

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025
Central Administration Boardroom**

1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mr. Temple- 6:00 P.M.

B. ATTENDANCE

	Present	Absent	Arrival
Mr. Buono	X		
Mr. Mann	X		
Ms. O'Brien	X		
Ms. Phillips			6:02 P.M.
Ms. Skumurski			6:03 P.M.
Ms. Steinbach			6:05 P.M.
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. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Motion by Mr. Mann, Second by Ms. Van Orden to go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular individual.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 6:01 P.M.

Motion by Ms. Van Orden, Second by Mr. Mann to exit executive session

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 7:08 P.M.

4. EX OFFICIO STUDENT COUNCIL COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

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

None at this time.

5. MINUTES

A. Approval of Draft Minutes dated January 8, 2025

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2025

Motion by Ms. Turner, Second by Mr. Buono

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 January 8, 2025.

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 2 (Skumurski, O'Brien)

Motion carried

B. Resolution to Amend the Minutes dated December 18, 2024

Mr. Simons informed the Board of a typographical error in the minutes from the meeting on December 18, 2024. He requested that the Board approve the District Clerk's correction of the error.

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Second by Ms. Turner

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the amendment of the minutes dated December 18, 2025

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0. Abstentions- 2 (Mann, Steinbach)

Motion carried

6. BOARD FORUM #1

Ms. Phillips said the Board's thoughts are with Claire Mancini's family during this difficult time. She acknowledged the outpouring of support from the community, businesses, students, and parents, and said it has been truly heartwarming to see.

Ms. O'Brien and Ms. Turner echoed those sentiments.

Mr. Temple apologized to Mr. Dan Wagner for any misunderstanding regarding questions about international field trips. He said his intention was not to imply any wrongdoing, but rather to ensure the ethical conduct of our educators and protect them from potential violations. Mr. Temple said he fully supports enriching academic experiences for our students, and would like to participate in a future discussion in regards to field trips.

7. PUBLIC FORUM #1

None at this time.

8. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Stakeholder Survey Results-Presented by Questar III BOCES

Mr. Jeff Baker from Questar III stated that there were nearly 1,200 responses to the recent superintendent search survey. The survey was conducted to gather community input on the desired qualities and priorities for the next school superintendent. He said parents, instructional staff, and community members were the largest respondent groups. Mr. Baker said that respondents prioritized experience as an assistant superintendent, building principal, and superintendent, emphasizing skills like advocacy for all students, innovative problem-solving, and strong instructional leadership. Honesty, ethics, and open-mindedness were highly valued personal characteristics. The survey identified curriculum, programs, and student outcomes as the most critical needs for the District. Mr. Baker also reported that respondents also sought answers regarding the candidate's vision, leadership experience, and commitment to student success. He said these findings will guide the Board's search for a superintendent who aligns with the community's priorities and aspirations for the District.

Ms. Steinbach asked how many respondents were parents and staff members.

Jeff Baker stated 806 parents responded to the survey, representing 67.45% of all respondents. Additionally, 109 instructional staff and 69 non-instructional staff participated, resulting in over 250 staff responses. Considering the estimated 700-750 total staff members, this translates to a 33% staff response rate, which is considered quite favorable for a survey of this nature

Mr. Buono thanked everyone involved in the survey for their efforts. He said the survey not only informs the superintendent search but also provides valuable insights into the community's priorities and values. He said the results align with the Board's existing budget and strategic planning efforts, and the data can be utilized beyond the superintendent search, informing future decision-making processes and guiding the District's long-term goals.

B. Capital Project Planning ~ Phase I Bid Schedule

Mr. Simons reported that the District recently held a pre-bid meeting for Phase 1A of the \$160 million capital project approved last spring. He explained that this phase includes roof replacement and site work for the tennis and basketball courts. The Superintendent stated that a significant number of contractors attended the meeting, indicating strong interest in the project. He explained that bids are due on February 4th, and the District plans to review them and make recommendations to the Board at their February 12th meeting.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Update Universal Pre-K

Mr. Stiles reported that the proposed Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) application timeline will be available to the public on February 3rd with a deadline of February 28th. He explained that the lottery is planned for April 2nd, with families being notified of their placements by April 11th. Mr. Stiles said they will then have a couple of weeks to accept or decline their placement, which are the same sites as last year.

Ms. Steinbach asked if the contracts are on a year to year basis, and if District is planning to send out an RFP to judge if other area providers are interested in offering UPK at their sites.

Mr. Stiles said the contracts are on a year to year basis and some of the existing providers have said they have the capacity to expand their program offerings. He said the District is exploring the possibility of these agencies offering additional classes within their existing locations, as this would allow the District to enroll more students in the program while potentially maintaining the current per-student funding rate of \$5,400.

Mr. Buono asked if any other agencies previously responded to an RFP but were not chosen.

Mr. Stiles said that all the providers that have responded have classes at this time, but the District would be open to doing an RFP to gauge additional interest.

Ms. Steinbach said if expanding access to the program is a priority and the administrative burden on the District is minimal, there's no harm in exploring the possibility of other providers offering UPK services. She said this could be particularly beneficial given the annual waitlist for the program.

Mr. Stiles reported that 197 students were enrolled for the 165 spots and there are currently no students on the waitlist, as some families offered a placement declined their spot.

Ms. Steinbach said this does not necessarily mean that there would be no demand for the program if it were offered at a different location with wraparound care options.

Mr. Stiles expressed his concerns about ensuring that each site can maintain a sustainable class sizes. Additionally, he said they need to establish oversight and monitoring procedures for all participating sites. Mr. Stiles announced that the District is implementing several new initiatives, including mid-year and end-of-year family surveys, conducting formal site visits, and administering the Renaissance Star assessment to all UPK students. He said these measures will provide valuable data on student progress and program effectiveness, enabling the District to improve the quality of the UPK offerings.

Ms. Skumurski asked why some UPK programs are five hours and others are six.

Mr. Stiles said the minimum is five hours, but can have conversations with the providers to see if they can expand.

Ms. O'Brien asked if there could be a way to make the lunch programs more equitable throughout the program and if there is any way the Education Foundation could assist.

Mr. Simons explained there are other issues surrounding offering lunches besides the financial aspect. He explained that including students from outside sites in the Community Eligibility Provision would disqualify the district from the program, as it would alter the district's overall eligibility criteria. Furthermore, the Superintendent emphasized that the increased number of students receiving free lunch has significantly impacted the district's food service operations, necessitating adjustments to staffing and meal service times to accommodate the increased demand.

Ms. Phillips asked about issues in transporting the UPK students.

Mr. Simons highlighted the logistical challenges of transporting pre-k students, including the need for additional buses and drivers, the requirement for separate bus schedules, and the lack of state transportation aid for pre-k students. Car seat safety is also a significant consideration. The Superintendent explained that these costs would need to be fully funded by the District.

Ms. Steinbach expressed her concerns about the current system, saying it can be challenging for families with multiple children in different schools. She mentioned the difficulties that arise when children have different start times. She also mentioned the frustration of families who are unable to secure placements at their preferred schools, and the lack of a formal system for swapping placements.

Ms. Van Orden raised her concerns about prioritizing sibling preference stating that while the practice may seem beneficial, it could result in a first or only child being assigned to a less convenient location due to the higher priority given to families with multiple children. Ms. Van Orden also discuss the idea of allowing families to swap placements, acknowledging that while it seems simple, it could create inequalities for new families without established networks or those facing language barriers. She stressed the importance of maintaining a consistent and equitable process for all families, even if it means some families don't get their first choice.

Ms. Skumurski suggested including the topic of sibling placement and program consistency in the survey to see if these issues are a concern among families. She said the survey would help to determine if these are isolated incidents or a more systemic problem that requires attention.

Ms. Steinbach agreed, she said she also would like to gather feedback from teachers, staff and administrators about how the year progressed. She said there is a potential blind spot in understanding the experiences of children in partner organizations, as opposed to district-run programs and wants to ensure that the care and educational quality at all the sites, especially external providers, meets District standards.

Mr. Stiles confirmed that the Board approves of his moving forward with the suggested timeline, and said he will work on an updated RFP inclusive of their suggestions.

B. Update on Governor's Executive Budget

Mr. Simons announced that Governor Hochul released her executive budget proposal, which includes three key items. First, while the foundation aid increase is higher than initially anticipated, it is offset by reductions in expense-driven aids. He also noted the budget proposal includes provisions for free school lunch for all students and another proposal emphasizes a "distraction-free school environment," requiring schools to develop policies regarding cell phone use during the school day. He said the District's existing cell phone committee will now focus on developing and implementing a policy that aligns with the state's requirements. The Superintendent said the District will continue to monitor the state budget process and provide further updates to the Board.

Ms. Mulligan provided an overview of the Governor's proposal and outlined the District's expenditures and revenues. She reported that the District's 2024-2025 budget was largely accurate, with some minor adjustments needed for building and transportation aid. She said the proposed 2025-26 foundation aid is projected to increase by \$1.4 million, though this is subject to change. Ms. Mulligan stated that other aid categories, including building, transportation and BOCES aid are still under review. She noted that while the foundation aid increase is positive, it represents a smaller portion of the District's overall budget compared to the local tax levy.

10. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Proposed Change in Policy - First Reading of Policy #6240 Investments

Ms. Mulligan reported that the Finance and Audit Committee has been actively working to maximize the District's cash performance, resulting in a proposed updated investment policy. She said the new policy is modeled after the State's comptroller's policy and expands upon the District's current policy by incorporating relevant regulations and providing greater clarity, additional information, and allowance for some new permitted investments, such as reciprocal deposit arrangements. Ms. Mulligan reported a key component is an update to the annual designation of depositories. She explained that currently the District has only one authorized depository, and if the new policy is approved, the District will be free to explore other banking options and potentially increase earnings.

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- 9, Nays- 0
Motion carried

C. External Auditor RFP

Ms. Mulligan reported that the District recently conducted an RFP for external audit services, as the current contract with Bonadio & Company is expiring. She said while Bonadio & Company has provided excellent service for 25 years, the District is seeking a fresh perspective and the opportunity to explore potential improvements in audit quality and control.

Mr. Buono asked why Ms. Mulligan thought a change of auditors was needed.

Ms. Skumurski said she believes Ms. Mulligan is seeking a fresh perspective from a new auditing firm. She said while the current auditors have been excellent, a new set of eyes may identify minor areas for improvement that, while not significant enough to be material audit issues, could still be valuable for the District's internal controls and management practices

RESOLUTION TO AWARD THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR RFP

Motion by Ms. Steinbach, Second by Mr. Buono

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby awards the Internal Auditor RFP to MMB & Co.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Martin Mahar, Interim Director of Human Resources

B. Jennifer Mulligan, Director of Business and Finance- Finance & Audit Committee Meeting 1-14-2025

C. Roy Stiles, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction ~ Committee for Curriculum Studies Meeting 1-8-25

D. Jeffrey P. Simons, Superintendent ~ Advocacy Committee Meeting 1-9-25 & Committee to Promote Global Education 1-14-25

12. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time.

13. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

14. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Skumurski asked if Item C could be pulled for a separate vote.

A. Financial Reports

Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants- 0053, 0061, 0062, 0063, V053, V058

2025-01-22 Treasurer's Report for the Month of November, 2024

2025-01-22 Revenue Status Report for the Month of November, 2024

2025-01-22 Budget Status Report for the Month of November, 2024

2025-01-22 Budget Transfers for the Month of November, 2024

2025-01-22 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Reports for the Month of October, 2024

2025-01-22 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Reports for the Month of November, 2024

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

a. Chrzan, Susan - Music, Columbia High School, effective June 30, 2025.

Date of Hire: 9/8/87

b. Hulbert, Daniel - Mathematics, Columbia High School, effective June 30, 2025.

Date of Hire: 10/12/99

B. APPOINTMENTS

1. Probationary Appointment - Teaching Assistant

a. El Mekaoui, Kaoutar - Teaching Assistant, Genet Elementary School

(New position)

Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant

Probationary Period: 1/23/25-1/22/29
 Certification Status: NYS Teaching Assistant, Level I
 Step Placement: Step 1 = \$22.67 per hour
 Hours per day: 6.5

2. Career Development & Occupational Studies (CDOS) Coordinator, 2024-2025 School Year

a. Mancini, Claire - Stipend \$7,137.00

3. Appendix "D" Appointment - 2024-2025 School Year

Name	Activity	Compensation
Relf, Justin	Columbia Musical Choral Director	\$1,723.80 (60%)

4. Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Name	Certification Area	Degree Status	Effective Date
Bonesteel, Megan	Physical Education Degree	B.S.	1/23/25
Hubbard, Samantha	Childhood Education Degree	B.S.	1/23/25
McDonald, Saya	Psychology Degree	B.S.	1/23/25
Morris, Lori	Art	M.S.	1/23/25

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Athletic Coaching Position 2024-2025 Winter/Spring Sports Season

a. Courtney Townsend Varsity Unified Bowling
 Certified Teacher - Health/Physical Education - Goff/Columbia/RM
 Experience: Bowling No prior experience
 Base Salary: \$1,100.00
 Start Date: February 4, 2025

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Adams, Brenda	Food Service Helper - Red Mill	01/17/25	resignation
Mokhiber, Alexandria	School Bus Driver	01/17/25	resignation

Appointment as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Primera-Miller, Andrea	Senior Monitor - Goff	01/23/25	Step 1 = \$17.20 per hour
	probation period: 1/23/25-9/22/25		5 hours/10 months

Substitute employees as listed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Bonesteel, Meagan	Aide	01/23/25	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.83 per hour
Breig, Paige	Aide	01/23/25	Step 1 (HS) = \$17.62 per hour
Hubbard, Samantha	Aide	01/23/25	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.83 per hour
McDonald, Saya	Aide	01/23/25	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.83 per hour
McGlauffin, Gabriel	Monitor	01/23/25	Step 1 = \$16.41 per hour
	Senior Monitor	01/23/25	Step 1 = \$17.20 per hour
Morris, Lori	Aide	01/23/25	Step 1 (BS) = \$21.83 per hour

Oliver, Mark Custodial Worker 01/23/25 Substitute rate = \$17.59 per hour

Appointment adjustment:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Cosgrove, Tammy	School Registered Nurse - CHS	01/23/25	Change from 7 hours per day to 7.5 hours per day
Heritage-Allard, Tracy	School Registered Nurse - Goff	01/23/25	Change from 7 hours per day to 7.5 hours per day
McHugh, Melissa	School Registered Nurse - Goff	01/23/25	Change from 7 hours per day to 7.5 hours per day
Mestoik, Corey	School Registered Nurse - Green Meadow	01/23/25	Change from 7 hours per day to 7.5 hours per day
Ridzi, Mary	Supervising Accountant	01/23/25	Change from provisional to permanent reachable on Civil Service Supervising Accountant list
Ryan, Katelyn	School Registered Nurse - Red Mill	01/23/25	Change from 7 hours per day to 7.5 hours per day
Secor, Marjorie	School Registered Nurse - Bell Top	01/23/25	Change from 7 hours per day to 7.5 hours per day
Stoffels, Julie	School Registered Nurse - CHS	01/23/25	Change from 7 hours per day to 7.5 hours per day
Tacy, Sarah	School Registered Nurse - DPS	01/23/25	Change from 7 hours per day to 7.5 hours per day
VanFleet, Sherry	Food Service Helper - Goff	01/23/25	Change from 3.75 hours per day to 6.5 hours per day
White, Andrea	School Registered Nurse - District Wide	01/23/25	Change from 7 hours per day to 7.5 hours per day

D. Resolution Teaching Assistant Tenure

E. Disposal of District Property - Assets

F. Howard L. Goff Middle School Science Olympiad Competition - Harvard Invitational & Ridgefield Invitational

G. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA Items A-G WITHOUT ITEM C

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

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Consent Agenda Items A-G without Item C.

Vote: Ayes-9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM C

Motion by Mr. Buono, Second by Ms. Steinbach

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

Vote: Ayes- 8, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 1 (Skumurski)

Motion carried

15. ADDENDUM

None at this time

16. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time

17. PUBLIC FORUM #2

None at this time

18. BOARD FORUM #2

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Second by Ms. Steinbach to Adjourn the Meeting

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried
Time: 8:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk