



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 17, 2022 - Board Room

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

Excused C. Gancasz

Also Present J. Reimer, M. Carter, M. Eadie, C. Heiligenthaler, K. Kingsbury
Public: 6

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

Approve

Agenda The agenda was reviewed. Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the agenda as presented.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Accept

Minutes The Board reviewed the minutes. Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to accept the minutes as presented from the Audit Committee and Regular Board Meetings dated of September 12, 2022.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Public Forum None.

Presentations Principal's Update – Mr. Carter

Mr. Carter discussed grade change policy changes. The two primary changes would be the elimination of the credit recovery references as these are for students who have failed a large portion or all of a class(es) and credit recovery is reported separately on the report card and transcripts vs. impacting a specific course grade, and the second relates to how the District adapted some processes with regard to homework and grade changes.

On Friday, October 28th vs. Monday, October 31st the elementary students will have a Halloween celebration, similar to last year, with treat stands, music by students, etc. Mr. Carter explained that it makes it difficult for students to focus at the beginning of the week if Halloween celebrations are held then. This change was



reviewed with the Building Leadership who concurred with the plan. He invited the Board members to attend and/or put up a treat stand if they wanted. The event is scheduled to occur outside, weather permitting, with parents/guardians invited. If it needs to move inside, there may be a limit on attendance to one person per child in order to accommodate everyone. Mr. O’Sullivan is also planning a Living History Day event for grades 7-12, the same day, during which students may choose to dress up as a historically, culturally, and school appropriate figure.

Mr. Carter discussed Paper tutoring which is a 24/7 online tutoring program available to students and teachers, and is especially beneficial to Jr./Sr. High students needed assistance with their work as it is sometimes difficult for parents to provide guidance with some of the courses such as geometry, foreign language, etc. It was used last year by some teachers and students. Some of the students, who were doing well academically, noted that they liked the ability to access help after school hours and saw the benefit of scaffolded learning. They also liked that Paper does not give answers to them, rather it guides them in finding the right solution. The intent of Paper is not to replace the in-person expertise our staff can provide, but to enhance the overall support that we provide to students. Mrs. Thibault and a few students who utilized it last year, will be speaking to the student population in the near future during study halls to encourage them to try the program. He also noted that the cost of the program is covered through stimulus funds.

Mr. Carter noted that Michelle Pask is being brought forward for an appointment as a Teaching Assistant this evening to work with the 6:1:1 class giving its needs. She is coming over from Summit Academy and filling an open position.

Mr. Carter noted that Ms. Riley, BOCES Social Worker and Ms. Tasker, ENL Teacher, provided the elementary students with activities relating to historical Hispanic week, and how pleased he was with the involvement and investment the BOCES employees have made within the District.

Coordinator Update – Mrs. Kingsbury

Mrs. Kingsbury discussed APPR and the work she has done to date to ensure the District is where it needs to be, to which Mr. Reimer noted that the APPR Plan has been resubmitted due to changes that were made. She stated she has begun reviewing all curriculum plans that have been developed prior and noted the science area is strong. She discussed changes in curriculum with the elementary group, reviewing feedback and what changes could be made to improve instruction and student achievement. She has also met with the previous Instructional Cabinet and was provided feedback on prior curriculum planning and instruction initiatives. Board goals have been reviewed as it relates to curriculum and student achievement. The FASTBRIDGE data has been evaluated for Grades 3-8 math and ELA. A Multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) has been implemented with fidelity at the elementary level and continues to evolve at the Jr./Sr. High School level with guidance from the Instructional Support Specialist in identifying student needs to provide academic support and assist in student engagement. Time has been spent looking at professional development opportunities for staff based on what has been done to date, what is available, and needs such as Therapeutic Crisis Intervention training for those working with the 6:1:1 program. The mentoring



program has been reviewed, logs established for tracking, the handbook has been reviewed and ready to be finalized. As a part of her assistant principal role, Mrs. Kingsbury has assisted Mr. Carter with student engagement in school, participated in student-related activities and observed in classes. Based on a question from Mr. Atwater, she noted that the 3-8 grade state assessments and Regents exams data is now available, analysis will be provided at another meeting. She also noted that she did put in her resignation which she commented had nothing to do with the school, rather it was a personal and family-related decision. Mrs. Kingsbury has enjoyed being part of the Barker staff albeit for a short period.

Financial Update – Ms. Heiligenthaler

Ms. Heiligenthaler reported on tax collection and commented that it is similar to last year's levels collected to date. She stated a final report will be provided at the November meeting. The State Comptroller's Office has completed its audit and at the closing meeting, the auditor noted errors detected, which appear to be small in comparison the total sampling and total volume of payroll and benefits processed annually. Mr. Reimer noted he anticipates the report to have a negative tone with regard to procedures, checks and balances, and suggestions to be reviewed. He noted that the District knew of some procedures that could be done differently if the staff was a larger size when it evaluated going to the Central Business Office and BOCES, but the decision for the change was based on the District's circumstances at that time. He complimented Ms. Heiligenthaler for handling the change to the K-12 model and financial statement challenges as positions were eliminated and work moved to BOCES, and the way she delegated duties which was important. He felt that she is doing a really good job with the amount of items she is accountable for with limited staff. Mr. Reimer commented that he thought it is one of the best audits he has seen. He also noted that all the state reporting with regard to financials has been completed and submitted.

Superintendent's

Information Mr. Reimer provided an update regarding ongoing projects. The road access for the Sheriff's tower has been completed and the project is waiting for other pieces to continue to move forward. He stated he is requesting the gate at the road to be put in sooner to avoid people from accessing the area. The equipment that was on backorder has been received for the HVAC EPC. The work will now be able to be complete and submission to the state with the final cost report will then be done. The solar project continues to wait for the hookup from National Grid. Since the last meeting, Mr. Reimer noted that the District learned it may be eligible to receive substantial funds from the Inflation Reduction Act due to a specific clause to let public entities receive funds. Discussions with the attorneys on this opportunity have begun and Mr. Reimer could know more this Friday. The trees for the solar project which did not take root will be replaced at the end of October.

With regard to the Yorker House, Mr. Reimer noted that Ms. Bald of SEI is looking at the structure to provide a report on the costs to fully renovate as instructional space, tear down, or other options.



Mr. Reimer discussed that there are a lot of items being addressed at the state level by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) with regard to APPR, standards, and certifications. Some of the information noted by James Baldwin, Deputy Commissioner of NYSED, leads him to believe there may be changes that could make it easier for the education sector with regard to these items. He noted that there could be significant changes to APPR as the design of the program is not working as originally intended. The potential adjustments would not have an impact on districts this year or the next, rather the following year. Mr. Reimer noted that the District's APPR Plan has been resubmitted due to changes that were made. With regard to teacher certifications, changes being reviewed could be beneficial to smaller districts like Barker, as it may enable the certification process to be easier and faster to receive certification and maintain them in hard to fill areas. He discussed the lack of individuals applying for teaching and certifications which is making it difficult to fill positions. He noted that other districts like BOCES currently have numerous vacancies.

With regard to the Capital Project, Mr. Reimer noted that the meeting agenda and package contained the capital improvement project information and the referendum language regarding the same. He summarized the development of the final proposed capital improvement project since the initial talks with the Board, the development of the Facilities and Finance Committees, the involvement and input of staff and community, and subsequent work of the Committees. He discussed reviewing the actual campus, review of past building condition surveys, and the depth of the review of information by the Committees and others to put together a proposal which would have the biggest effect on the District for the voters' consideration. He said he really appreciated all the time and effort that went into the proposal, especially by the Committee over the last ten months, stating that there is no such thing as a perfect project for all, but he feels this is a very sound proposal. He reiterated that the proposed project developed, based on information received, represents the most essential needs to ensure the long-term sustainability of the campus and should have the most impactful improvements for the students and community.

Policies/Plans Messrs. Atwater and Reimer explained a minor edit to Policy 5650 under the Energy Manager section to add the word "designee" after the title of "The Director of Facilities and Operations" to allow flexibility as the Director position is open and being managed by Mr. Reimer. There were no additional changes or suggestions made to the policies being presented for first review which were:

5631	Hazardous Waste and Handling of Toxic Substances by Employees
5632	Pest Management and Pesticide Usage
5640	Smoking/Tobacco Use
5650	Energy Conservation and Recycling in the Schools
5660	School Food Service Program (Lunch and Breakfast)
5661	District Wellness Policy
5670	Records Management



5671	Disposal of Consumer Report Information and Records
5672	Information Security Breach and Notification
5673	Employee Personal Identifying Information
5674	Data Networks and Security Access
5675	Student Grading Information Systems
5676	Privacy and Security for Student Data and Teacher and Principal Data

The second reading of the policies listed below was performed:

5550	Maintenance of Fiscal Effort (Title I Programs)
5551	Allocation of Title I, Part A Funds in the District
5560	Use of Federal Funds for Political Expenditures
5570	Financial Accountability
5571	Allegations of Fraud
5572	Audit Committee
5573	Internal Audit Function
5610	Insurance
5620	Inventories and Accounting of Fixed Assets

There were no changes to the policies as presented.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Harris to approve the policies noted above as presented.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Education

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the Class of 2027 8th Grade Trip to Washington, D.C. on Monday May 22, 2023 - Thursday, May 25, 2023.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the American Field Service Club (AFS) short-term exchange for Marshfield High School in Marshfield, Massachusetts for Thursday, March 2 - Sunday, March 5, 2023.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement between Barker Central School District and Royalton-Hartland Central School District for the sharing of opportunities and resources of Interscholastic Swimming for the 2022-2023 school year, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.



**Personnel
Items**

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the effective start date for the appointment of Jessica Monaco as a full-time probationary Social Studies Teacher 7-12 effective September 19, 2022, with a three-year probationary period from September 19, 2022 through September 18, 2025, as per the agreement between the Barker Central School District and Barker Teachers Union. Her permanent certification is in PreK-6 and Social Studies 7-9 Extension; Permanent Reading Teacher K-12; and Pending Social Studies 7-12. Her tenure area will be Social Studies 7-12. The expiration date is tentative and conditional only. In order to be eligible for and considered for tenure, Ms. Monaco must meet all requirements of the Educational Law and corresponding regulations. Her annual salary based on MA, Step 22 of the Teachers schedule as per the BTU contract is \$95,652.

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the appointment of Michelle Pask as a full-time Teaching Assistant effective October 18, 2022 at a rate of Step 5 of the Teaching Assistant schedule as per the BTU Contract.

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the following appointments for coaching for the winter season during the 2022-2023 school year as outlined below:

Jacob Haight	Boys Varsity Basketball	Step 3	\$5,725.05
David Luckman	Boys JV Basketball	Step 4	\$4,823.46
James Bachman	Girls Varsity Basketball	Step 2	\$5,679.97
James Bachman	Girls JV Basketball	Step 4	\$4,752.00
Brianna Clark	Girls Mod Basketball	Step 1	\$2,229.37
Paul DerSarkissian	Boys Mod Basketball	Step 4	\$2,382.18
Krista Beth Feltz	Modified Swim Coach	Step 4	\$2,418.00

Paula Bachman	Assistant JV and Varsity Girls Basketball Volunteer
Sharon Lamb	Girls Modified Basketball Assistant Volunteer
Tim Herman	Assistant JV and Varsity Girls Basketball Volunteer

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the appointment of Nickolas Bell as a Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate for grades PreK-12 effective October 18, 2022.

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the appointment of Levi Atwater as a Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate for grades PreK-12 effective October 18, 2022, subject to background check and fingerprint clearance.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the appointment of Evan Ecker as a Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate, Substitute Teaching Assistant and Substitute Teacher Aide at a rate of \$13.20/hour for grades PreK-12 effective October 18, 2022, subject to background check and fingerprint clearance.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to accept the resignation of Kristine Kingsbury as Coordinator of Curriculum and Professional Learning/Assistant Principal effective November 10, 2022.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the appointment of Amber Flint as a Community Ed Life Guard for the Fall 2022 semester, starting September 26, and ending November 22, 2022 of the 2022-2023 school year.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the authority of the Superintendent of Schools to appoint the Director of Instructional Services if the individual is determined prior to the next Board of Education scheduled for November 14, 2022.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve Vincent Strollo as a Student Teacher for the 2022-2023 school session as part of his Physical Education Teaching program through SUNY Brockport from January 17 - May 10, 2022 with Messrs. Carson and Bruning.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Business & Financial

Items Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Harris to accept the Warrant Report for October 17, 2022.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Harris to accept the Treasurer's Report dated July 2022.



Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Harris to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Niagara County and Barker Central School District for participation in the NITAG.

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Harris to approve the SEQR relating to the 2022 Capital Improvement Project as presented in SEAF Part I and Part II.

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Mr. Atwater discussed the walk thru of the campus before the meeting to review and see the areas which would be impacted by the proposed Capital Improvement Project. He commented that he hoped the community would support it. After which, the following resolution was reviewed and voted upon.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes approve the 2022 Capital Improvement Project Referendum regarding the Resolution of the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District authorizing the submission of a proposition to be voted upon by the qualified voters of said District at a Special meeting thereof to be Held on December 13, 2022.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, NIAGARA AND ORLEANS COUNTIES, NEW YORK (THE "DISTRICT") AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSITION TO BE VOTED UPON BY THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF SAID DISTRICT AT A SPECIAL MEETING THEREOF TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 13, 2022

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District, Niagara and Orleans Counties, New York (the "District") proposes to have the District undertake a capital improvement project consisting of the construction of alterations, renovations and improvements to the District's existing buildings and facilities, including in each case, site improvements for various school purposes, the reconstruction of and improvements to outdoor athletic facilities and playgrounds, other appurtenant and related improvements, and the acquisition and installation in and around such buildings, facilities and improvements of original furnishings, equipment, machinery, and apparatus, and other services incidental thereto (collectively, the "Project"), all at a total estimated cost not to exceed \$25,205,000, with such cost being raised by the expenditure of \$1,524,684.04 from the District's existing 2009 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund (said fund being established pursuant to a proposition approved by the qualified voters of the



District on May 19, 2009), and \$3,015,315.96 from the District's existing 2011 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund (said fund being established pursuant to a proposition approved by the qualified voters of the District on May 17, 2011), and with the balance thereof, not to exceed \$20,665,000, being raised by a tax upon the taxable property of the District to be levied and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law, with such tax to be offset by State aid available therefore, and in anticipation of such tax, by obligations of the District as may be necessary; and

WHEREAS, by resolution adopted on October 17, 2022, immediately prior to the consideration of this resolution, the Board determined that (i) the actions and improvements included in the Project constitute a "Unlisted" action pursuant to the provisions of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder (6 NYCRR Part 617) (collectively, "SEQRA"), (ii) the Board assumed lead agency status for purposes of conducting a coordinated review of the Project for purposes of SEQRA, (iii) the Project will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts, and (iv) a "negative declaration" is issued and shall be circulated, in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education now intends to schedule a special meeting of the qualified voters of the District to be held on December 13, 2022 for the purpose of voting on a proposition on whether to authorize the District to undertake the Project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, NIAGARA AND ORLEANS COUNTIES, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. A special meeting of the qualified voters of the Barker Central School District, Niagara and Orleans Counties, State of New York (the "District"), shall be held at the Barker Jr-Sr. High School, 1628 Quaker Road, Barker, New York, on December 13, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. (noon), with polls to be open between the hours of 12:00 p.m. (noon) and 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting upon the following proposition:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District, Niagara and Orleans Counties, New York (the "District") be authorized to undertake a capital improvement project consisting of the construction of alterations, renovations and improvements to the District's existing buildings and facilities, including in each case, site improvements for various school purposes, the reconstruction of and improvements to outdoor athletic facilities and playgrounds, other



appurtenant and related improvements, and the acquisition and installation in and around such buildings, facilities and improvements of original furnishings, equipment, machinery, and apparatus, and other services incidental thereto; for a total aggregate maximum cost of \$25,205,000, with such cost being raised by the expenditure of \$1,524,684.04 from the District's existing 2009 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund and \$3,015,315.96 from the District's existing 2011 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund, and with the balance thereof, not to exceed \$20,665,000, being raised by a tax upon the taxable property of the District to be levied and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law, with such tax to be offset by State aid available therefore, and in anticipation of such tax, by obligations of the District as may be necessary?

SECTION 2. Said special meeting shall be called by the publication of a notice of special meeting substantially in the form attached to this resolution as Exhibit A. The District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish said notice of special meeting, in the manner required by law, in the *Lockport Union-Sun & Journal*, the newspaper of general circulation within the District.

SECTION 3. Voting on the above referenced proposition shall be by ballot with the full text of such proposition appearing thereon.

SECTION 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote on a roll call, which resulted as follows.

	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
Deanna Carnes	X	
Candice Gancasz	Excused	
Emily Gow	X	
Jennifer Harris	X	
Virginia Voss	X	
John E. Sweeney	X	
Randall B. Atwater	X	

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted by a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Mr. Atwater noted that he sat in on the interview process for the RFPs for the Construction Manager with Mr. Reimer and Mrs. Heiligenthaler. He noted that all were very qualified but La Chase was the one which had a more favorable cost and information with regard to the proposal presented.



Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the resolution regarding La Chase:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the scope of work and services reflected in the proposed Construction Manager Contract relating to the potential Capital Project with La Chase, for the performance of services identified in said contract, and authorizes the Superintendent of Barker Central School District to execute such contract. A copy of such contract shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Reimer noted that the next item relates to the emergency repair for the three air conditioning units in the Auditorium that are approximately 30 years old which began to fail at the same time. The cost to replace was exorbitant and so it made economic sense to go through the emergency capital project process with the state in order to receive aid to make the repair which would be approximately \$150,000.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Harris to approve the Resolution and Declaration and Appropriation of Contingent Expense and Emergency Capital Project Referendum regarding the Resolution of the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District authorizing the replacement of the existing and failed mechanical units.

RESOLUTION AND DECLARATION AND APPROPRIATION OF CONTINGENT EXPENSE AND EMERGENCY CAPITAL PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Mechanical Units serving the Auditorium at the Barker Central School District Central Building (the "School") has completely failed requiring temporary facility closure and suspension of operations of the auditorium; and

WHEREAS, the Barker Central School District (the "District") has received and considered the opinion of architect SEI Design Group regarding the replacement of the mechanical units, which recommends that the District replace of the Mechanical unit because the School will be forced to utilize temporary spaces or suspension of operations within the Auditorium until the condition is remedied;

WHEREAS, the emergency project is essential for the protection of the health and safety of the students and staff and for the protection of the District's property; and

WHEREAS, the District is the lead agency with regard to the proposed project under the provisions of SEQRA.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The District declares that the replacement of the existing and failed mechanical units is a SEQR Type II Action requiring no further review.
2. The District hereby finds the replacement of the existing and failed mechanical unit is essential for the protection of the health and safety of the students and staff and for protection of the District's property, and hereby declares the project to be an ordinary contingent expense (hereinafter "Project") and authorizes an Emergency Capital Project.
3. The District authorizes amending the general fund appropriations code 9950.900-00-300 transfer to capital projects totaling \$225,000 for the above noted emergency project to be funded from appropriated fund balance A-599 in the amount of \$225,000.
5. The Superintendent and all officers and employees of the District are hereby authorized and directed to take all steps reasonably necessary or appropriate to complete the Project and to carry out the intent of this Resolution and to apply for any eligible state building aid, if applicable.
6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The vote on this Resolution was as follows:

	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
Deanna Carnes	X	
Candice Gancasz	Excused	
Emily Gow	X	
Jennifer Harris	X	
Virginia Voss	X	
John E. Sweeney	X	
Randall B. Atwater	X	

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted by a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

**End of Public
Session**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to adjourn public session at 7:38 p.m., and move into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing employment history of a particular person.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Executive



Session Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 7:53 p.m., and return to Public Session.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Public Session/

Adjournment Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the end of the Public Session and adjournment of the meeting at 7:53 p.m.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk