

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

**1. A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Ms. Turner- 7:00 P.M.

**B. ATTENDANCE**

	Present	Absent	Arrival
Mr. Buono	X		
Ms. Herron	X		
Mr. Marchiony	X		
Mr. Panasci	X		
Ms. Phillips	X		
Mr. Shane	X		
Mr. Temple	X		
Ms. Turner	X		
Ms. Van Orden	X		

**Ex-Officio Student Member**

Ms. Holly Thorpe		X	
Mr. William Bollam	X		

**Student Council  
Representatives**

Natalie Krisanda		X	
Matthew Pallone	X		

**Also Attending**

Dr. Kurtis Kotes	X		
Mr. Lisa Mahar	X		
Mr. Martin Mahar	X		
Ms. Jennifer Mulligan	X		

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. EX OFFICIO STUDENT COUNCIL COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. Student Council Representatives: Natalie Krisanda~President; Matthew Pallone~Vice President

Matthew Pallone reported that Student Council made and distributed cards to area Veterans to thank them for their service. He stated they are also organizing a blood drive, and are planning a canned food drive combined with a "pie Mr. Harkin" raffle on November 21st. Mr. Pallone reported that the English 11 Honors students recently took a field trip to Salem related to their study of *The Crucible*, and an English elective class went to New York City. Additionally, Mr. Pallone reported that the symphonic band performed at the Bell Top Veterans Day assembly, and the *Once Upon a Stage* group held successful teacher and main performances that seemed to be enjoyed by all.

Mr. Panasci said that he was at the Bell Top ceremony and the symphonic band was awesome, he also expressed his enjoyment of the *Once Upon a Stage* production.

**4. MINUTES**

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF OCTOBER 29, 2025.

Motion by Mr. Shane, Second by Mr. Panasci

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 October 29, 2025

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0, Abstentions- 2 (Buono, Herron)

Motion carried

**5. BOARD FORUM #1**

Mr. Temple commented that the District is off to a great start despite being a significant transition year with many new administrators, a new Board President, and four new Board members. Given that the year is approaching its halfway point, he suggested a refresh or recap of board governance and communication expectations for the newer members. Mr. Temple also requested an update on the per diem basis of Mr. Simons, expressing the need to understand the future plan and status of his arrangement.

Ms. Herron acknowledged two recent events, the Social Studies Honor Society induction and the Once Upon a Stage production, noting the impressive fact that students handled the entire production. She congratulated all the students involved in both successful events.

Mr. Buono extended recognition to all veterans and highly commended the District for its excellent Veterans Day celebrations. He emphasized that these school-based recognitions are unique to the District and deeply appreciated by both the community and the veterans themselves. Mr. Buono thanked the administration and staff for organizing these celebrations to honor veterans.

Mr. Shane offered his heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, colleagues, and students mourning the loss of Columbia High School teacher, Mr. Hill. He acknowledged the efforts of the students and the EGTA, led by Miss Hastings, for organizing fundraisers and expressed hope that these efforts provided significant support. He said he appreciates seeing the East Greenbush community for coming together during this difficult time. Additionally, Mr. Shane thanked the Food Services department for their ongoing essential work, especially given the increased importance due to the current SNAP crisis. He also extended gratitude to the many students, staff, and faculty across the District involved in food pantry, nutritional support efforts, and the coordinators and community supporters of the Backpack Program, which helps meet students' nutritional needs over the weekends.

Mr. Marchiony echoed the praise about the Once Upon a Stage production, describing it as a fantastic event and noting how much fun the performers were having, and how much they cared about the production and each other. Additionally, he offered congratulations to Chris Dedrick on his recent induction into the New York State Baseball Hall of Fame.

## **6. PUBLIC FORUM #1**

Dan Wagner, parent, Columbia High School teacher and EGTA president, thanked Dr. Kotes and the administration for their handling of the day of Rich Hill's passing, specifically recognizing the support provided by Mike Harkin, other administrators, support staff, social workers, and personnel from Questar, as well as the District's allowance for staff to attend the funeral. He also shared the unfortunate news that Pat Balcom, a retired teacher of over 30 years and the retiree chair, was tragically lost in a car accident on Monday. Mr. Wagner expressed his gratitude for the District's strong sense of community, support, understanding, and compassion during these tough times.

## **7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Kotes noted the Rockefeller Tree celebration and thanked Mr. Grignon for all his work to make it a memorable experience.

Mr. Grignon stated it was a tremendous experience that had Dr. Kotes, admin, EG police, and the NYS police working collaboratively. He thanked Dr. Kotes for giving him latitude to not only make this a schoolwide event, but also including the community. He also thanked the Russ family for including the school community and helping to create a core memory for all the students.

Dr. Kotes thanked the Board members for taking the time out of their schedules to be present and show their support at the Veteran's Day celebrations. He said it was noted by all building administrators that having representation from both the Central Office and the Board at every Veterans Day ceremony was a noticeable and deeply appreciated sign of respect, not just for the veterans, but for the entire school community.

### **A. Budget Orientation Workshop**

Dr. Kotes explained that Ms. Mulligan's presentation is designed to provide foundational information on budget components, revenue and expenditure codes, and how the budget works, ensuring everyone operates from the same starting point. He said the goal is to establish a solid common understanding before plugging in real-time information from Albany, as the early start is crucial due to the uncertainty surrounding the upcoming fiscal year.

Ms. Mulligan presented an overview of the 2026-2027 budget process beginning with a presentation on revenue sources, detailing all funding sources, including property taxes and various categories of State Aid. She also provided background about understanding the NYS Tax levy Cap, which showed historical context, explained the formula components, and reviewed the specific 2025-2026 tax cap calculation. She then discussed expenditures, which were examined across three levels, the broad three-part budget- administration, program, & capital, followed by an examination of specific function areas and objects of expenditure. Ms. Mulligan concluded by identifying important upcoming budget considerations for future planning.

Mr. Temple asked if there were more opportunities to purchase services through BOCES since it is aidable.

Mr. Kotes explained that the District currently purchases approximately 7 million in BOCES services, and there are true benefits for shared services and consortium buying, but some single item procurements, like some new software, might have a large BOCES markup which would eliminate the financial advantage of the aid.

Mr. Panasci asked if the hold harmless provision will continue to apply for the 2026-2027 school year.

Dr. Kotes explained that the state is re-evaluating the Foundation Aid school funding formula, prompted by a study from the Rockefeller Institute. He said many districts have seen declining enrollment, and the Governor has questioned why the state pays for empty seats. The Superintendent explained that costs have gone up significantly for services like mental health and special education compared to when the original formula was created. Dr. Kotes reported that East Greenbush is still seeing increasing enrollment, which means the funding is based on the current formula and not as a hold harmless district. He said this puts the District in a good position, though state funding is often unpredictable.

Mr. Marchiony asked if "hold harmless" is basically the minimum foundation aid and will increase each year.

Dr. Kotes replied that the main point of "hold harmless" is to prevent a district's Foundation Aid from being cut, even if student enrollment drops significantly. State formulas assume fewer students mean less need for funding, but districts argue this is untrue because the demand for costly services like social workers, psychologists, and special education is increasing. The Superintendent explained that after pushback from districts, the state agreed not to cut funding and, in some cases, guaranteed a minimum 2% increase. However, as more districts statewide rely on this protection instead of the regular funding formula, it raises constant questions about the future stability of the "hold harmless" policy.

Mr. Shane asked if the instructional materials aid or transportation/excess cost aids had spending limits.

Ms. Mulligan explained that instructional materials aid has a per-pupil cap. Transportation and excess cost aid do not have hard caps, but reviewers may question increases unless justified by increased need.

Mr. Temple expressed the need to be extremely cautious and deliberate in the communication about the budget due to facing certain uncertainty and significant community financial pressure. He said in order to hedge against this uncertainty and maintain trust, they will need to openly communicate their efforts to keep costs as low as possible. He stated that if adjustments are necessary, the Board must clearly explain the reasoning, assuring the community that they are doing their absolute best. Mr. Temple reiterated that this transparency, regardless of whether discussing an increase, flat budget, or decrease, is essential for the community to trust the Board's representation.

Mr. Buono agreed that the discussion is important because the upcoming budget calendar requires the Board to give direction to the administration. He said as the Board represents the community, its members must clearly convey their thoughts and guidance to the administration, balancing the best interests of students, families, and the community based on the available data. He suggested that the Board members review historical budget and finance documents over the next month to prepare to offer general guidance that will help the administration craft the final budget, in alignment with both Board and District goals.

Ms. Phillips agreed that sharing historical information will help the public understand the unique challenges and decisions that have shaped the District's financial position.

Mr. Temple asked if there was a plan to engage our Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs) by reaching out to them and instructing them on how they can get involved in the upcoming budget process.

Dr. Kotes explained that the District will reach out to the PTO's later in January, once the budget framework starts coming together.

Mr. Panasci asked if the budgets are built on a building by building basis.

Ms. Mulligan explained that budget development is generally organized by school level, but approached holistically as a K-12 district. She said there will be separate meetings with teams from the Elementary, Middle, and High schools, as well as with administrative departments like IT and Facilities. Additionally, she explained that the Special Education department will be integrated into the discussions for the relevant building-level programs, as their services are provided within those schools.

## **8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Red Mill Sewer Project**

Dr. Kotes discussed the sanitary sewer issue at Red Mill Elementary. He reported that this is an infrastructure problem that must be fixed. He stated that LaBella Architects have reviewed and developed a schematic plan and Turner Construction has come up with an functional budget averaging approximately \$425,000. The Superintendent discussed two main options for addressing those costs: using a portion of the unappropriated 4% fund balance or incorporation of the scope into the current capital project. He explained the Capital project option requires working with the architect to justify the inclusion of plumbing and sewer work, as it was not originally included in the voter-approved scope, although other bathroom renovations that would hook into the piping were planned. The Superintendent stated that withdrawing that amount from the fund balance would significantly negatively impact planning for the 2026-27 fiscal year, and he also acknowledged the calculated risk of including work in the capital project due to the early stage of the project, and potential unforeseen increases in inflation and escalation costs. He said the District recommends moving this project into the capital project as it gives the District more confidence in the 2026-2027 budget process by not pulling from the fund balance.

Mr. Temple asked if there was a legal risk of putting it into the capital project.

Dr. Kotes emphasized the need for a process to be followed to be transparent with the community which involves the architect affirming in writing that the sewer work is essential for the planned new fixtures and bathrooms to function, followed by a Board resolution accepting the recommendation.

Mr. Temple acknowledged that the District was below budget on the current project.

Dr. Kotes reminded everyone that the vast majority of the savings so far is coming from the site work and this project would be considered construction work. He said the District is hoping to try to maintain the tax neutrality of the project.

Mr. Panasci asked if they can afford to take time to include this project or if it should be deemed an emergency.

Dr. Kotes said it would be an 8-10 week window to use emergency funds for a project versus incorporating it into the capital improvement project. He explained the District has purchased a camera to regularly inspect the pipes and will be arranging routine plumbing services to mitigate any immediate issues. He explained that if the Board affirms to move the project to the capital budget, the professionals will be instructed to continue advancing the work on the capital timeline immediately.

Mr. Buono suggested a brief special meeting to speed things up.

Dr. Kotes said that would not be necessary. He said just knowing the Board wants to move in that direction would help to continue to push the project forward.

Mr. Shane asked if the risk to add the project would mean they might run out of money at the end to finish the project, and wondered if there would be any effect on the Bond ratings.

Dr. Kotes explained that the expenditure limit for the capital project won't change because it's fixed by the voters' authorization. He said the plan is to expand the existing project's scope within the current budget to fix an unexpected condition that is preventing the completion of promised work. However, the risk remains that future unforeseen conditions, especially skyrocketing inflation, could potentially prevent the full completion of the promised multi-phase project scope.

Mr. Buono asked if any of the funds the Board authorized to put into the tax certiorari could be reversed, as he wanted to make sure they were looking at all ways to fund the issue.

Dr. Kotes said his concern would be, even though they are pretty confident in the estimate, they could run in to unanticipated problems, such as asbestos. He recommended moving the project into the capital project so they don't negatively impact next years budget by drawing from it now.

Mr. Marchiony asked the difference between site work and construction work costs, and asked if the District was underbudget on one, could the remainder be moved to the other.

Ms. Mulligan explained that while those funds can be flexible the concern is about the tax neutrality of the project. She stated that if they exceed the maximum cost allowance of a building they would not receive aid on anything over that allowance. She said they project is already on approximately 85% aidable, and if they ended up spending more than is allowed, they might have to adjust the tax levy in the coming year to accommodate those additional costs.

Ms. Phillips asked if they should get a second opinion as a safeguard to substantiate and reinforce the need of the project.

Dr. Kotes said while they could do that, there will be contractors bidding on the project, who will be giving feedback on the needs of the scope of work.

Ms. Phillips asked why this problem was not identified in the last building conditions survey and wondered if they should make changes on who provides that information.

Dr. Kotes explained the District has changed architects since that report, and a new report is required every five years. He explained that once a Building condition Survey is completed, the District works with the Board to prioritize the work.

Mr. Temple asked if this is a long term or short term proposal.

Dr. Kotes stated that the \$425,000 budget is the complete replacement of the infrastructure.

Ms. Herron asked for an estimate on what has already been spent on this issue.

Dr. Kotes said the cost has been significant, and he will try to gather that information for the Board. He asked the Board for feedback, and to confirm if they are supportive of moving forward with adopting the project into the scope of the capital project at the December meeting.

The Board members all agreed to move forward.

Dr. Kotes said LaBella and Turner will work to prepare, and will present everything at the next meeting.

#### A. Shared Transportation Contract with Schodack Central School District

##### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SHARED TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT WITH SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Motion by Mr. Marchiony, Second by Ms. Van Orden

The Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Shared Transportation Contract with Schodack Central School District

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

#### B. Budget Calendar and District Vote 2026-2027

##### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET CALENDAR AND DISTRICT VOTE 2026-2027

Motion by Mr. Panasci, Second by Mr. Marchiony

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Budget Calendar and District Vote 2026-2027

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

## 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. Jennifer Mulligan, Director of Business and Finance - Finance & Audit Committee Meeting Minutes 11-10-2025

Ms. Mulligan gave an overview of the recent Finance & Audit committee meeting stating the District is expected to receive a clean opinion on its general financial statements, though exceeding the 4% fund balance limit was noted as a non-compliance supplement. She noted that the single audit for federal expenditures will be delayed due to the finalized compliance supplement. The extra-classroom activity fund resulted in a qualified opinion due to the inherent risk associated with cash-dependent student activity clubs, meaning auditors cannot fully verify all cash receipts. Ms. Mulligan stated that the District continuously reinforces training for club advisors and student treasurers to maintain safeguards, but the qualified opinion is expected due to the nature of the funds.

Ms. Mulligan also reported that the committee reviewed the upcoming capital project financing, including the long-term financing of the 2017 project with \$13.5 million in serial bonds and the issuance of an additional \$19 million in Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) for the current big project, totaling \$39.7 million in debt issuance in December. In regards to investing, Ms. Mulligan said the committee reviewed the process noting a shift to more long-term investing of the reserve balances based on projections that Fed rates are likely to drop. She said the District is expecting lower investment earnings compared to last year due to the lower rates.

#### B. Lisa Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction ~ CCS Meeting Minutes 11-5-2025

Ms. Mahar reported that minor revisions were made to the K-5 report cards to align them with new programs. She also discussed the progress in the English Language Learner and school counselor program reviews, which have mission statements aligning with the Portrait of a Graduate, career pathways, and 21st-century learning. She stated the committee also received three proposals for college-in-the-high-school courses. Finally, an update on the Portrait of a Graduate initiative included forming a subcommittee to align it with the strategic plan. Ms. Mahar stated that the recent professional development day was successful, with positive feedback on training in areas like digital literacy and mathematics software.

C. Dr. Kurtis Kotes, Superintendent ~ Athletic Program Highlights

Dr. Kotes acknowledged the exciting fall athletic season. He explained that Mr. Jones had planned to attend, but was attending the girls' volleyball regionals near Syracuse. Dr. Kotes said he is hopeful Mr. Jones will attend the next meeting to detail the successes of all student athletes, with fingers crossed that both the boys' and girls' volleyball teams continue to advance. The Superintendent also highlighted a significant honor for a long-time District coach, Chris Dedrick, who was inducted into the New York State Hall of Fame.

**11. TABLED MOTIONS**

None at this time.

**12. OLD BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**13. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Financial Reports

#1 Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants- 0030, 0032, 0033, 0035, 0036, V028, V032

#2 - 2025-11-12 Treasurer's Report for the Month of July, 2025

#3 - 2025-11-12 Revenue Status Report for the Month of July, 2025

#4 - 2025-11-12 Budget Status Report for the Month of July, 2025

#5 - 2025-11-12 Budget Transfers for the Month of July, 2025

#6 - 2025-11-12 Extraclassroom Treasurer's Reports for Columbia High School and Goff Middle School for the Month of July, 2025

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Resignation

a. Backmon, Veronica - Per Diem Substitute Teacher, effective 11/7/25

Reason: per sub request

b. Hand, Alyssa - Teaching Assistant, Green Meadow Elementary School, effective 12/5/25.

Date of Hire: 9/11/25 Reason: employment in another district

c. White, Patricia - Psychologist, Genet Elementary School/CTAEP, effective 11/25/25.

Date of Hire: 8/27/25 Reason: employment in another district

B. APPOINTMENTS

1. 6th Period Assignment 2025-2026 School Year

Name	Building	Subject	Stipend
a. Ouimet, Alysse	Goff	Special Education	\$5,200.00 (80%)

2. Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Name	Certification Area	Degree	Status	Effective Date
Beringer, Meredith	Biology	B.S		11/13/25
Crandall, Philip	Adolescent Ed.	M.A		11/13/25
Reynold-Cotzas, George	Spanish	B.A		11/13/25

3. Student Teacher/Intern 2025-2026 School Year

Building	Student	Content Area	Cooperating Teacher	College/Term
Goff	Gavin Follos	Social Studies	Timothy Galvin	SUNY Oneonta/Spring 1
Districtwide	Elijah Truax Sutton	Music	Lenore Aldi	SUNY Potsdam/Spring 1

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Correction to Coaching Appointment

a. Bechard, Chris Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball  
 Certified Teacher - Social Studies - Goff  
 Experience: Basketball J.V. Girls' Basketball - Holy Names - 2025  
 Modified Girls' Basketball - Holly Grove, NC - 2019  
 Modified Boys' Basketball - Holly Grove, NC - 2015-2017  
 Modified Boys' Basketball - Vance County, NC - 2014  
 Base Salary: \$4,471.00 + \$401.00 = \$4,872.00  
 Start Date: November 17, 2025

2. Unpaid Coach 2025-2026 Winter Sports Season

The following will volunteer for our winter athletic programs. All hold current certification in AED/CPR, First Aid. Blood Borne Pathogens, DASA, Concussion Management, SAVE & Child Abuse.

Name	Sport
Scaccia, Todd	Wrestling

3. Board of Education Resolution hereby approves the instructional substitute teacher list for 2025-2026 school year:

Baldwin, Chole  
 Dupont, Melissa  
 Timmons, Pamela

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Anziano, Janelle	Substitute Food Service Helper	10/30/25	resignation to accept another position in district
Backmon, Veronica	Substitute: Aide, Bus Driver, Monitor, Sr. Monitor	11/7/25	per employee's request
Basolt, Kelly	Bus Aide-Transportation	10/31/25	resignation
Carpenter, Tina	Substitute Typist	11/6/25	per employee's request
Hadley, Craig	Substitute Aide	11/4/25	per employee's request
Jimenez, Biolka	Substitute Food Service Helper	10/30/25	resignation to accept another position in district
Kolakoski, Beth	Substitute Aide, Substitute Sr. Monitor	10/30/25	resignation to accept another position in district
Morton-Bentley, Kaitlin	Substitute Aide	11/7/25	per employee's request
Parkhurst, Maeve	Substitute Food Service Helper	10/30/25	resignation to accept another position in district
Sasso, Sandra	Substitute Aide	10/31/25	per employee's request
Uttendorfer, Emma	Substitute Monitor	10/30/25	resignation to accept another position in district
Appointment as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Betz, Christopher	Custodial Worker-Red Mill Probation: 11/13/25-5/12/26	11/13/25	Step 1 = \$19.79 per hour 8 hours/12 months
Simmons, Denice	School Bus Driver-Transportation Probation: 11/13/25-5/12/26	11/13/25	Step 3 = \$28.61 per hour 6.5 hours/10 months
Substitute employees as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Bullock, Daniel	Custodial Worker	11/13/25	Step 1 = \$18.21 per hour
Crandall, Philip	Aide	11/13/25	Step 1 (BA) = \$22.48 per hour

Sweet, Bradley	Custodial Worker	11/13/25	Step 1 = \$18.21 per hour
Torres, Gregorio	Custodial Worker	11/13/25	Step 1 = \$18.21 per hour
Walters, Thomas	Monitor Sr. Monitor	9/17/25	Step 1 = \$16.90 per hour Step 1 = \$17.72 per hour
Appointment adjustment:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Harris, Diane	Account Clerk	11/13/25	change from provisional to permanent appointment per Rensselaer County Civil Service NY HELPS.
Board of Education Resolution hereby approves the non-instructional substitute list for 2025-2026 school year:			
Balascio, Rebecca	Aide, Food Service Helper		
Baldwin, Chloe	Aide		
Brown, Randy	Custodial Worker		
Carpenter, Tina	Custodial Worker		
Coons, Brook	Bus Aide		
Guadagnino, Jenna	Typist, Monitor, Sr. Monitor		
Haigh, JoAnna	Typist		
Ingram, Zachary	Mechanic		
Kivitz, Tammy	Sr. Monitor		
Koshykar, Helen	Sr. Monitor, Typist		
Mann, Ernestine	Aide, Custodial Worker, Typist		
Murphy-Taylor, Ann	Monitor, Sr. Monitor		
Regitano, Judith	Bus Aide		
Reilly, Sheilla	Bus Aide, Sr. Monitor, Typist		
Schwab, William C.	Sr. Monitor		
Serian, Jennifer	Typist		
Smith, Richard	Aide, Sr. Monitor		
Tomaski, Rita	Monitor, Sr. Monitor		
Varian, Peter	Custodial Worker		
Webber, Mary	Custodial Worker		
Yake, Grace	Monitor		

- D. Approval of Programs for Resident Children with Disabilities
- E. Agreement for Professional Services with Bethlehem Speech Services, PLC
- F. Agreement for Professional Services with Laura Rickard, M.S., CCC-SLP
- G. Agreement for Professional Services with Rebekah Magin, dba Prana Mani
- H. Agreement for Educational Services with Catapult Learning, LLC
- I. Acceptance of Gifts and Authorization to Increase the 2025-2026 Budget
- J. Columbia Wrestling Overnight Trip
- K. Resolution Teacher Tenure
- L. Resolution School Counselor Tenure
- M. Disposal of District Property - Assets
- N. Approval of Consent Agenda

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

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

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

Motion by, Second by to

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

**14. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Temple asked about the possibility of adding a pilot Vibe Coding class to the curriculum, and potentially advocating for it as a statewide initiative through organizations like NYSSBA to enhance competitiveness for both the District and the broader region. He said he felt this initiative would align with the District's mission of future-driven education, and will equip students with skills needed in the future.

Mr. Buono asked how Mr. Temple would like to proceed.

Dr. Kotes advised that the idea should first be discussed with the Board of Education president and vice president to be placed on a future agenda. From there, the curriculum office would examine resources, consult with staff, and potentially recommend a pilot program, after-school experience, or a new course. He emphasized that following this process is crucial for sustainability and ensuring all committees and competing priorities are addressed.

Mr. Temple said he would like to try to maintain the current momentum for the V-coding initiative, noting that there is significant external interest and unused expertise available. He expressed concern that the idea could stall and offered to act as a bridge to actively connect and utilize community talent to drive the project forward.

Dr. Kotes suggested starting as an after-school experience to build interest, possibly by teaming up with a parent or specialist from the community who is willing to run a pilot program with students, under the supervision of a teacher or administrator. The Superintendent said this would allow them to test the waters and gauge interest.

Ms. Phillips thought the proposed AI subcommittee would be a good starting point for the Vibe Coding idea. She recommended engaging with the subcommittee and then exploring partnerships within the business community. She said while this pathway may be potentially slower, it will provide the necessary foundation for sustainability.

## **16. BOARD FORUM #2**

Mr. Shane thanked Ms. Mahar for all the professional development opportunities. He congratulated Mr. Muzio, Ms. VanRoy, and Ms. Dunham on achieving tenure. He also thanked Price Chopper/Market 32 for donations during the Rockefeller tree event.

Mr. Bollam provided an update on the second academic quarter and noted that many clubs are officially underway. He highlighted the Students for Environmental Action club and announced their new podcast called *Trash Talk*, which can be found on Spotify. He said it is a way for students to communicate efforts toward sustainability and environmental action.

Ms. Herron said she was excited to hear about the transportation initiative, and liked that the District was addressing the driver shortage by combining resources with other districts.

## **17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Not needed at this time.

## **18. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Marchiony, Second by Ms. Van Orden to Adjourn the Meeting

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 9:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn  
District Clerk