

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025
Central Administration Boardroom

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		
Ms. Phillips	X		
Ms. Skumurski	X		
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 is hosting a themed spirit week starting next Monday, blending St. Patrick's Day and March Madness, and will be selling spirit packs to enhance participation. He also promoted their March 28th blood drive, stating that student donors will receive three hours of community service for participating.
Natalie Krisanda announced the end-of-year field trip will be a trip to the American Dream Mall in New Jersey, as a reward for the active members. Additionally, she stated that executive council and top active members of the Council will be representing the District at an upcoming leadership conference at Proctors.

4. MINUTES

A. Approval of Draft Minutes dated February 26, 2025
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2025
Motion by Ms. Phillips, Second by Ms. Skumurski
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 26, 2025
Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 2 (Mann, O'Brien)
Motion carried

5. BOARD FORUM #1

Ms. O'Brien gave a shout-out to the female athletes, acknowledging a state-level win in wrestling, the girls' basketball team's exceptional season, and the 4x400 relay team's fantastic performance at the state track finals.
Ms. Turner reminded everyone to attend the Goff musical on March 14th and 15th, 2025.
Mr. Buono updated everyone on the superintendent search. He said 26 applicants applied, with over 575 years of combined superintendent and assistant superintendent experience. Mr. Buono reported the board met with consultants at Questar III to review the applications, and were able to narrow the field. He said the search timeline is going as planned with interviews occurring next week.

6. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Mr. Grignon invited the Board to attend Genet Elementary School's upcoming Family Reading and Lip Sync events.

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. 2025-2026 Budget Workshop Presentation Workshop #1 and Discussion
Mr. Simons and Ms. Mulligan provided a preliminary budget presentation, utilizing a rollover budget to establish a baseline for the expenses associated with existing staffing and programs. They explained that projections showed a \$12 million gap between expenses and revenues, which, even after applying reserves and fund balance, left a \$6.5 million deficit. The proposed tax levy

increase was set at the maximum 3.19%, but concerns were raised about the long-term sustainability of relying on fund balance and reserves. Major expense drivers, particularly salaries and employee benefits, were identified, and the Board recognized the need to reduce the budget increase from the current 6.2% to a more manageable level. Revenue sources, including property taxes, state aid, and PILOT revenues, were discussed.

Mr. Buono asked if vacant positions were included in the rollover budget.

Mr. Simons clarified that all budgeted positions, whether filled or vacant, are counted in the current staffing levels, and that these vacant roles are being looked at as a way to address the budget shortfall. He reiterated that the presented amounts do not include requests, new programs or any initiatives submitted by staff.

Mr. Simons explained that the District faces a significant budget gap, with current expenses exceeding revenues by \$7.3 million, and a projected \$12 million gap for the upcoming year. This increase, representing a 6.2% rise in expenses, is deemed unsustainable and needs reduction. The Superintendent stated that the current budget utilizes \$700,000 in reserves and appropriated fund balance to close the gap, and future budget discussions will heavily involve strategies for managing fund balance and reserves to address the growing deficit. He said the proposed tax levy increase is at the maximum allowed 3.19%.

Ms. Mulligan stated that her year's plan includes appropriating approximately \$700,000 from reserves and utilizing existing appropriated fund balance, a practice maintained over several years. She said to further close the deficit, future budget cycles will need to explore increasing reserve appropriations while simultaneously decreasing the reliance on fund balance.

Ms. Van Orden asked about the potential impact of exceeding the tax cap. She also requested data on teacher cuts, class size increases, unfilled positions and the extent to which high school teachers are teaching additional classes for stipends.

Mr. Simons responded that the team would provide multiple budget scenarios, including combinations of cuts, tax levy increases and reserve appropriations. He also mentioned that an analysis of middle school and high school class sizes was underway, and that he would provide that data

Mr. Temple asked if the team could include all financial aspects when presenting options, including the capital project, not necessarily to change them, but to have a complete picture. He questioned potential savings from delaying the capital project, suggesting that even a million-dollar reduction could yield savings. He expressed concerns about pre-deciding, as it limits options, and said he wanted to explore all possibilities.

Mr. Simons clarified that the capital project, while involving debt service, doesn't directly impact the current operating budget. He emphasized that the project was promised to the community and that delaying it would ultimately cost taxpayers more in the long run due to increased expenses. Additionally, the Superintendent explained the timing of the project was strategically chosen to smooth the tax burden.

Ms. Phillips asked about potential contingencies related to the school lunch program, particularly concerning CIP and the potential for increased expenses.

Ms. Mulligan clarified that the CIP program is a four-year program and all buildings are currently covered. She also explained she is working to accurately allocate costs to the food service account, moving eligible personnel and equipment expenses from the general fund.

The Board committed to further budget discussions and the development of a multi-year financial plan to address these challenges.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Student Ex Officio Member of the Board of Education

Mr. Simons discussed conversations around the student selection process emphasizing the need for an inclusive process. He highlighted the successful merit based selection process used for homecoming, and said he thought a similar process could be used.

Mr. Temple said he was focused on ensuring an objective and balanced selection process, questioning the definition of "merit" and the potential for bias. He inquired about the timeline and the extent of the student's role.

Mr. Simons stated the Board would have to set a clear definition of merit through a rubric. He proposed a timeline for selection by the end of the school year, with student involvement starting in July, and stressed that the student's role is to bring forward student concerns and perspectives.

Ms. O'Brien discussed having more than one student due to the time commitment.

Ms. Phillips proposed using multiple question responses instead of just an essay for broader inclusion. She also suggested electing a junior and senior to have a type of mentoring system.

Mr. Buono emphasized the need to ensure students are participating for the right reasons.

Ms. Skumurski suggested incorporating the selection process into the social studies classrooms.

Ms. Van Orden agreed, stating it would be a good way for students interested in political science or education administration to test the waters.

Mr. Temple said he felt the role is to bring student voices forward, not as an internship.

Ms. Steinbach said she looked forward to the draft proposal from the committee.

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. 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- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

10. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Financial Reports

Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants-0076, 0077, 0078, V068, V078
Treasurer's Report for the Month of December, 2024
Revenue Status Report for the Month of December, 2024
Budget Status Report for the Month of December, 2024
Budget Transfers for the Month of December, 2024
Extraclassroom Treasurer's Reports for the Month of December, 2024

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Leave of Absence

- a. Williams, Aimee - Teaching Assistant, Columbia High School, requesting an unpaid FMLA leave from 3/10/25 through 4/21/25, planned return 4/22/25.

B. APPOINTMENTS

1. Probationary Appointment - Teaching Assistant

- a. Tibbetts, Sarah - Teaching Assistant, Red Mill Elementary School
(New position)
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant
Probationary Period: 3/17/25-3/16/29
Certification Status: NYS Professional Childhood Ed. 1-6
NYS Professional Students w/Disabilities 1-6
NYS Professional Literacy B-6
Step Placement: Step 1 = \$22.67 per hour
Hours per day: 6.5

2. Student Teachers/Interns 2024-2025

Building Student	Content Area	Cooperating Teacher	College/Term
Bell Top Arianna Campbell	Human Development Internship	Michael Neumann	SUNY Albany/Spring 2

C. OTHER

1. Salary Adjustments - Credit Hours

Name	From	To	Compensation (prorated for 1/2 year)
Gibson, Shawn	B+0	M+0	\$1,481.00
Libardi, Thomas	B+15	M+0	\$1,091.00
Missenis, Kristin	M+0	M+14	\$373.00

2. Adjustment of Tenure Date

- a. Dunham, Samantha - From: Tenure due date 8/31/25
To: Tenure due date 12/12/25
- b. Kelly, David - From: Tenure due date 12/16/25
To: Tenure due date 4/23/26
- c. L'Etoile, Katherine - From: Tenure due date 8/31/25
To: Tenure due date 10/22/25
- d. McHugh, Kayla - From: Tenure due date 10/25/25
To: Tenure due date 1/15/26
- e. Stever, Alecia - From: Tenure due date 8/31/25
To: Tenure due date 11/4/25
- f. VanRoy, Jenna - From: Tenure due date 8/29/25
To: Tenure due date 11/21/25

Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Kolakoski, Beth	Substitute Aide	3/4/25	Step 1 (three year college) = \$20.42 per hour (receipt of transcript)
Polaski, Eric	Account Clerk Typist	3/13/25	Change from provisional to permanent reachable on Civil Service Account Clerk Typist list

D. Memorandum of Agreement - EGTA

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

F. Disposal of District Property - Assets

G. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Second by Ms. Turner

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

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

13. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

14. PUBLIC FORUM #2

None at this time.

15. BOARD FORUM #2

Ms. Steinbach proposed revisiting the ad hoc committees formed earlier in the year. She specifically requested updates on the community survey's progress, the status of the board policies and procedures committee, and the onboarding process for potential new board members following upcoming elections. Additionally, she suggested scheduling a post-budget update on the agreed-upon transition document

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed at this time.

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time:9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk