

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2028
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 7:03 P.M.
Ms. Steinbach	X		
Mr. Temple	X		
Ms. Turner	X		
Mr. Van Orden	X		

Also Attending

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

Student Council

Kole Hardy	X
Natalie Krisanda	X

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Temple opened the meeting by announcing the successful budget vote.

Mr. Simons stated the annual budget vote and election were held on May 20, 2025, with the budget successfully passing at 65%, meeting the supermajority requirement. He thanked the community for their support. The Superintendent also stated that voters approved propositions for the purchase of eight traditional fuel buses, two new EV buses, and the establishment of the new bus purchase reserve. He recognized all five candidates who ran for the Board, extending congratulations to the incoming members.

3. EX OFFICIO STUDENT COUNCIL COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Student Council Representatives: Kole Hardy~President; Natalie Krisanda~Vice President
None at this time.

4. MINUTES

A. Approval of Draft Minutes dated April 24, 2025

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF APRIL 24, 2025

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 April 24, 2025.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

B. Approval of Draft Minutes dated May 6, 2025- Public Hearing

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF MAY 6, 2025 - PUBLIC HEARING

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

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 May 6, 2025 - Public Hearing.

Vote: Ayes-6, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 3 (Mann, Skumurski, Temple)

Motion carried

C. Approval of Draft Minutes dated May 6, 2025

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF MAY 6, 2025

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 May 6, 2025.

Vote: Ayes-6, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 3 (Mann, Skumurski, Temple)

Motion carried

5. BOARD FORUM #1

Mr. Buono stated his appreciation to the community for their strong support of the school budget. He acknowledged the significant work involved and thanked the team at central administration, the teachers and the support staff, and emphasized the Board's commitment to responsible financial management going forward.

6. PUBLIC FORUM #1

Ms. Savoca, EGTA president, thanked the Board and community for their budget support, underscoring the positive results achieved by collaborating and working together.

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. NYSSBA Recognition of Board of Education Members-Board Excellence Award-Presented by Superintendent Jeff Simons

Mr. Simons noted that serving on a school board is a significant and time-consuming responsibility, extending beyond just attending the scheduled meetings. He highlighted the dedication of the school board members, noting that they actively participate in NYSSBA professional development opportunities. The Superintendent announced that Mr. Temple, Ms. Steinbach, Ms. O'Brien, and Ms. Phillips were recently recognized by the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA). This recognition program acknowledges school board members who consistently work to enhance their governance knowledge and skills.

He congratulated them on their accomplishment and thanked them for their commitment.

B. Recognition of Students ~ Questar III-National Technical Honor Society Inductees-Presented by Board President Jesse Temple and Questar III Board Member Mark Mann

Mr. Mann stated his excitement to recognize the outstanding students from East Greenbush. He stated that when he learned about the significant number of East Greenbush students who achieved this high honor, he immediately wanted to celebrate their success at a Board meeting. Mr. Mann reported that to be inducted into the 2025 National Technical Honor society students must have a 90% or higher average, have 5 or less absences, and have an 85% or higher average in their home district. He stated that out of 90 students overall, 22 are students at East Greenbush CSD.

Mr. Temple congratulated the students, and thanked Questar III for all the wonderful opportunities available to the students.

Mr. Buono noted that when he first started on the Board, a goal was to significantly increase student participation in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and broaden their opportunities beyond traditional college routes. He said he was happy the Board has achieved this goal, making East Greenbush one of the region's top participating districts in CTE. He congratulated the students on their success.

8. 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. Phillips

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. District Voting Results from May 20, 2025 & Statistics and Observations-Superintendent Jeff Simons and Director of Business and Finance Jennifer Mulligan

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 20, 2025 DISTRICT VOTE

Motion by Mr. Buono, Second by Mr. Mann

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District accepts the results of the May 20, 2025 District vote for budget, gas/diesel buses, EV buses, establishment of bus purchase reserve and election of Board of Education candidates as reported by Chairperson Kelly Krebs

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. Appointment of Howard L. Goff Middle School Interim Principal MOA

Mr. Simons stated that despite a recent search for a new middle school principal, a suitable candidate was not found. He said they have asked Mr. McHugh remain in his position for an additional school year, and he has kindly accepted. Mr. Simons stated that Mr. McHugh has provided exceptional work in leading the middle school, and has consistently performed admirably across all his roles within the district. The Superintendent said the District deeply appreciates his commitment to the schools.

Mr. Buono echoed appreciation for Mr. McHugh's excellent work and continued positive contributions to the District. He also thanked the administration for their collaboration in the ongoing search process.

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT JAMES MCHUGH TO THE POSITION OF INTERIM PRINCIPAL AT HOWARD L. GOFF MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

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

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves and appoints James McHugh to the position of Interim Principal at Howard L. Goff Middle School for the 2025-2026 School Year in Accordance with the attached Employment Agreement

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

D. 2025 Summer Curriculum Writing Approval Memo-Overview by Assistant Superintendent Roy Stiles

Mr. Stiles explained that each year, a committee, made up of some administrators, and teacher representatives from all school levels, reviews summer curriculum writing proposals. He stated that this year, the District received over \$69,000 worth of excellent, beneficial proposals, far exceeding the \$40,000 allocated for funding. Mr. Stiles said it necessitated some difficult decisions, resulting in the approval of 13 out of 18 proposals. He noted that one or two of the unapproved proposals might still be funded through alternative sources, and he will continue seeking other funding opportunities for remaining projects.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2025 SUMMER CURRICULUM WRITING PROPOSALS

Motion by Ms. Skumurski, Second by Ms. Phillips

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the 2025 Summer Curriculum Writing Proposals.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

E. Capital Project Retainer Agreement with Ferrara Fiorenza PC-Director of Business and Finance Jennifer Mulligan

Ms. Mulligan reported that the District is utilizing a retainer agreement with Ferrara, the school attorneys, as part of the \$116.1 million capital project. She explained that this agreement, allows for proactive management of the complex project, including multiple construction contracts, procurement issues, and potential disputes. Ms. Mulligan said having Ferrara Fiorenza on retainer ensures they are a vested part of the professional services team, enabling them to attend weekly meetings and monitor progress. She said that this proactive approach, while an investment, is deemed crucial to avoid lengthy and costly issues experienced in past projects.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL PROJECT RETAINER AGREEMENT WITH FERRARA FIORENZA PC

Motion by Mr. Mann, Second by Mr. Buono

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves Capital Project Retainer Agreement with Ferrara Fiorenza PC

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

F. PILOT Agreements - Miller Road Solar & Miller Road Solar West, LLC-Director of Business and Finance Jennifer Mulligan

Ms. Mulligan explained that the District is moving forward with two solar projects set for construction off Miller Road in East Greenbush. She said these consist of two five-megawatt solar farms on a single large parcel. Leveraging real property tax law section 487, the District has successfully negotiated a PILOT agreement that will increase tax revenue by roughly \$30,000 combined in the initial year. Ms. Mulligan stated that over the 15-year duration of both projects, PILOT revenue is expected to exceed \$500,000, escalating by 2% annually. She said she expected these PILOT payments to begin in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, once the solar farms are fully built and in service.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PILOT AGREEMENT WITH MILLER ROAD SOLAR & MILLER ROAD SOLAR WEST, LLC

Motion by Ms. Turner, Second by Ms. Phillips

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Pilot Agreement with Miller Road Solar & Miller Road Solar West, LLC

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

G. MMB & Co. Engagement Letter Audit 2024-2025-Director of Business and Finance Jennifer Mulligan

Ms. Mulligan reminded the Board that MMB& Co. was selected as the new independent audit firm through an RFP process earlier in the year. She explained that this engagement letter formalizes the services for the upcoming year.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MMB & CO. ENGAGEMENT LETTER FOR 2024-2025 AUDIT.

Motion by Mr. Buono, Second by Ms. Skumurski

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the MMB & Co. Engagement letter for 2024-2025 Audit.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

H. EGTA Retirement Incentive MOA-Superintendent Jeff Simons

Mr. Simons presented a proposed retirement incentive in collaboration with the EGTA to save money, which includes opening a window for eligible teachers to retire with a staged benefit payment and modified health insurance eligibility. The Superintendent also introduced a "floating sub" concept where retirees can return as permanent substitute teachers. He explained that the incentive requires at least six participating teachers to ensure cost savings.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE EGTA RETIREMENT INCENTIVE MOA

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

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the EGTA Retirement Incentive MOA

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Capital Project Planning-Update Superintendent Jeff Simons

Mr. Simons reported that Phase 1A of the capital project, involving the Columbia High School roof and tennis and basketball courts, is progressing well. He stated that the District is still awaiting a determination from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the fields behind Goff Middle School. He explained that design work for other phases is ongoing, with a steering committee meeting planned for mid-June, and Turner Construction providing a progress report at the June 25th Board of Education meeting.

B. Star of Hope/Community Remembrance Projects

Mr. Simons acknowledged Ms. Skumurski and Mr. Mann's ongoing requests for a place for students and family members who have passed away to be remembered. He explained that in years past, high school students worked with the Rotary Club to erect a memorial called the "Star of Hope" at the East Greenbush Library. He reported that the District would like to initiate a project that would relocate and restore the memorial on the Columbia High School campus. The Superintendent described the idea of a central monument, a seating wall, memorial pavers and possibly fundraising through brick purchases. He said there have been some discussions with the Rotary Club and LaBella Architects and Turner Construction have donated their design assistance. Mr. Simons said the next steps would be to determine costs and discuss fundraising.

Ms. Skumurski said she was happy to hear the proposal. She said her heart breaks for the kids, not only the ones that lose a classmate, but ones that lose a close family member. She said she loves that they would have a place to go to spend some time in solitude.

Ms. O'Brien thanked Ms. Skumurski for keeping this project in the forefront. She said she strongly supports the memorial project, appreciating its importance for remembering those who've passed. She praised Turner & Labella's design and the suggestion of a brick purchase fundraiser, noting that people often seek ways to honor loved ones, especially locally. Ms. O'Brien also proposed an annual event to commemorate those who have died in the past year.

Mr. Mann stated that former Columbia principal John Sawchuk was the main driving force behind the original memorial project at the library, working closely with former Superintendent Terry Brewer and the Rotary Club. He said that senior classes, led by John Sawchuk, maintained the memorial without a budget, with students regularly weeding, planting, and cleaning the stones. Mr. Mann said he was pleased that the memorial is being moved back to District property, and suggested that a brick be placed with John Sawchuk's name on it.

Ms. Steinbach recommended assigning ownership of the memorial to either the District or the Board. She said someone needs to establish clear parameters for things like the petitioning for bricks, qualification criteria, and the overall process.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Roy Stiles, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction ~ CCS Meeting May 7, 2025

Mr. Stiles reported that the CCS committee endorsed the program goals for physical education and health and they will be bring that information to the Board at a future meeting. He also provided an update on the first full year of computer-based testing for grades 3-8, noting a smooth process despite an initial state-level issue. Additionally, the Assistant Superintendent sought endorsement for Benchmark Advance and UFLI Foundations literacy programs, which the committee supported. He detailed the process of evaluating and piloting literacy programs, recommending Benchmark Advance for grades 2-5 over a four-year rollout. Mr. Stiles noted positive feedback from teachers piloting the program and its alignment with the New York State Literacy Initiative and the science of reading. He recommended adopting UFLI Foundations as a research-based phonics program for kindergarten and first grade. Mr. Stiles highlighted the District's partnership with Questar III BOCES for embedded professional development in ELA, math, science, and special education. He acknowledged the stress on buildings when teachers are out for professional development but emphasized its benefits and continuation.

11. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time.

12. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Skumurski asked about a recognition ceremony for graduates who are entering the trades or military.

Mr. Simons said Mr. Harkin is working on this, and will be setting up something similar to the athletic signing ceremony.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Financial Reports

Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants- 0093, 0098, 0099, 0100, 0101, 0102, 0103

2025-05-28 Treasurer's Report for the Month of March, 2025

2025-05-28 Revenue Status Report for the Month of March, 2025

2025-05-28 Budget Status Report for the Month of March, 2025
 2025-05-28 Budget Transfers for the Month of March, 2025
 2025-05-28 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Reports for the Month of February, 2025.pdf
 2025-05-28 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Reports for the Month of March, 2025

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo
 A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

- a. Montesi, Ronald - Science, Howard L Goff Middle School, effective 6/30/25.
 Date of Hire: 9/1/04

B. APPOINTMENTS

1. Summer School Principal

- a. Hartnagle, George - ESY Summer School Principal
 Certification: NYS Initial Reissue School Building Leader
 NYS Permanent Special Education
 Experience: 2023-2024 Summer School Principal
 9/03-present Special Education Teacher
 7/04-7/22 Summer school teacher
 Stipend: \$11,000.00

2. Driver Education Instructor - 2025-2026 School Year

- a. Tooker, Jeffrey - Salary \$40 per hour

3. Student Teacher/Intern 2025-2026 School Year

<u>Building</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Content Area</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>	<u>College/Term</u>
Goff	Giovanni Burbige	Social Studies	Michael Barnes	SUNY Oneonta/Fall 1

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Brin, Ronald	School Bus Driver-Transportation	9/01/2025	retirement
Hahn, Summer	Senior Monitor-Goff	5/29/2025	resignation to accept another position in district
Koonz, Gary	Custodial Worker-Red Mill	5/19/2025	resignation
Sprackland Jr, John	Custodial Worker-Bell Top	5/29/2025	resignation to accept another position in district
Appointment as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Brodowski, Logan	Custodial Worker-Bell Top Probation: 5/29/25-11/28/25	5/29/2025	Step 1 = \$19.12 per hour 8 hours/12 months
Collins, Brittany	Bus Aide-Transportation Probation: 5/29/25-2/28/26	5/29/2025	Step 8 (HS) = \$22.62 per hour 4.5 hours/10 months
Hahn, Summer	Bus Aide-Transportation Probation: 5/29/25-2/28/26	5/29/2025	Step 1 (HS) = \$17.62 per hour 6 hours/10 months
Sprackland Jr, John	Truck Driver-District Wide Probation: 5/29/25-11/28/25	05/29/2025	Step 7 = \$27.05 per hour 8 hours/12 months
Wheeler, Melissa	Custodial Worker-Bell Top Probation: 6/2/25-12/1/25	6/02/2025	Step 1 = \$19.12 per hour 8 hours/12 months
Substitute employees as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Clinton, Mackenzie	Aide	5/29/2025	Step 1 (HS) = \$17.62 per hour
Thompson, Timothy	Mechanic	TBD	Step 3 = \$28.54 per hour
Varian, Shane	Bus Aide	5/29/2025	Step 1 (HS) = \$17.62 per hour

Appointment adjustment:			
Cohen, Elizabeth	Substitute Aide	5/29/2025	Step 1 (3 year college) = \$20.42 per hour (receipt of transcript)
Leave of absence:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Carmody, Kathleen	Bus Aide-Transportation	6/4/25-6/27/25	unpaid medical leave of absence
Hahn, Summer	Senior Monitor-Goff	5/1/25-5/28/25	unpaid medical leave of absence
Hart, Patrick	Senior Monitor-CHS	5/7/25-6/16/25	unpaid leave of absence

D. Disposal of District Property - Assets

E. Health and Welfare Services Contract - Rensselaer City School District

F. Health and Welfare Services Contract - Waterford Halfmoon Union Free School District

G. New Elementary ELA Programs

H. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

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

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

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

14. ADDENDUM

None at this time.

15. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

16. PUBLIC FORUM #2

Mr. Dan Wagner, EGTA co-president, parent, and BSA troop leader, offered his troop's volunteer support for the Star of Hope project, potentially as part of an Eagle Scout project.

17. BOARD FORUM #2

Ms. Steinbach mentioned the recent art show and said it was well done and very well attended.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by, Second by to enter Executive Session for discussion of the employment history of a particular individual.

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk

Motion by Ms. Turner, Second by Mr. Buono to exit Executive Session

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time 9:43 P.M.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Mann, Second by Ms. Skumurski to Adjourn the Meeting

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 9:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Buono
Assistant District Clerk