

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026
Central Administration Boardroom**

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Ms. Turner - 7:02 P.M.

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

Holly Thorpe	X		
William Bollam		X	

Student Council Representatives

Natalie Krisanda	X		
Matthew Pallone	X		

Also Attending

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Student Council Representatives: Natalie Krisanda~President; Matthew Pallone~Vice President
None at this time.

D. Approval of Draft Minutes dated April 15, 2026

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2026

Motion by Ms. Herron, 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 April 15, 2026

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

E. Approval of Draft Minutes dated April 21, 2026

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2026

Motion by Ms. Van Orden, 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 April 21, 2026

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

F. Public Comment

Ms. Christine Blake, Mr. Timothy Galvin, and Ms. Rachel Mathis, teachers at Goff Middle School, spoke in support of the MAP and Jumpstart programs, highlighting their decade-long success in helping vulnerable students gain academic confidence and emotional stability. They shared data showing significant improvements in student GPAs and provided personal testimonies from parents and students who described the programs as life-changing safe havens. While acknowledging current budget constraints, the educators urged the Board to recognize these programs as a proven model for student connection and success, pleading for their eventual reinstatement to ensure that future students do not fall through the cracks.

Mr. Floyd Hunt, A Navy veteran and longtime community resident, shared his extensive background in military service and education, expressing his deep appreciation for the quality of the East Greenbush Central School District. He inquired about the funding for ongoing elementary school playground and infrastructure upgrades occurring throughout the District.

Dr. Kotes explained that the current upgrades across the district's seven schools, including playground equipment, HVAC systems, roofing, and paving, were funded by a separate community referendum approved in 2024. The Superintendent stated that because these capital works were financed through that specific referendum, they did not impact the annual operating budget.

Mr. Hunt also commended the District for the clear communication and transparency regarding District finances. He concluded by reflecting on his pride in the community and the importance of civic participation in the budgeting process.

2. BOARD FORUM

Mr. Buono noted that he was a Board member when the MAP and Jumpstart programs were established in 2015, stating that they were created to help alternative students transition from elementary school to the larger middle school environment. He expressed deep respect for the staff and the positive impact the programs have had on students over the years. He concluded by stating that the Board would look for ways to meet those students' needs, even if they have to find different methods to do so. Ms. Herron expressed her gratitude to the Education Foundation for a successful evening celebrating the District's alumni and teachers. She highlighted the presentation of the new Shining Star award to Chelsea Goodbred and recognized the contributions of Megan Asenbauer and Bill Clum. She also noted that the tribute to Casey Frankowski was particularly heartwarming, concluding that the event was a wonderful way to honor members of the school community.

Mr. Temple also thanked the Education Foundation for the event, noting how much he enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the District's alumni and staff. He remarked on the positive energy of the evening and emphasized how important it is for the community to come together to recognize the lasting impact of dedicated educators and successful graduates.

Mr. Panasci said he now realizes that the floating nurse position is distinct from the Rensselaer County contract and not part of the District's direct budget. He shared his positive experience attending the recent Pollinator Garden ribbon cutting at Donald P. Sutherland, and noted how impressed he was by the behavior and talent of the elementary students. He expressed his excitement and appreciation for seeing the students' hard work firsthand.

Ms. Turner acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week, and gave a huge shout out to the District teachers for all they do.

3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Administrative Reports

- Dr. Kurtis Kotes- Outstanding Policy Review

Dr. Kotes reported that the Attendance and Policy Committee, having completed its three regularly scheduled meetings, has added an additional session for May 26, 2026, to address a significant backlog of outstanding policies. He stated that while recent efforts have focused on refining attendance-related communications, such as brochures, letters, and building-level protocols, the upcoming meeting will tackle a wide range of critical updates. The Superintendent said key items for review include the adoption of new Work from Home and Artificial Intelligence policies, as well as revisions to protocols regarding credit card usage, bus accidents, library book selections, and field trips.

Mr. Buono brought up his concerns about the tone of the attendance letters. He said he always felt they are very negative and sound punitive and especially concerning for families that have children out for medical issues.

Mr. Shane asked if the librarians will be involved in drafting the language about the library book policy.

Dr. Kotes explained that the District would ask the librarians to join for the policy review and give input.

Mr. Temple asked about the Board's role in policy review, emphasizing the need to maintain a high-level perspective. He expressed interest in how the Board can set strategic targets and view the policy landscape from a distance without becoming entangled in daily school operations. His goal was to ensure a clear distinction between the Board's governance and the administration's management of the District.

Dr. Kotes agreed with the need for a high-level perspective, distinguishing between Board policy and administrative regulation. He explained that policy should serve as the 30,000-foot guardrails for an issue, while regulations define the specific details of how administrators enact those policies. He emphasized that maintaining this boundary is essential to keeping the Board focused on governance rather than operational minutiae.

- Ms. Lisa Mahar- CCS Meeting Minutes- April 29, 2026

Ms. Mahar reported that the Curriculum Committee successfully approved several program updates, including new goals for English Language Learners to improve proficiency and cultural equity, an updated K-5 Health Scope and Sequence, and a Physical Education plan that expands Unified PE and Special Olympics district-wide. She explained that she will soon be submitting 13 Summer Curriculum proposals for approval, will be continuing the development of a "Portrait of a Graduate" graphic, and working on the implementation of a new state-mandated Personal Finance requirement for grades 5-12. Additionally, Ms. Mahar said that the District is refining its Athletic Academic Code of Conduct and advancing its Technology Plan, which prioritizes cybersecurity, AI-ready teaching frameworks, and the development of student digital portfolios.

- NYS 3-8 Assessments & Regents Data Results

Ms. Mahar reported that the East Greenbush Central School District demonstrated exceptional academic performance in 2025, consistently outperforming NYS, NERIC, and Questar III averages. She said in the Grades 3-8 NYS Assessments, the District achieved 68% proficiency in ELA and 76% in Mathematics, ranking #1 among all 22 Questar III districts in both subjects and placing within the top 80 districts statewide. Ms. Mahar stated that performance was equally strong at the high school level, where Regents Exam proficiency reached near-universal levels, including 100% in Algebra and 98% in US History and

Geometry. Lastly she reported that the District successfully transitioned to full computer-based testing for grades 3-8 and implemented new science standards, leveraging these assessments to refine data-driven instruction and build student confidence across all grade levels.

Mr. Shane asked if the transition to computer-based testing was mandated by the State. He also questioned whether demographic data, such as income, is actually linked to individual state test results.

Ms. Mahar explained the State's multi-year phase-in timeline for computer testing and noted that the District is currently ahead of schedule. She emphasized that state tests are only on measure in a whole child model and shared how the Star Universal Screener data helps predict proficiency throughout the year.

Mr. Buono asked how the District compares to other schools.

Mr. Panasci seconded the request for comparative data to better gauge performance.

Ms. Mahar addressed how the District compares to others by referencing Questar III BOCES, which includes 21 schools. She identified Schodack, Averill Park, and Troy as some of the key districts she considers comparable to East Greenbush. While acknowledging the complexity of such comparisons, she noted that looking at these specific neighbors helps provide a better understanding of the District's standing within the region.

Mr. Temple asked for additional disaggregated data to identify specific student groups that may be underperforming. He said that relying on broad averages can blind the Board to groups needing dedicated resources or different instructional strategies.

Ms. Thorpe said she thought comparing specific student groups could be taken negatively or lead to unfair labeling.

Ms. Herron said that while the data presented to the Board is broad, faculty already performs detailed internal reviews of subgroups to ensure no student is overlooked.

Mr. Temple asked what the Board's role is in the process, wondering if the Board should have more direct access to the data or if that information should remain at the curriculum and department level.

Ms. Phillips supported the idea of the Board looking closer at the data, stating that it is a good way for the Board to ensure they are investing District resources effectively.

Mr. Buono explained that staff usually handle the deep data analysis first and once they find a problem, they come to the Board to ask for specific tools, staff or funding needed to fix the problem.

Dr. Kotes said the District does receive individual student reports with identifying data. He said building administrators identify needs on daily classroom interactions and then bring those resource requests to the Board during budget development.

Ms. Mahar said that state tests are only one snapshot of a child and should be used alongside other measures like the Star Universal Screener. She proudly reported that the district is ranked #1 in its region for ELA and Science and consistently outperforms state averages.

Mr. Buono suggested that the Board focus more on how teachers use the scores to change their teaching. He said he believes the District is successful because the staff works hard behind the scenes to fix learning gaps, and the Board's main job is to give them the training and tools to keep doing that work.

Mr. Temple agreed that the District should not label kids, but he said he is worried that high overall scores can hide small groups of students who are falling behind. He said he just wants to make sure the Board can still see those struggling groups so they can send help and resources to the right places.

Ms. Mahar promised the Board that every student is seen. She explained that the District uses a specific approach and regular meetings to find and help individual students who are struggling, making sure no one is missed even when the overall District scores look great.

- Ms. Jennifer Mulligan- Finance & Audit Committee Meeting- April 27, 2026

Ms. Mulligan summarized the recent Finance & Audit Committee Meeting stating that recent financial oversight confirms a strong fiscal standing, highlighted by an internal audit that found no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in the 2024-2025 risk assessment or the July 2025 cash reconciliations. She said that while the audit identified personnel turnover and student led activity funds as high-risk areas, the overall control environment remains effective, requiring no corrective action. Ms. Mulligan reported that the committee is proposing updates to the credit card policy by establishing a \$10,000 standard limit and a \$100,000 purchasing agent limit while strengthening oversight through semi-annual reviews. She also acknowledged the investment performance, noting the the District has received the CashVest 90+ Award and projecting over \$5.1 Million in interest earnings through 2026.

- Mr. Martin Mahar- Staffing Report

Mr. Mahar presented a staffing update detailing current vacancies and the District's progress in the recruitment process.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None at this time.

5. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Summer 2026 Driver Education

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SUMMER 2026 DRIVER EDUCATION

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

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Summer 2026 Driver Education Program

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

B. One Team-One Dream Agreement

Mr. McHugh and Ms. Hoffman explained the One Team One Dream initiative to the Board.

Mr. McHugh explained that while the school is safe physically, data shows an alarming rise in harmful language among students. He emphasized that the initiative involves an outside group providing an honest assessment of the school's culture and non-negotiables.

Ms. Hoffman detailed the transition from a previous unsuccessful program to this program from the Center for Law and Justice. She highlighted that the lead consultant, Ta Sean Murdoch, is already engaging students and staff to collect organic data before building a customized sustainability plan for the fall.

Mr. Temple expressed interest in attending future planning meetings to see the process in action.

Ms. Herron shared her experience with similar programs in other districts, stressing the importance of clear communication with families and ensuring the initiative builds a long-term foundation rather than just being a one-year project.

Ms. Phillips asked how this initiative would fit in the budget and asked if this was already an ongoing project.

Mr. McHugh explained that the District has not agreed to start the program yet. He explained they have just had meetings to discuss the possibilities.

Dr. Kotes clarified the mechanics of the contract and the budget process, noting that the Board is currently reviewing the proposal before a final agreement is reached.

Mr. Shane said he appreciated that the work involves both students and staff, noting that culture change requires adults to self-reflect and model the behavior they want to see in students.

Ms. VanOrden supported the initiative and suggested including more learning opportunities for families and the broader community to ensure the positive impact extends beyond the school walls.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH ONE TEAM ONE DREAM

Motion by Mr. Buono, Second by Mr. Temple

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Agreement with One Team One Dream

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

C. Mini Capital Improvement Project -SEQRA Resolution

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINI CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT- SEQRA RESOLUTION

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Mini Capital Improvement Project- SEQRA Resolution by roll call vote as follows:

Name	Yes	No
Michael Buono	X	
Cyndi Herron	X	
Robert Marchiony	X	
Robert Shane	X	
Robert Panasci	X	
Samantha Phillips	X	
Jesse Temple	X	
Kimberly Turner	X	
Catherine Van Orden	X	

6. TABLED MOTIONS

None at this time

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Financial Reports

- #1 Claim Auditor Reports for Warrants- 0076, 0077, 0078, 0079
- #2 - 2026-05-06 Treasurer's Report for the Month of September, 2025
- #2 - 2026-05-06 Treasurer's Report for the Month of October, 2025
- #3 - 2026-05-06 Revenue Status Report for the Month of September, 2025
- #3 - 2026-05-06 Revenue Status Report for the Month of October, 2025
- #4 - 2026-05-06 Budget Status Report for the Month of September, 2025
- #4 - 2026-05-06 Budget Status Report for the Month of October, 2025
- #5 - 2026-05-06 Budget Transfers for the Month of September, 2025
- #5 - 2026-05-06 Budget Transfers for the Month of October, 2025

B. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel Memo

A. DISCONTINUANCE

1. Resignation for the Purpose Of Retirement

- a. Culligan, Angela - Teaching Assistant, Columbia High School, effective 6/30/26.
Date of Hire: 1/5/04

- b. Rockman, Susan - Teaching Assistant, Green Meadow Elementary School, effective 7/1/26.
Date of Hire: 9/4/01

2. Resignation

- a. Batsios, Lois - Teaching Assistant, Columbia High School, effective 6/30/26.
Date of Hire: 9/12/24 Reason: personal
- b. Brewer, Courtney - Elementary, Howard L. Goff Middle School, effective 7/1/26.
Date of Hire: 8/31/23. Reason: personal
- c. Carpenter, Kimberli - Teaching Assistant, Bell Top Elementary School, effective 5/31/26.
Date of Hire: 1/12/23 Reason: new employment elsewhere
- d. Hammond, Jennifer - Teaching Assistant, Howard L. Goff Middle School, effective 5/6/26.
Date of Hire: 10/12/23
- e. Mulholland, Kelly - Elementary, Bell Top Elementary School, effective 6/30/26.
Date of Hire: 8/31/23 Reason: personal
- f. Wheat, Jill - Per Diem Substitute Teacher, effective 4/29/26.
Reason: per sub request

B. APPOINTMENTS

1. Probationary Appointment

- a. Kinney, Johnathan - Science, Columbia High School
(Replacing Chris Ciccone, retirement)
Tenure Area: Science
Probationary Period: 9/1/26-8/31/29 (pending verification of tenure)
Certification Status: NYS Professional Earth Science 7-12
NYS Professional General Science 7-12 Extension
Step Placement: 5M = \$60,950.00
Prior: 9/20-6/25 Sherburne-Earlville CSD
Degrees: B.S. SUNY, Buffalo
M.A.T. Binghamton University

2. Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Name	Certification Area	Degree Status	Effective Date
Bailey, Ethan	Biology	B.S.	5/7/26
Cylkoff, Brier	Early Childhood	A.S	5/11/26
Hammill, Julie	Elementary	M.S Ed.	5/5/26

C. OTHER

1. Adjustment to Retirement Effective Date

- a. Cohen, Diane - From: Retirement Effective Date 7/1/26
To: Retirement Effective Date 6/29/26

2. Adjustment to Part Time Appointment

- a. Majewicz-Hefley, Amy - .4 Psychologist, Columbia
From: 10/16/25-5/7/26
To: 10/16/25-6/26/26 (up to 14 additional days following May 7)

C. Non-Instructional Support Personnel Memo

Discontinuance as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Parkhurst, Maeve	FSH-Goff	6/27/26	resignation
Appointment as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Substitute employees as listed:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Salary
Connelly, Donald	School Bus Driver	5/18/26	Step 7 = \$34.82 per hour

Corellis, Pamela	Food Service Helper Monitor	7/2/26	Step 7 = \$21.51 per hour Step 1 = \$16.90 per hour
Cylkoff, Brier	Aide	5/11/26	Step 1 (3 year college) = \$21.03 per hour
Gales, Jordan	Custodial Worker	5/7/26	Step 1 = \$18.21 per hour
Kaluarachchi, Dilani	Aide	5/7/26	Step 1 (HS) = \$18.15 per hour
Kondracki, Hannah	Aide	5/11/26	Step 1 (3 year college) = \$21.03 per hour
Powell, Elizabeth	Aide	5/7/26	Step 1 (3 year college) = \$21.03 per hour
Roy, Bonnie	School Bus Driver	5/7/26	Step 7 = \$34.82 per hour
Walker, Cassie	Aide	5/7/26	Step 1 (HS) = \$18.15 per hour
Appointment adjustment:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Connelly, Donald	School Bus Driver	5/15/26	change in retirement date from 5/1/26 to 5/15/26
Corellis, Pamela	Substitute Cook	7/2/26	change in effective date from 6/30/26 to 7/2/26
Leave of absence:			
Name	Position	Effective Date	Reason
Langley, Angelica	Occupational Therapy Assistant	4/20/26-6/26/26	unpaid child care leave

- D. Approval of Programs for Resident Children with Disabilities
- E. Health and Welfare Services Contract- Scotia-Glenville Central School District
- F. Health and Welfare Services Contract- Averill Park Central School District
- G. Health and Welfare Services Contract - Waterford Halfmoon Union Free School District
- H. Revised Health and Welfare Services Contract- North Colonie Central School District
- I. EGTA Special Grants 2026-2027
- J. Disposal of District Property - Assets
- K. Approval of Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED

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

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

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

8. END BUSINESS MEETING

A. Public Comment

Dan Wagner, EGTA President, acknowledged retiring teaching assistant Angie Culligan, praising her work with at-risk programs like Jump Start and Operation Graduation, and saying she has been vital to student success. Mr. Wagner also addressed previous student comments by clarifying that while individual staff members are valued, the District's counselors are exceptional and provide a robust support system for all students. He also congratulated, Ms. Jaimee Kusche of Green Meadow, who was named the EGTA Teacher of the Year.

B. Board Roundtable

Mr. Shane also congratulated Ms. Kusche for the EGTA Teacher of the Year award accolade.

Ms. Phillips expressed her appreciation for the District's current direction, particularly the move toward summer budget workshops and better data transparency. She noted that it takes significant time for Board members to fully understand the complexities of the District, and she welcomed ongoing education to help members ask the right questions. Additionally, she suggested holding a public open house or tour of the new capital projects, stating that showing taxpayers the results of their investment would demonstrate good stewardship and strengthen the connection between the District and the community.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Marchiony, Second by Mr. Shane to enter Executive Session to discuss the discipline of a particular person and to discuss collective bargaining negotiations

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time:9:47 P.M.

Motion by Mr. Panasci, Second by Mr. Shane to Exit Executive Session

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 10:40 P.M.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Ayes- 9, Nays- 0

Motion carried

Time: 10:40 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Buono

Assistant District Clerk