
**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 23025
Goff Middle School Cafeteria**

1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mr. Temple 7:02 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. APPOINTMENT OF NEW SUPERINTENDENT

A. Appointment of Superintendent of Schools, Effective July 1, 2025

Mr. Temple stated that after an extensive and careful search, the Board has chosen Dr. Kurtis Kotes as the next superintendent. He said Dr. Kotes brings exceptional experience as a superintendent of two districts, along with expertise in curriculum, innovation, leadership in capital projects, and will be a great fit for the District.

Ms. Steinbach thanked Questar III BOCES, Dr. Cruz, and Dan Sherman for their assistance throughout the intensive superintendent search process. She specifically acknowledged Mr. Buono's leadership and the considerable time invested by all Board members. Mr. Adam was thanked for his key role in District communications. Heartfelt appreciation was also given to Mr. Simons for his guidance and expertise, ensuring a smooth and steady transition. Finally, Ms. Steinbach thanked the staff and administrators for their trust and expressed the Board's hope for a warm welcome for Dr. Kotes, whose leadership they highly value as he joins the community.

Dr. Kotes' Speech...

Good Evening:

It is a true pleasure and honor to be here with all of you tonight.

Tonight is a celebration. It is not just a celebration of the appointment of one individual, it is a celebration of a community. Your presence here tonight regardless of whether or not you are a teacher or administrator, support staff member or bus driver, custodial worker, student, parent or community member is a true indicator of your dedication and commitment to the success of our school district. Your willingness to come together and to focus on the direction of where we can head together is what makes East Greenbush an incredible district and a great place to learn, to teach and to serve. I could not be any happier to be joining such a remarkable community. I am filled with gratitude for this opportunity. Thank you to our administrators, teachers, support staff, students and community members who may be here tonight or joining remotely to take part in this celebration. I am humbled and grateful for your presence.

Members of the Board of Education, I take seriously the trust and faith you are putting in me to lead our school district. During the interview process, the Board shared wonderful information about the district, detailing and highlighting their vision for our district. Our dialogue together allowed me to gain a valuable perspective on the excellence that exists here and the hard work that lies ahead. I am grateful to the Board for their transparency in the process. It helped to build even more confidence that this leadership opportunity is a highly desirable position. I affirm for our Board that I will always take my responsibilities with the utmost seriousness, maintaining a keen focus on ensuring that the programs and opportunities that we work to create in our classrooms and learning spaces are the absolute best they can be for all of our students. We owe them nothing less.

I'd like to take this opportunity to offer praise and congratulations to our retiring Superintendent Mr. Jeff Simons. We have just met in person for the first time today, but the grace and kindness that he has afforded me through his willingness to work together through this transition has been invaluable to me. I am confident that these actions are a true reflection not only of his character, but his commitment

to our district, giving nothing but his best. While I know that there will be many more celebrations of his service to our district, I ask that you all please join me in a round of applause as a token of our appreciation for his many dedicated years of service to the East Greenbush Central School District.

With change, always comes uncertainty. I stand before you tonight to help allay some of those fears. I have learned in many years of leadership experience that people who feel supported and heard, also feel valued. They feel connected to their work and are willing to give a deep commitment to the organizations that they serve. I am committed to these values. It is of utmost importance to me for all staff to have the support that they need to always feel that they can perform at their best for the students that we serve. But as they say, actions speak louder than words. I have already begun work on transition planning with the Board of Education and Mr. Simons and look forward to sharing more with all of you in the near future on the specifics of those plans. I am confident that these plans will help us to transition well together and will allow for me to begin the process of learning more about what makes East Greenbush the highest quality district and how I can become a valued member and leader of this team. Please know I wish to earn your confidence and trust and will work every day at doing so.

Author Jim Collins shared the following on leadership: "Great leaders use their smarts and ambition not to advance themselves, but to inspire people to follow a cause." I do aspire to be a great leader for the students, families and community members of East Greenbush. But more importantly, I want to inspire all of our stakeholders to embrace our cause. I hope to guide all of our district to embrace the great things that we already do, but to also look to collaborate on the incremental change that we can work together on to take our district to even higher levels of success. Together, I am confident that we can create a highly successful future for our district!

Thank you for joining us tonight and I look forward to meeting with all of you in the near future as I begin my new role as Superintendent of Schools here in East Greenbush!

4. ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Ayes- 6, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 7:16 P.M.

5. WELCOME RECEPTION

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk