

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024
Goff Middle School Cafeteria

1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mr. Buono - 7:50 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. MINUTES

A. Approval of Draft Minutes dated April 23, 2024

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF APRIL 23, 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 April 23, 2024.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

4. BOARD FORUM #1

Ms. Kennedy wished all the East Greenbush teacher's a happy Teacher Appreciation Week, and thanked them for all they do for the students and the District.

Mr. Buono echoed her sentiments, and reported that it was also Nurse's Appreciation Week, and he thanked them, as well.

5. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Mr. Harkin announced the District has successfully completed the application for the Civic Readiness Seal and Seal of Biliteracy. He announced about 30 students will be receiving those honors at graduation.

Mr. Floyd Hunt, district resident and Rensselaer County election inspector, stated he would like to work the polls at the District's budget vote. Mr. Buono asked him to reach out to the district clerk with his contact information.

6. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Capital Project Planning

Mr. Simons reported that there have been many presentations for the community to learn about the proposed capital project. Mr. Buono thanked everyone for their work at all the community forums to disseminate the information, and help the community be informed before the vote.

Mr. Simons announced that Mr. Buono has been recognized with a lifetime achievement award by the New York State School Board Association for attending many conferences and workshops to enhance his work on the Board. The Superintendent stated Jennifer O'Brien was also honored for her participation and attendance at many professional development opportunities.

Mr. Buono said he was honored by the acknowledgement, and said the trainings have been very valuable to help him serve on the Board.

B. Proposed Change in Policy - First Reading of Policy #6710, Purchasing Authority

Mr. Simons stated that a new requirement states Policy #6710 needs to list the purchasing agent, Jennifer Mulligan, by name on the policy. Mr. Buono said the requirement was very straight forward and asked the Board members if they would agree to approve the policy instead of having it returned for second and final readings. The Board members all agreed.

Motion by Ms. O'Brien, Second by Mr. Temple to approve the changes to Policy #6710.

Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Special Grants 2024-2025

Ms. Cannon explained that the teacher's contract has a provision for professional development where the District will provide \$40,000 annually for special grants. The purpose of the grants is to provide a personal education experience for teachers and related service providers that will enrich their expertise in their subject area. She said these grants will be awarded for fiscal year 2024-2025, and will allow the staff to gain knowledge to bring back to their colleagues and classrooms. Ms. Cannon said the committee received 16 applications for a total of \$56,541, and they are recommending the approval of 11 applications with a total of \$39,281.18.

Ms. Skumurski asked if some of the staff can come to a future Board meeting and share what they have learned while attending these events.

Ms. O'Brien said it was encouraging to see how many staff members were invested and wanting to learn more.

Ms. Steinbach asked about multiple people going to one event. She asked why they would allow more than one person to attend if they are bringing information back to their department.

Ms. Cannon explained that the committee does look at the number of people requesting to attend the same conference, and sometimes requires them to reduce the amount of staff requested, so other applications can be considered.

Ms. O'Brien said some conferences contain many seminars, so sending a couple people allows more information to be brought back.

Mr. Buono asked how the information gets back to the departments, is it through PD days or other professional learning opportunities.

Ms. Cannon stated that all attendees must provide a report to her office explaining what was learned. She said the principals are also very involved in the process and they arrange a collaboration component with building level teams to relay the information.

Mr. Stiles added that all the conferences are aligned to the work been done and supports the work within the District.

Ms. Skumurski asked if there would be any outside vendors that might be able to help fund the applicants that were not awarded a grant.

Ms. Cannon said she will work with Mr. Stiles office to research if anything is available.

Mr. Stiles said the District supports many professional development events throughout the year, but the special grants support the larger national corporate types of events.

B. UPK Lottery Process/Program Location Assignments

Mr. Stiles explained the process the District follows to place the families in a UPK program. He said about 75 families received their first or second choice. Mr. Stiles stated that as families decline placement, his office goes back to the families that did not get their first choice to try to get everyone the best option available.

Mr. Buono mentioned social media conversations, and asked if families would be allowed to switch.

Mr. Stiles said that he thinks it is best to stick to the process. He explained that if families on social media agreed to switch places, that would not be fair to everyone.

Ms. O'Brien asked how many families have declined.

Mr. Stiles said there have been approximately nine declines, some because it just wouldn't work out for them and some because the child is already placed in a pre-k through early intervention services.

Mr. Temple said looking forward he would like to have better communication with the families, so questions about the program and locations can be discussed, and also to have a broader reach and find the families that might not receive communications from the District.

Mr. Stiles said the District tried to be mindful to have locations available in all parts of the District. He said the District will be involved with the sites to ensure the quality of all the different programs.

Ms. Skumurski thanked Mr. Stiles for all the work to get the UPK program set up. She said she has heard from some of the community members that they were offered their third choice at first, but then were contacted with the offer of their second choice when that became available. She said the community is very appreciative that the District is trying to accommodate them as much as possible.

Ms. Steinbach thanked the District's efforts to offer more Pre-K services to the community. She said she believes there should be a formalized plan for the program, and the district should be able to give families an overview of the program prior to the lottery so they can make better informed choices. She also said she is concerned about oversight with many different providers. Ms. Steinbach said if the administrative burden is too much, the District should look at hiring someone to oversee the program.

Ms. Steinbach asked if the District gives any preference to families with siblings in District, or do they go into the lottery like everyone else.

Mr. Stiles said families do not get preferences for siblings, but were asked to rank their choices 1-9.

Ms. Steinbach said the District should use best practices, because it is difficult to have children in different locations. She said she would like to see strong efforts put into the evaluation of sites.

Mr. Dunn agreed and strongly recommended the Board and District form a committee and develop a true policy for UPK. He also encouraged advocacy to enhance and tackle the issues of Pre-K. He said advocating for increased funding and the expansion of program hours will help make the program truly universal.

Mr. Stiles said he would check with the attorney about offering preferences to families with siblings, because there are guidelines when providing placements through a lottery. He also explained the RFP's are done, but they can work within the actual contracts to have more oversight all the different providers.

Ms. Skumurski asked if the District can reach out to the agencies to see if they can discount the before and after programs for the pre-k families.

Mr. Stiles said one site has recently lowered their costs, so they now all are within the same price range.

8. REGULAR BUSINESS

Mr. Temple asked how accommodations are made for students that are recommended when there is no room. He wanted to understand how the Board and District know what resources are needed, and how can they support those programs, if there is need.

Mr. Simons said he will speak with Dr. Catherine Pennock, the director of Pupil Personnel Services for more information

Ms. Steinbach asked if students were not receiving services due to lack of resources.

Mr. Temple said his child was recommended for a special program last year, but space for him was not available at the time.

Mr. Simons said the District is required to provide services indicated on the IEP and maybe if a program is full at one location there might be services available in a different location. He said he will follow up with PPS and try to evaluate the situation.

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. Temple

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- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

B. Bonadio & Co., LLP Engagement Letter Audit 2023-2024

Ms. Mulligan explained the external audit will be beginning in June. She also stated this is the third year of service with Bonadio under the last RFP, and the District will be submitting a new RFP for next year.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BONADIO & CO., LLP ENGAGEMENT LETTER FOR 2023-2024 AUDIT.

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Ms. Steinbach

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Bonadio & Co., LLP Engagement letter for 2023-2024 Audit.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. Transportation Contract

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT WITH A DISTRICT FAMILY

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Second by Ms. Kennedy

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Transportation Contract with a District Family.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

D. Tax Litigation Settlement- Greenbush Hotels II, LLC

Mr. Temple expressed his concerns about settling litigations. He said if the District always settles, it is inviting challenges with other property owners.

Mr. Simons said while he does agree, and doesn't like to settle, the District makes judgement calls based on recommendations of the attorneys.

Ms. Mulligan explained it is a risk process, and in this particular case the settlement is in the best interest of the District.

Mr. Temple asked if the District always settles, or if some litigation is fought to the end.

Ms. Taylor said there have been cases that have been brought to court and the District has won.

Mr. Buono said the attorneys take a hard look at these challenges, and they work to provide the District with information to help the District negotiate from a place of strength, to get the best possible outcome for the District.

Ms. Steinbach said a three year assessment freeze is illogical, and she would like the District to look into that as well.

Mr. Dunn explained that a lot of the litigations are not controlled by the District, but are tied up by the County and the State.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE TAX LITIGATION SETTLEMENT - GREENBUSH HOTELS II, LLC.

Motion by Ms. Taylor, Second by Ms. Skumurski

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Tax Litigation Settlement - Greenbush Hotels II, LLC.

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 3

Motion carried

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Ms. Cannon reported the District completed the newly required Workplace Violence Prevention training with all staff in accordance with the provided timeline. She said since the training will be required annually, the District plans on providing the session to staff during the opening day presentations.

B. Jennifer Mulligan, Director of Business and Finance - Health Insurance Review Committee Meeting 4-29-24

Ms. Mulligan reported that the committee reviewed health insurance rates for 2024-2025, because open enrollment period began on May 1, 2024. She said those rates have increased about 9-10%, and prescription rates have increased about 15%. Ms. Mulligan stated the committee reviewed the benefits of each offered program, and hopes to get that information out to staff soon, so they can make informed choices during open enrollment.

Ms. Mulligan reported having the retirees submit their payments directly to Amsure has been successful, and the retirees are appreciative of the new electronic payment option.

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

Ms. Taylor congratulated the Bell Top retirees and thanked them for their many years of service to the District

Mr. Dunn asked if Item H could be pulled for a separate vote.

Mr. Buono asked the Board to consider Addendum Item 13C when approving the consent agenda.

A. Financial Reports

2024-05-08 Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants - 0152, 0153, 0154, 0157

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

a. Barranca, MaryRuth - Teaching Assistant, Bell Top Elementary School, effective 6/27/24.

Date of Hire: 12/2/99

b. Valenti, Sheri - Elementary Education, Bell Top Elementary School, effective 6/30/24.

Date of Hire: 9/3/91

2. Resignation

a. DeLancey, Jennifer - Elementary Education, Red Mill Elementary School, effective 6/30/24.

Date of Hire: 8/29/12 Reason: personal

b. Downs, Olivia - Substitute teacher, effective 4/24/24

B. APPOINTMENTS

1. Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Name	Certification Area	Degree	Status	Effective Date
Crenshaw, Era	Childhood Education	B.A.		5/9/24
Maunu, Brianna	Childhood Education	B.S.		5/9/24
Petro, Mari	Biochemistry Degree	B.S.		5/9/24
Zaik, Ainsley	Communication Disorders	B.S.		5/9/24

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Lombardi, Olivia	Substitute School Registered Nurse	4/25/2024	Per employees request
Martel, Daniel	Substitute Custodial Worker	4/29/2024	Per employees request
Nolette, Joanne	Typist-Green Meadow	6/29/2024	Retirement
Appointment as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Substitute employee as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Davies, Mark	Aide	5/9/2024	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.19 per hour
Hayashi, Jessica	School Registered Nurse	5/9/2024	Step 1 = \$29.10 per hour
Maunu, Brianna	Aide	5/9/2024	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.19 per hour
Tucker, Gabe	Aide	5/9/2024	Step 1 (HS) = \$17.11 per hour
	Monitor	5/9/2024	Step 1 = \$15.93 per hour
	Senior Monitor	5/9/2024	Step 1 = \$16.70 per hour
Zaik, Ainsley	Aide	5/9/2024	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.90 per hour

D. Disposal of District Property - Assets

E. Health and Welfare Services Contract- Scotia-Glenville Central School District

F. Health and Welfare Services Contract - Schenectady City School District

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

H. Memorandum of Agreement with EGTA - Goff AV Director

I. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A-I, WITHOUT ITEM H, AND INCLUDING ADDENDUM ITEM 13C

Motion by Mr. Temple, Second by Mr. Dunn

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Consent Agenda Items A-I without Item H, and including Addendum Item 13C.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM H

Motion by Ms. Kennedy, Second by Mr. Temple

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

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 1, Abstention- 1 (Dunn)

Motion carried

13. ADDENDUM

A. Artists of France and Spain Field Trip, Summer 2025-Columbia High School

B. Japan Field Trip, Spring 2025 - Columbia High School

Mr. Wagner and Mr. Tarkos explained why they have chosen these locations. Mr. Tarkos said while talking with other groups, Japan seems to be an amazing opportunity. They asked if they can send out information about the trips to gauge interest. Mr. Buono said he didn't see a problem with reaching out to families to see if there is enough interest. He said if they are able to secure enough students, they can return to the Board for approval.

Mr. Simons reported that Mr. Wagner and Mr. Tarkos have submitted detailed requests for both trips that meet all policy requirements, with a 6-1 chaperone ratio, with all students having the opportunity regardless of financial restrictions, and having responsible fundraising. He said ultimately it is a long trip and the most important aspect is student safety.

Mr. Dunn thanked Mr. Wagner and Mr. Tarkos for bringing these opportunities to the students.

Ms. Steinbach said that she was happy to be able to support these opportunities. She said if this item is brought for Board approval, she would like to see how the opportunity is equitable, and what the plan is for students that cannot afford the trip. She also asked for more information about the college credits gained by attending the trip.

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

This item was approved with the consent agenda Items A-I, without Item H

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the following actions of non-instructional personnel:

Appointment as listed:			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Hulett, Robin	School Bus Driver - Transportation Probation period: 5/20/24-1/19/25	5/20/2024	Step 3 = \$26.90 per hour 6.25 hours/10 months

14. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Temple said he would like to partner with local higher education institutions that specialize in education and academic research to help with the processing of data and statistical information. Mr. Temple asked if they can find a project that could provide a proof of concept, so the Board can gain insights to make data based decisions. He said that he feels this will be beneficial in the District's decision making processes.

Mr. Buono said the District already collects a lot of data through Mr. Stiles office and through BOCES services. He said the Board can meet with BOCES representatives to discuss what kinds of data exists and how that data is being processed currently. Mr. Buono said they can always add on services as needed, but is concerned about having duplicate services.

Ms. Skumurski asked if the District can circle back and have start time discussions again. She said she knows that the pandemic put that issue aside, but she has had questions from the community about it recently, and thought maybe revisiting the conversation would be warranted.

Mr. Simons said he also had been thinking about it recently. He said it is a difficult topic, because start time affects so many things, such as transportation, childcare, athletics, etc. He said they can bring it up as a discussion item next year.

Ms. O'Brien said she has also heard inklings of discussions in the community, but said she remembered that the community was not able to support the afternoon childcare issues with elementary students getting out of school earlier, and also some families rely on older siblings to care for children, and if the times flip-flopped that option would not be available.

Ms. Steinbach said if they are hearing discussions in the community, she would like to hear what the families and communities want in regards to start times.

Mr. Mann asked if the District could look at the fundraising policy and update it to current standards.

Mr. Simons said he has recently begun looking at the policy and agrees that they need to update and set new parameters.

15. PUBLIC FORUM #2

None at this time.

16. BOARD FORUM #2

Ms. Skumurski congratulated Ms. Nolette from Green Meadow on her upcoming retirement.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Temple, Second by Ms. Steinbach to enter Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

Vote: Ayes- 9 , Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 9:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk

18. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Mann, Second by Mr. Dunn to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kennedy
Assistant District Clerk