

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024
Citizen Genet Auditorium**

At the meeting on January 22, 2025 these minutes were approved for amendment of a typographical error located on #9D- Regular Business- PILOT Agreement with CP East Greenbush I, LLC Solar Project

1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mr. Temple- 7:00 P.M.

B. ATTENDANCE

	Present	Absent	Arrival
Mr. Buono	X		
Mr. Mann		X	
Ms. O'Brien			X 7:01 P.M.
Ms. Phillips	X		
Ms. Skumurski			X 7:01 P.M.
Ms. Steinbach		X	
Mr. Temple	X		
Ms. Turner	X		
Mr. Van Orden	X		

Also Attending

Mr. Simons	X
Mr. Mahar	X
Mr. Mulligan	X
Mr. Stiles	X

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. EX OFFICIO STUDENT COUNCIL COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Student Council Representatives: Kole Hardy~President; Natalie Krisanda~Vice President

Kole Hardy reported that Student Council recently held a successful "Pictures with Santa" event and created holiday cards for teachers to show appreciation for all their hard work. He announced that after break, members will start a winter gear drive to help those in need, and are working to plan more fundraisers and community focused events.

4. MINUTES

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2024

Motion by Mr. Buono, Second by Ms. Turner

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 December 4, 2024.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

5. BOARD FORUM #1

Mr. Buono reported that the District is working with consultants from Questar III on the superintendent search. He explained they put together a survey that will be sent out to staff, students, parents and the community at large to gather input on the desired characteristics of a new superintendent. Mr. Buono encouraged everyone to give their feedback. He stated the results will be presented at the January 22nd, 2025 meeting and the search process will begin shortly after, in hopes that a new superintendent can start in July. Ms. Van Orden said she attended music concerts at both the middle and high schools, and was impressed by the talent of the student musicians. She thanked everyone at Genet for the warm welcome and said she was looking forward to their upcoming presentation. Mr. Temple wished everyone a wonderful holiday season.

Ms. Turner echoed those sentiments and also wished everyone a relaxing break.

Ms. O'Brien also wished everyone a wonderful holiday and encouraged everyone to participate in completing the superintendent search survey.

6. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Dr. Wanda McQueen, transportation supervisor, thanked the transportation staff for delivering candy canes to students and organizing Santa visits to elementary schools and special classes. She also thanked Principal Squillace for her enthusiastic participation which added to the festive mood. Dr. McQueen emphasized the importance of this tradition and thanked the school staff for their cooperation. Ms. Shannon Kerr, parent expressed her wish for an addition of a ninth grade boys modified soccer team. She highlighted the benefits of sports programs for physical, and mental health, social skills and focus and stated the lack of options for some students at that level. She said there is strong interest from students and parents and presented a petition requesting the addition of these teams to the District's budget.

Mr. Simons acknowledged the interest and stated that cost information has been presented and will be considered during the budget process. He proposed having Mr. Jones attend a future meeting to explain to the Board the difference between a modified 9 team and a freshman team.

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Genet Elementary School BOE Presentation

Ms. Scolaro led the fifth graders in their performance of "Over There is My Future" to showcase the music program.

Mr. Grignon, along with ENL teachers Ms. Aldinger and Ms. Carraher introduced the Elementary Bilingual Achievement Award program, a unique initiative designed to foster multilingualism and prepare students for a globalized world. The program aims to inspire students to learn languages and appreciate different cultures, and it is hoped that it will be expanded to other schools in the District and beyond. Ms. Carraher and Ms. Aldinger explained how the program fosters language learning and celebrates cultural diversity. They stated the students can choose from various languages and they complete tasks related to listening, reading and writing to reinforce those concepts. Ms. Aldinger reported that 27 students in grades K-5 are currently studying Spanish, French, Italian, Chinese or Teluga. Ms. Carraher stated the program is open to all students, regardless of their language background and helps encourage family involvement. The teachers stated they are hoping the same students will participate year after year, and are able to use the concepts to help them earn the Seal of Biliteracy on their high school diplomas.

Ms. Skumurski expressed her support for the program and asked if the District ever allowed students to take more than one language in high school.

Mr. Simons said the students are permitted to take another language, but it is difficult to fit it into their schedules.

Mr. Temple said it is easy to talk about equity and diversity, but he loves to see examples of how these options are impacting the students. He said he likes how the ENL learners can bring some of their culture and experiences they have at home to share with the other students.

B. Capital Project Steering Committee - Phase 1A timeline

Mr. Simons reported that the Steering Committee met to review the progress of Phase 1A of the capital project. He explained that this phase includes the replacement of the Columbia High School roof, tennis courts, and basketball courts. The Superintendent said the State Education Department has approved the project, and bidding for the project is planned to occur in February. He reported they expect construction beginning in the spring of this year and completion by the following fall, with the exception of the roof that will occur over two summer cycles. Lastly, Mr. Simons and Mr. Buono stated the committee discussed the importance of safety measures during construction, particularly at Columbia High School, making sure that there's appropriate levels of fencing protection especially since the some of the construction will be occurring when students are in attendance. Overall, he said the committee expressed satisfaction with the project's progress and the collaborative efforts of the team involved.

C. Social Studies Program Review Presentation

Ms. McAloney a long-time social studies department chair, highlighted the unique challenges of the past five years, due to the pandemic and regents exam cancellations. Ms. McAloney emphasized that social studies education extends beyond Regents exam preparation and focuses on broader student development. At the elementary level, she said strengths include improved curriculum mapping aligned with State standards, the integration of literacy, and the use of new resources like the PNW BOCES curriculum. However, challenges include inconsistencies in resource availability across schools, and the need to update outdated materials. Ms. McAloney reported middle school strengths lie in engaging field trips, new digital textbooks for grades 7th and 8th, and collaborative planning among teachers. However, weaknesses include aging textbooks for 6th grade, and the need to adapt instruction to the evolving Regents exams. She disclosed that the department boasts strong Regents exam scores, successful AP programs, and innovative extracurricular activities. However, challenges include overcrowded electives, increased student needs, and the need to address the impact of AI on instruction.

Ms. McAloney concluded by highlighting the department's commitment to student success and its ongoing efforts to address identified needs.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Donald P. Sutherland Water Heater Issues - Potential Emergency Project

Mr. Simons reported that the District is facing an unexpected issue with the water heater system at Donald B. Sutherland Elementary School. He explained that the boilers were installed in 2016 and one boiler failed in the summer, but now the other unit is failing prematurely. He stated that this issue was not anticipated in the building condition survey and may require an emergency project application to the State Education Department.

Mr. Bicke stated he is exploring replacement options and cost estimates, and will present more detailed information at the next board meeting. He said short-term solutions are being investigated in case of an immediate failure. Mr. Bicke said he is also investigating the cause of the premature failure of the current units to prevent similar issues in the future.

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. Skumurski, 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. Appointment of Interim Director of PPS

Mr. Stiles reported that the District is recommending Kara Herrington, Assistant Director step into the director role temporarily. He explained due to the short timeline between now and the anticipated start of a new director, it was difficult to find an outside interim replacement. He said since Ms. Herrington has been absorbing the responsibilities of the director in addition to her other duties, and she is very familiar with the students, the families and personnel, it would be reasonable to compensate Ms. Herrington the equivalent to what the District would pay per diem to an outside person.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PPS.

Motion by Mr. Buono, Second by Ms. Phillips

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Appointment of Interim Director of PPS, effective December 2, 2024, at a rate of \$100 per day until a Director of PPS is appointed.

Vote: Ayes-7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. Acceptance of Request for Proposal-Communication Equipment

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A PROPOSAL FOR COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AS SUBMITTED BY BEAR COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Motion by Ms. Van Orden, Second by Ms. Turner

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby accepts a proposal for Communication Equipment as submitted by Bear Communications, Inc.

Vote: Ayes-7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

D. PILOT Agreement with CP East Greenbush I, LLC Solar Project

At the meeting dated January 22, 2025 the Board of Education approved an amendment of this portion of the minutes, correcting a typographical error.

Ms. Mulligan explained the solar project built on Moore Road in East Greenbush had reached out to ask if the District wanted a PILOT agreement. She explained that the current tax bill is approximately \$2000 for the vacant land, but said under the negotiated agreement the District will receive approximately ~~\$18M~~ **\$18K** annually for a period of 15 years as PILOT tax revenue.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PILOT AGREEMENT WITH CP EAST GREENBUSH I, LLC SOLAR PROJECT

Motion by Mr. Buono, Second by Ms. Turner

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the PILOT Agreement with CP East Greenbush I, LLC solar Project.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

E. Resolution to Opt-out of Exemption under Section 487 of the Real Property Tax Law

Ms. Mulligan explained that this resolution will mandate that all solar companies must negotiate PILOT agreements with the District for all future projects.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OPTING OUT OF EXEMPTION UNDER SECTION 487 OF REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW

Motion by Ms. Van Orden, Second by O'Brien

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the opting out of the exemption under Section 487 of Real Property Tax Law.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Jeffrey P. Simons, Superintendent - Cell Phone Committee Visit to Troy and Bethlehem

Mr. Simons reported that the Cell Phone committee visited Troy High School to observe their cell phone policy. He reported that students store their phones in Yondr pouches during school hours, which has led to increased focus, improved social interaction, and reduced screen time outside of school. Mr. Simons explained the pouches enable the students to carry the cell phones on their person all day long, but the pouches have magnetic locks that prohibit access to the phone. He said there are unlocking devices around the building that are placed back out at dismissal time where the students are able to unlock the pouches before leaving. He also mentioned a visit to Bethlehem High School, and invited Mr. Dan Wagner to speak.

Mr. Wagner said similar positive outcomes were observed at Bethlehem, including decreased screen time and improved social skills. The Superintendent said the committee is continuing to gather information and will present a recommendation to the Board by the end of the school year.

11. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time.

12. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Buono informed the Board that he, Mr. Simons, Mr. Harkin and Ms. Turner have been discussing the possibility of adding a student representative to the school board. He said they discussed a recent NYSSBA On Board article about adding a student, and are now developing a process for selection. He stated that Mr. Simons has created a Google Doc where the team can gather ideas and document the progress. He said they are considering the need for both a primary student representative and an alternate due to potential scheduling conflicts. Mr. Buono volunteered to be a part of the interview process.

Ms. Turner also volunteered, as long as the interviews can take place in the evening.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Buono asked if the addendum can be included when approving the consent agenda.

A. Financial Reports

Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants- 0045, 0046, 0048, 0050, 0051, V045, V048

2024-12-18 Treasurer's Report for the Month of October, 2024

2024-12-18 Revenue Status Report for the Month of October, 2024

2024-12-18 Budget Status Report for the Month of October, 2024

2024-12-18 Budget Transfers for the Month of October, 2024

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Leave of Absence

- a. L'Etoile, Katherine - Gr. 6, Howard L. Goff Middle School, requesting an unpaid child-rearing leave of absence from 12/5/24-2/7/25. Planned return 2/10/25.

B. APPOINTMENTS

1. Substitute Teaching Assistant 2024-2025

- a. Kivitz, Tammy, Step 6 \$24.99 per hour

2. Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Name	Certification Area	Degree Status	Effective Date
Allen, Timothy	Social Studies & Reading	B.A.	12/19/24

3. Student Teachers/Interns 2024-2025 School Year

<u>Building</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Content Area</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>	<u>College/Term</u>
Columbia	Noah Vice	Health	Chris LeGare	Russell Sage/Spring 1
Columbia	Melissa Torres	School Counselor	Ashley Rickson	SUNY New Paltz/Spring 1 & 2
Columbia	Emma Nuzzi	Health	Chris LeGare	Russell Sage/Spring 2
Goff	Aidan Bachar	Social Studies	Carol Lichorowiec	SUNY Albany/Spring 1
Goff	Dominic Caminiti	Physical Education	Tyler Rose	Russell Sage/Spring 2
Goff	Declan Cumming	Social Studies	Timothy Galvin	SUNY Albany/Spring 1
Green Meadow	Nicolas Marsella	Physical Education	Chris Dedrick	Russell Sage/Spring 2
Green Meadow	Jacob Stradley	Physical Education	Chris Dedrick	Russell Sage/Spring 1
Red Mill	Kendra Phoenix	Occupational Therapy	Nicole Barmen	Keuka/Spring 1 & 2

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
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Ryan-Smolinski, Brianna	Occupational Therapy Assistant-District Wide	12/31/2024	resignation
Berthoty, Louis	Substitute Bus Aide	12/23/2024	retirement
	Substitute Elementary Monitor	12/23/2024	
	Substitute Senior Monitor	12/23/2024	

Appointment as listed:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Alpart, Chase	Custodial Worker-Green Meadow Probation period: 12/19/24-6/18/25	12/19/2024	Step 1 =\$19.12 per hour 8 hours/12 months
Mancino, Maria	School Registered Nurse-Genet Probation period: 1/2/25-7/1/25	01/02/2025	Step 7 = \$36.84 per hour 7.5 hours/10 months

Substitute employees as listed:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Miller, Thomas	Senior Monitor	12/19/24	Step 1 = \$17.20 per hour
	Monitor	12/19/24	Step 1 = \$16.41 per hour

Appointment adjustment:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Winter, Wioletta	Food Service Helper - Goff	12/5/2024	change in effective date for 3.75 hours per day to 6.5 hours per day

Unpaid Leave of Absence:

Name	Position	Effective Dates	Reason
Chesser, Thomas	School Bus Driver	12/6/24- 12/18/24	unpaid medical leave of absence

D. Acceptance of Gifts and Authorization to Increase the 2024-2025 Budget

E. Library Materials Recommended for Weeding- Bell Top Elementary

F. Disposal of District Property - Assets

G. JV & Varsity Competitive Cheer Overnight Trip

H. Approval of Consent Agenda

14. ADDENDUM

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Discontinuance as listed:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Hahn, Summer	School Bus Driver-Transportation	12/05/2024	resignation to accept another position in District

Appointment as listed:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Hahn, Summer	Senior Monitor-Goff Probation period: 12/5/24-6/4/25	12/05/2024	Step 1 = \$17.20 per hour 6.5 hours/10 months

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND THE ADDENDUM

Motion by Ms. Turner, Second by Ms. Skumurski

Resolved, the board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Consent Agenda, as presented and the Addendum

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays-0

Motion carried

15. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

16. PUBLIC FORUM #2

None at this time.

17. BOARD FORUM #2

Ms. Phillips expressed admiration for the teachers' presentations, highlighting their enthusiasm and dedication to their students.

Ms. Skumurski shared a personal anecdote about her daughter's positive experience at Columbia High School, and emphasized the school's role in preparing students for college.

Mr. Simons reiterated that comment, and said one of his daughter's college professors was also surprised about things she had learned in high school, and he praised the teachers for all they do.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Second by Ms. Phillips to enter Executive Session to discuss of the employment history of more than one individual.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 9:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion By Ms. Phillips, Second by Mr. Buono to Adjourn the Meeting

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 10:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Buono
Assistant District Clerk