



**BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 13, 2023 - Board Room**

Present R. Atwater, D. Carnes, C. Gancasz, J. Harris, E. Gow, J. Sweeney, V. Voss

Excused None

Also Present J. Reimer, M. Carter, C. Cornwell, M. Eadie, S. Kordish
Public: 1

Call to Order President Atwater welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approve

Agenda The agenda was reviewed. Mr. Reimer reminded the Board that the request to approve a substitute teacher was added before the meeting and reflected in the current agenda. Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the agenda as presented.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Accept

Minutes The Board reviewed the minutes. Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the minutes as presented from the Regular Board Meeting dated of January 9, 2023.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Public Forum None.

Presentations Principal's Update/Board Appreciation – Mr. Carter

Mr. Carter noted that in relation to finalizing the 2023-2024 school calendar being presented this evening, he met with the Junior Class Officers three times regarding the date for graduation, after receiving feedback from the students and their families, the consensus was to move graduation from Saturday, June 29, 2024 to Friday, June 28, 2024. He also provided the rationale for this decision.

Mr. Carter discussed the ongoing meetings with students and families of Seniors between Mrs. Monaco, Messrs. Gendruie and Scofill, other faculty, along with



himself in order to keep the students on track for graduation with alternative assignments and options being made available, noting that there are 1-2 students in particular that he continues to be nervous about being able to graduate due to their attendance record.

Academic presentations will be made to the Board through the end of the school year. Dr. Godshall and Mrs. Feltz will discuss BOCES programs in March, and in April, there will be a presentation from the Reading Department regarding Orton-Gillingham.

Director of Instructional Services Update – S. Kordish

Ms. Kordish noted that she continues to work on her training and onboarding with regard to APPR, Data Protection Officer, and Frontline, and will also be attending a Harris Beach law conference. She has completed the review meetings with the CSE/CPSE Referral Committee, and the forms and procedures have now been vetted with a soft roll-out to the Special Education teachers anticipated in the near future.

She noted that staffing shortages at many districts and transportation departments continue to be of concern, and not just for Barker. The availability for special education placement options are limited and continue to be an issue, especially for rural area. Many students must be transported farther away to provide the services needed and thus the costs associated could increase. She noted the number of out-of-district placements and discussed transportation options to enable the student to get to where they need to be for services.

The corrective action plan from State Ed which originally noted six out of ten IEPs being non-compliant due to verbiage has been reduced to one. The revised IEP will be submitted in March for review.

Coordinator of Curriculum & Professional Learning/Assistant Principal's Update

Mr. Cornwell provided an instructional and curricular update to the Board. He noted that District's initiative relative to curriculum mapping continues to move forward. All grade levels at the elementary have met with him and/or the Instructional Support Specialist to discuss this work. There are a couple of departments which he still needs to meet with at the secondary level. The concepts of curriculum mapping seemed to be well received by the teachers with good discussions taking place at each meeting. The next steps include following-up with grade levels and departments as this work moves forward.

Mr. Cornwell, along with elementary and secondary science teachers, participated in a staff development session at ON BOCES on the new NYS Science Investigations. The workshop focused on seeing these investigations through the eyes of a teacher as well as a student. A lot of good ideas and materials were shared and it was a good experience for those in attendance as the goal is to use investigative science techniques at each grade level next year.



A new round of teacher mentor training will commence after February break. Several teachers have already indicated an interest in participating in this training. Future sessions will be planned for the summer.

Mr. Cornwell noted in depth planning has been taking place for the upcoming staff development day on March 17th. Topics such as curriculum mapping, and suggested ideas from teachers are being reviewed to make this time beneficial to help our teachers learn and grow in a collaborative fashion which ultimately will benefit the students.

Financial Update and 2023-2024 Preliminary Executive Budget – M. Carter

Mr. Carter reviewed the preliminary budget projected for 2023-2024 which was updated since last month's meeting. Under General Support, most categories did not experience a change. Business Administration, there was a 25% increase which is reflective of his position moving over under Business Official. Auditing, Internal Claims Auditor, shows a large percentage increase but the dollar increase is only \$381. Under Operation of Plant, the majority of the overall changes were from the increased projections in utilities for the categories of Electric and Natural Gas. Maintenance of Plan has a projected increase from the current year of 1.68%. Mr. Carter noted that a meeting was held last week with BOCES Managed Services at which the transitioning of technology to them was discussed, and currently the BOCES, Data Processing category is projected at \$305,362. He noted this is a substantial number and he anticipates being able to provide a clearer projection next month once more is known about the transition. Overall, Total General Support is projecting a 1.84% increase. Transportation is projected to have a 2.88% increase from the current year based on ten bus runs. This year, nine busses have been used. Work with STA regarding the number of runs will continue. In an emergency, Mr. Carter noted that the District is able to do eight bus runs through combining runs if short drivers, but this is not something he would recommend on a normal basis. Questar BOCES will be providing information on the requirements for reporting on electric busses for the state which the District would still need to complete even though the bus services are contracted out. Mr. Lowry of NYSCOSS did a presentation on this and the plethora of reports required by the state. Undistributed totaled a decrease of 1.05% as NYS Employees' Retirement and NYS Teachers' Retirement were lower than projected upon receipt last week resulting in a 4.78% decrease for TRS. These numbers will again be updated once the District has more information on retirees. Debt Service decreased 43.03% as a result of the pay off of bonds. Interfunds Transfers Transfer Capital Fund for \$100,000 reflects anticipated work in the auditorium for rigging and lights. Syracuse Sound came in and performed and inspection and safety check of the equipment. Mr. Reimer noted that based on the preliminary information provided and receipt of the final report from the company, the District would like, through the use of two capital outlays, to have the necessary work completed on all of the rigging and lights, and if possible, address some sound needs. Mr. Reimer noted that as all the equipment needed is on the state contract no bidding for the projects would be needed. He would like to have this work done during the 2023-2024 school year if it is able to be approved by the NYSED in the timeframe to allow for this.



Mr. Reimer discussed the tax levy based on current projections, and commented that if the District does not have to go above a 2% level which was what was planned for, he was of the opinion, as well as the Budget Committee, to leave the tax levy at 2% and the carryover as is. He reviewed the impact on the revenue side of the budget in the future as it relates to the elimination of energy cessation fund, anticipated state aid increases, and projections from NYSCOSS of a 3-4% foundation aid for the next couple years which could offset the revenue changes. The Board discussed and concurred with the view to leave the tax levy at 2%. Mr. Sweeney agreed but noted his worry if down the road there was a need to increase it to something like 4%, it would be a concern. Mr. Reimer noted that if the District receives the 3-4% foundation aid as projected it could cover the deficit project for 2028-2029. Based on current information being received and/or heard regarding the state's finances, the potential funding cliff Mr. Reimer discussed previously is not a current concern.

Superintendent's

Information Mr. Reimer provided an updated on the ongoing projects. The solar array is on the schedule to be hooked up by National Grid soon. The positive outcome of this delay correlates to the potential receipt of monies from the Inflation Reduction Act which could result in funding for the District.

With regard to the \$25 million Capital Improvement Project, meetings with the stakeholders have been ongoing and there have been some very good ideas and feedback received. The consolidation of the main offices is close to having a layout for consideration, as well as the guidance areas. The library/media area is still being worked on. Based on estimates to date, the District may be able to renovate twenty classrooms as projected. The turf area and parking lot work are being pulled together and Mr. Reimer noted there may be an opportunity to have lights on the sporting areas if the projections come in less than allocated. He noted that the tennis courts are also being looked at as an additional opportunity in conjunction with the fields and lights. Interior plans continue to be worked on through May or June with the goal to be ready to then submit to the NYSED. Mr. Atwater inquired about the distribution of classrooms being renovated. Mr. Reimer noted it will be based on the renovations throughout the District and therefore would not be equal for elementary and Jr./Sr. High.

Mr. Reimer discussed the Yorker House and the outreach from community members regarding it and potential usage. He had the architects look at it and provide rough estimates for different options. The first option would be to take the house down or move it which was estimated at \$10,000-50,000. Another option would be to renovate it for non-instructional use such as for the war museum or Alumni Association. The issues related to that idea would be the District would then have a liability issue if someone takes over using the space. Another option was to make it an educational space but it would be extremely difficult to renovate to make ADA compliant and only the first floor would be available for use. It is estimated that it would take \$200,000-250,000 to renovate as it would need to be gutted to the studs, new roof, electrical, plumbing, etc. If the District renovates for District use, it would be the taxpayers' sole responsibility. Given the outcome



could potentially impact the taxpayers, after discussion, the Board concurred it should be taken to the voters in May for a vote. Mr. Reimer noted that he would get the information together for the approvals needed.

Mr. Reimer then discussed and reviewed current capital reserve accounts and recommended the consolidation of existing reserves to create one new capital reserve as the existing ones are at their maximums. He recommended a referendum of a \$10 million capital reserve for 15 years which would be funded with the remaining reserves of \$800,000-900,000. This would require a vote. He noted that this is how the District would rebuild its capital reserves as has been discussed over the last few meetings. The Board discussed and concurred to put this up for a vote. Mr. Reimer will coordinate this referendum also.

Mr. Reimer noted he followed-up on the soccer request from last month's meeting. He noted that Mr. Mucha put a lot of time in reviewing this and based on the number of sports, number of students, and unintended consequences, the numbers do not sustain themselves currently to add a boys' soccer team. He noted that even if it did, it would not be able to be offered next year due to what is involved in adding a team. He noted that this will remain an open item for the future as the entire sports program is look at continuously and any changes must be done the right way.

Mr. Reimer noted that there is a lot of hiring that will commence shortly to get people locked in as soon as possible as positions in education are difficult to fill. The plan would be to appoint by April if possible to allow for some overlap of positions. He asked if the Board had any input on the principal position and/or would like to be part of the hiring process, to let him know.

The results of the Values Survey Audit for the Strategic Plan resulted in 80 responses, more than last time. He went through the results received with over 100 values to pick from, the ranking results of the top 16 by participants, utilizing a weighted average to determine the overall top 16, and how seven values ended up being the overall highest. The top seven in alphabetical order were Accomplishment, Accountability, Communication, Community, Compassion, Family, and Honesty. He then read the definition of each. The last values audit resulted in six values being selected as the District's foundational values. He noted that the results from this audit had three of the six remaining as top values - Compassion, Family, and Honesty. Given the seven highest were close in weightings, Mr. Reimer suggested adding the seventh which the Board agreed with. These seven continue to align, even more so, with the current Mission and Vision of the District. Mrs. Gow inquired about the potential for people to just select from the beginning of the list as there were so many. Mr. Reimer noted that that was a potential concern but the results were spread throughout the entire value selection. Mr. Reimer commented that these results will be reviewed with staff at a meeting Wednesday, February 15. If the staff concurred with the Board, the next step would then be to start the goal setting process.



Education Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the proposed 2023-2024 school calendar.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement between Royalton-Hartland Central School District and Barker Central School District for the sharing of opportunities and resources of interscholastic football from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at the Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified levels.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Policies/Plans There were no additional changes or suggestions made to the policies being presented for first review which were:

6220	Temporary Personnel
6230	Selection of Athletic Coaches
6310	Appointment - Support Staff
6320	Supplementary School Personnel
6410	Staff Use of Computerized Information Resources
6411	Use of Email in the School District
6420	Employee Personnel Records and Release of Information
6430	Employee Activities
6450	Theft of Services or Property
6460	Jury Duty

The second reading of the policies listed below was performed:

6160	Professional Growth/Staff Development
6161	Conference/Travel Expense Reimbursement
6170	Safety of Students (Fingerprinting Clearance of New Hires)
6180	Staff-Student Relations (Fraternization)
6210	Certified Personnel
6211	Employment of Relatives of Board of Education Members
6212	Certification and Qualifications
6214	Incidental Teaching
6215	Probation and Tenure
6216	Disciplining of a Tenured Teacher or Certified Personnel
6217	Professional Staff: Separation

There were no changes to the policies as presented. Motion by Mrs. Carnes seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the policies noted above as presented.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.



Personnel

Motion by Mrs. Harris seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the appointment of T. Michael Carter as a probationary Business Administrator effective July 1, 2023, as per the Agreement between the Barker Central School District and the Business Administrator. Mr. Carter has professional certificates in Literacy 5-12, English Language Arts 5-9 & 7-12, School Building Leader, School District Leader, and School District Business Leader. His probationary period would be effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027. The expiration date is tentative and conditional only, in order to be eligible for and considered for tenure, Mr. Carter must meet all requirements of the Educational Law and corresponding regulations.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to accept the resignation of T. Michael Carter, Principal effective June 30, 2023.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the acceptance of the resignation for the purpose of retirement, with commendation and regret, of Audra Lakeman as Guidance Counselor effective June 30, 2023.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Gregory Goodlander as a full-time Groundskeeper/Repairperson effective February 28, 2023.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve Jacob Reimer, Michael Carter, Christopher Cornwell, and Shelly Kordish as approved Teacher APPR Evaluators for 2022-2023.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the appointment of Joy Dabill as Mentor for Sarah Bowman for the 2022-2023 school year, effective January 3, 2023, with a prorated stipend of \$500.00 in accordance with the Barker Teachers' Union Agreement.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the following 2022-2023 School Year Spring Sports Appointments and Stipends per the Barker Teachers' Union Agreement.



Position	Name	Step	Stipend
Varsity Baseball	Rob Mucha	4	\$5,405.00
JV Baseball	Jesse Watts*	1	\$4,074.00
Varsity Softball	Aileen Hinton	4	\$5,405.00
JV Softball	Emily Smith	1	\$4,074.00
Tennis	Jeffrey Pyskaty	4	\$4,725.00
Modified Track	Paul DerSarkissian	4	\$2,418.00
Varsity Track Head Coach	Heather McIntyre	3	\$5,254.00
Varsity Track Assistant	Karin Menz	4	\$4,123.00
Varsity Track Assistant	Christopher Post	3	\$3,971.00

*subject to background check and fingerprint clearances

Position	Name	Step	Stipend
Track Assistant	Sharon Lamb	n/a	unpaid
Track Assistant	Kyle Sosnowski	n/a	unpaid
Baseball Assistant	Jim Harris	n/a	unpaid
Softball Assistant	Jessie Pavlock	n/a	unpaid
Softball Assistant	Bill Moeller	n/a	unpaid

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the appointment of Ashley Atwater as co-advisor for the Elementary Musical for the 2022-2023 school year at Category B, Step 1, \$1,910 per the Barker Teachers' Union Agreement.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve Marah Sheehan to present to or shadow in the Elementary School with Aileen Gilbert as part of the post-secondary education requirements at NCCC for the Childhood Education Program.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the appointment of the following individuals as parent/community volunteers: Susan Curry and Jay Douville.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the appointment of Brooke McAdoo as a Substitute Teacher for grades PreK-12 at the per diem rate, and as a Teaching Assistant at a rate of \$14.20/per hour effective February 13, 2023, subject to background and credit check approval.



Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Mr. Atwater congratulated Mr. Carter on his new appointment.

Business & Financial

Items Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow, to accept the Treasurer's Report dated December 2022 and January 2023.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow, to accept the Board Warrant Report dated February 13, 2023.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow, to accept the Extraclassroom Report dated December 2022 and January 2023.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the appointment of Ted Dauphine to the Board of Education Budget Advisory Committee.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the resolution to nominate Carol Feltz for a vacancy on the Board of Education of the Orleans/Niagara Board of cooperative Educational Services for a three-year term effective July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District hereby nominates Carol Feltz for a vacancy on the Board of Education of the Orleans/Niagara Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the time of 7:30 a.m. for the Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, for the purpose of voting on the Orleans/Niagara BOCES administrative budget and the election of members to the BOCES Board of Education.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Barker Teachers' Union and the Barker Central School District pertaining Article XX - Mentor Program.



Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the acceptance of a donation from Mark Cassidy of one Martin Freres LaMonte Paris Model 2 clarinet, serial number State 1 #22976 with an estimated value of \$100 - \$149, along with a music case and stand.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow, to accept the donation from Women United of United Way Greater Niagara in the amount of \$500 to be utilized for stocking the hygiene closet for the benefit of students.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

End of Public

Session

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to adjourn public session at 8:03 p.m., and move into Executive Session for the purpose of collective negotiations pursuant to Article fourteen of the Civil Service Law with the Barker Teachers' Union and Cafeteria Staff Association.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Executive

Session

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 8:44 p.m., and return to Public Session.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Public Session/

Adjournment Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the end of the Public Session and adjournment of the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk