to maximize investment earnings.

Ms. Mulligan also reported on the Health Insurance Review Committee meeting. She said the committee reviewed the annual Highmark Review Report and determined that employees might not fully understand the benefits that each plan provides. They asked Mr. Knauf, the Amsure representative, to provide a breakdown of the different benefits at the next meeting.

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

None at this time.

D. Jeffrey P. Simons, Superintendent

None at this time.

### 10. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time.

### 11. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

### 12. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Financial Reports

2024-04-23 Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants - 0138, 0141, 0142, 0143, 0145, 0146, 0147, 0148, 0149, 0150, V142

2024-04-23 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report-CHS-January 2024

2024-04-23 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report-Goff-January 2024

2024-04-23 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report-CHS-February 2024

2024-04-23 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report-Goff-February 2024

2024-04-23 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report-CHS-March 2024

2024-04-23 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Report-Goff-March 2024

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

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

a. Herrington, Lisa - Teaching Assistant, Red Mill Elementary School, effective 6/27/24.

Date of Hire: 9/4/96

#### 2. Resignation

a. Honeyman, Allan - Substitute teacher, effective 4/16/24

B. APPOINTMENTS

1. Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Name	Certification Area	Degree Status	Effective
DeBarr, Lynn	Business degree	B.S.	4/24/24
Nixon, Benjamin	Criminal Justice degree	B.S.	4/24/24

2. Proctor for AP Exams

Name

- a. Caldwell, Savanna
- b. Royce, Kelsea

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Bradley, Margaret	Senior Monitor-Goff	4/24/24	resigning to accept position in district
Chiacchia, Denise	Typist-Red Mill	6/27/24	Retirement
Torre, Patricia	Substitute Bus Driver	4/12/24	Per employees request
Appointment as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Bradley, Margaret	Bus Aide Probation: 4/24/24-12/23/24	4/24/24	Step 3 (HS) = \$17.99 per hour 5 hours/10 months
Substitute employee as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Casullo, Kristy	Aide	4/24/24	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.19 per hour
DeBarr, Lynn	Aide	4/24/24	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.19 per hour
Forcinella, Janet	Bus Aide	3/28/24	Step 1 (HS) = \$17.11 per hour
Martel, Daniel	Custodial Worker	4/24/24	Substitute rate = \$17.12 per hour
Nixon, Benjamin	Aide	4/24/24	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.19 per hour
Petro, Mari	Aide Monitor Senior Monitor	4/24/24 4/24/24 4/24/24	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.19 per hour Step 1 = \$15.93 per hour Step 1 = \$16.70 per hour
Unpaid Leave of Absence:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Tillman, Leah	Insurance Technician	4/18/24-4/22/24 (2.5 days)	Personal leave of absence

- D. Appointment of Election Workers for District Vote
- E. Health and Welfare Services Contract- Taconic Hills Central School District
- F. Health and Welfare Services Contract- North Colonie Central School District
- G. Health and Welfare Services Contract- Averill Park Central School District
- H. Library Materials Recommended for Weeding- Green Meadow Elementary
- I. Girls' Outdoor Track Overnight Trip-Penn Relays, April 24 & April 25, 2024
- J. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

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

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

**13. ADDENDUM**

None at this time.

**14. NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**15. PUBLIC FORUM #2**

None at this time.

## **16. BOARD FORUM #2**

Ms. Taylor said the Education Foundation Gala was a success. She said it was very well attended and a great venue.

Mr. Buono explained that the Education Foundation Gala is an event that recognizes alum and community members for their successes and support of the community, and raises money for scholarship opportunities for students.

Mr. Simons reported on the program Empowering Student Voices, and opportunity to train high school students to become leaders. He said the program allowed the students to have conversations on issues occurring within school climate, such as how students treat each other, and how respect and dignity and valuing diversity can become a part of the culture. Mr. Simons explained that Columbia High School students surveyed the staff and presented their findings and invited guest speakers to help show all they learned. The Superintendent stated in his talks with the students, he realized that many students learned some life changing lessons and stated they will bring those ideas back to the school to try to make the school climate as positive as it can be.

Mr. Buono stated he was able to attend some of the program, and was encouraged by the students and hopeful they can expand on the program and continue to empower those student voices for change.

Mr. Simons also announced that Mr. Alvey was recently recognized by CASDA and was named Elementary Principal of the Year. He and the Board congratulated Mr. Alvey, and thanked him for his many contributions to the Donald P. Sutherland families and community.

## **17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session not needed at this time.

## **18. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 9:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn  
District Clerk