

# EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Wednesday, December 12, 2012  
Administration Center

## MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. Harrison – 7:32 p.m.

**MEETING BEGINS**

2. **Attendance**

**ATTENDANCE**

|                    | <u>Present</u>           | <u>Absent</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Ms. Blostein       | x (arrived at 7:33 p.m.) |               |
| Ms. Curran         | x                        |               |
| Ms. Curtin         | x                        |               |
| Mr. Dunn           | x                        |               |
| Ms. Garrigan-Piela | x                        |               |
| Dr. Harrison       | x                        |               |
| Ms. Maciol         | x                        |               |
| Mr. Mann           |                          | x             |
| Ms. Taylor         | x                        |               |

Also Attending

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Dr. Nagle  | x |
| Ms. Bowman | x |
| Mr. Edson  | x |
| Mr. Lyons  | x |

Student Council Representatives

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Angela DeRubertis | x |
| AJ Maney          | x |

3. **Ex Officio Student Council Comments**

**EX OFFICIO  
COMMENTS**

AJ Maney gave the following report:

December is a busy month at Columbia High School. Several community service projects and holiday celebrations are taking place. Last Saturday, Student Council members rang Salvation Army bells outside Wal-Mart. The money raised was donated in memory of Chris Bascom. The high school's holiday concert is Tuesday, December 18. Other holiday projects include Concerns-U store set up, adopt a families, St. Ann's, candy cane sale for Make a Wish, apple sauce drive for Equinox, book drive for Concerns-U, and the string ensemble performed at Hawthorne Ridge. On December 11, the high school hosted its third annual leadership conference at the Comfort Inn Suites. Speakers included Richard Jensen, Miss NY Katilyn Monte, Abigail Smith, and Dr. Burchek. Topics ranged from overcoming obstacles to decision making and anti-bullying. Reach Out, Columbia's student mentor program, launched its first meet and greet session yesterday. Mentees met their mentors at an ice cream social. Parent donations are hosting a Columbia teacher appreciation breakfast on Friday, December 21.

**4. Public Forum**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr. Balzer found Dr. Seversky's presentation on the consolidation and closure study to be informative and captivating.

Ms. Weinlein asked about next steps in the process relating to the study. Dr. Nagle said that information will be posted on the website.

**5. Board Forum**

**BOARD FORUM**

Dr. Harrison said the bond vote from December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 has created a significant amount of conversation and even anxiety in the East Greenbush school community. I can speak for many of us on the Board that we were surprised by the results, simply because we had not encountered a tide of opposition in our discussions with the voters in formal and informal settings. The results are simply what they are, an example of how democracy works in our country. The fundamental driving force of democracy is the ability to convince like-minded people to your cause that it is imperative that they come to a polling station to pull the lever that you want them to. The results last week demonstrated that we—the Board of Education, the central administration, the supporters of this bond initiative—did not make a compelling case to the local voters to do so. Lesson learned, and it is one that will guide our future efforts. There will have to be another round to this conversation, because roofs, sidewalks, furnaces, and light fixtures will need to be repaired. We welcome any input to help the district solve these on-going issues. Collectively, we will be better prepared and proactive in our efforts to make the case that the items from this bond are necessary, not extravagances. Last week was not a disaster, it was a wake-up call, one that has been heard by the school district.

Ms. Garrigan-Piela congratulated the boys' basketball team. She encouraged residents to enjoy the many holiday events and concerts at the schools. Ms. Garrigan-Piela thanked everyone for providing support during the recent Shenendehowa tragedy. She spoke about the consolidation and closure study and asked individuals to volunteer to serve on the committees and have their voices heard. Ms. Garrigan-Piela expressed disappointment about the bond, including an organized vote no campaign. She said that some of the issues expressed were not correct particularly relating to the refinancing of the bonds done to save money.

Ms. Curran thanked AJ Maney and the students at Columbia for their fund-raising efforts and wished them a happy and safe holiday season.

Ms. Taylor thanked the students participating in the Shenendehowa observance, saying they were a class act and represented the District very well. She thanked Ms. Bonesteel, Mr. Cavotta, and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard for their assistance. Ms. Taylor thanked everyone for

the donations received for the military. She spoke about Winterfest and said the Board will be working with National Grid for items to share at a booth.

Ms. Maciol invited students to participate in the upcoming January 16 World Café Community Forum relating to budget. She commented about the defeated referendum, reflecting concerns about taxes and low voter turnout. Ms. Maciol suggested better organization for the yes vote and hoped the recent defeat would not impact the budget vote.

Dr. Nagle met recently with the Suburban Council Superintendents, where Dr. Robinson and Dr. Corr thanked schools across the region for their support with the recent student tragedy. Dr. Nagle thanked our students, staff, parents, school community, and Mr. Sawchuk for all the recent assistance. She shared a letter from the Shenendehowa School District thanking and commending the students. The Superintendent asked that the information be shared with the students and coaches. Dr. Nagle announced that Ms. Lyte from Bell Top School will be the first teacher-educator of the week on Channel 13 in the new year. She invited everyone to attend the January 16 World Café on Budget. Dr. Nagle also announced that January 31 will be a school budget rally held at Columbia High School; over 48 schools and 1,000 individuals are expected to attend. The event will be televised in the gymnasium also. The snow date is February 7.

**6. Minutes**

**MINUTES**

Be it Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the District Clerk, the Board of Education approves the minutes of November 14, 2012.

Moved by: Ms. Taylor

Seconded by: Ms. Curtin

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**7. Regular Business**

**REGULAR  
BUSINESS**

Approval of Programs for Resident Children with Disabilities

Be it Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the programs for resident children with disabilities as presented.

Moved by: Ms. Curtin

Seconded by: Ms. Curran

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

## 8. Reports and Presentations – Superintendent of Schools

## REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS MALTA TECH- SMART PROGRAM

### A. Investing in our Future: Malta Tech-Smart Program

Dr. Nagle shared information about the Tech-Smart Campus in Malta, a division of Hudson Valley Community College. She said that a group from our District visited the campus three years ago to look at the state of the art programs offered in the areas of renewable energies. The 2-year program offers up to 20 college credits which have been paid for by a grant from NYSERDA. Our District secured six student slots this year.

Mr. Sawchuk shared thoughts about the program, the enrollment process, visitations during open house, and length of program. Mr. Doemel spoke about the phenomenal opportunity for students to undertake more challenging studies, earn college credits, and have access to jobs after school completion.

Ashley Watson acted as a moderator for the presentation.

Kris Raymond said his guidance counselor informed him of the program. He liked the opportunity to earn college credit, find out about green energy and renewable resources, and get good hands-on experience.

Ben Godgart said he would take the program again if offered. He has already spoken with five other students who may be interested in attending next year. Ben reviewed the types of courses that students attend for both college and high school credit. He said much of it is project-based learning. Some of his assignments have included doing a marketing campaign for nanotechnology products and a clean room training video.

Cole Trefzger stated the program was educationally challenging in an open environment. Students are given general instructions and expected to complete tasks. Assignments, due dates, and grades are provided on-line. Students must balance the work with all other activities. Cole said that students in the program must be motivated to complete the work.

Ben Godgart said he has applied to go to the SUNY Albany Nano-College. Kris Raymond shared he would like to attend SCCC or HVCC for liberal arts and then transfer to RPI or Clarkson. Cole Trefzger said he was unsure of future plans, but that they could include the SUNY Albany Nano-College.

Ben Godgart spoke about some of the challenges with three different school calendars: East Greenbush CSD, Ballston Spa CSD (the hosting district), and HVCC. He showed the laptop issued to him as part of the program and said that students use e-mail as another communication method with teachers.

Ms. Garrigan-Piela asked how many students were in each section. Kris Raymond responded about 30 to 40 students with a smaller section of about 13 students. Ben Godgart said he was in a group of about 30 students.

Dr. Harrison asked about the types of technology used in the program. Ben Godgart said he had worked with photo-voltaics. Kris Raymond said they had used energy meters and water probes. The water tested was at Kaydeross Creek, which Cole Trefzger said had average Ph but lower oxygen levels.

Dr. Harrison asked about business involvement. Kris Raymond said there were speakers from NYSERDA and the County Water Authority. Global Foundries is also involved.

Ben Godgart distributed a sample silicon wafer for Board inspection.

Dr. Nagle asked if the parents of students in the program had any comments. Mr. Raymond appreciated students becoming familiar with a course syllabus, presentations, and time management. He spoke of improved attitudes toward learning and studying. Ms. Godgart supported East Greenbush Schools continuing its affiliation with the program in the future.

**9. Tabled Motions**

None at this time.

**TABLED MOTIONS**

**10. Old Business**

Dr. Nagle spoke about the defeated capital project referendum. She said that some needed repairs as part of the referendum will likely need to be done anyway as part of the regular budget without state aid. Dr. Nagle requested Board members to review the proposed capital items and further prioritize for potentially a smaller project. She also requested consideration of allocating pieces of the project for separate votes. The Superintendent commented on the size issue with the Columbia cafeteria. She distributed the results of an on-line survey about the defeated referendum.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**11. Consent Agenda**

A. Financial Reports

1. Warrants - #32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38
2. Activity Report – Columbia High School, October 2012
3. Activity Report – Goff School, October 2012

B. Personnel

1. Instructional/Instructional Support Personnel #599  
as Recommended by Superintendent

**CONSENT AGENDA  
FINANCIAL  
REPORTS**

**PERSONNEL**

2. Non-Instructional Support Personnel #599 as Recommended  
by Superintendent

C. Capital Project Voting Report

**CAPITAL PROJECT  
VOTING REPORT**

D. Acceptance of Gifts and Authorization to Increase the 2012-2013  
Budget

**ACCEPTANCE OF  
GIFTS, INCREASE  
BUDGET**

E. Memorandum of Agreement with CSEA

**MOA - CSEA**

Be it Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,  
the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by: Ms. Maciol

Seconded by: Ms. Taylor

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**12. New Business**

**NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**13. Committee Reports**

**COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

Mr. Edson requested members of the Policy Committee to review and  
comment on draft policies. He also requested members of the  
subcommittee for the January 16 community forum look over the list  
of potential questions.

Ms. Garrigan-Piela said the Education Foundation met to develop  
additional strategies for fund-raisers. The Foundation seeks nominations  
of qualified individuals for induction into the Hall of Fame.

**14. Public Forum**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Ms. Weinlein asked about the availability of the survey to the public and  
the number of residents canvassed. Dr. Harrison responded that it will be  
posted on the website.

**15. Board Forum**

**BOARD FORUM**

Ms. Garrigan-Piela thanked the students and parents for the presentation  
on the Tech-Smart Program. She said the Board should continue to find  
a way to support students attending this program. Ms. Garrigan-Piela  
clarified that a portion of the bond issue was devoted to safety issues  
such as the front vestibules.

Dr. Harrison said during the recent basketball game with Mohonasen,  
Conrad Zampier broke the record for points in a game with 43 points,  
surpassing his own brother and Mr. Romer.

**16. Executive Session**

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

Motion by Ms. Curran and seconded by Ms. Blostein to go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining and the employment history of certain persons.

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

Time: 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Mead  
District Clerk

**16. Executive Session**

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

The executive session began at 8:40 p.m. and concluded at 9:35 p.m.

**17. Adjournment**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ms. Blostein and seconded by Ms. Garrigan-Piela to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0

Motion carried.

Time: 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Curran  
Assistant Clerk