



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Board Room
Monday, May 9, 2022

Present R. Atwater, M. Clemens-Harris, H. Ecker, C. Gancasz, E. Gow, J. Sweeney, V. Voss

Excused None

Also Present J. Reimer, M. Carter, M. Eadie, C. Heiligenthaler, M. Kramer
Public: 17

Call to Order President Atwater welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge to the Flag was given.

Approve Agenda The agenda was reviewed. Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the agenda as presented.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Accept Minutes The Board reviewed the minutes. Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to accept the minutes as presented from the Regular Board Meeting dated of April 11, 2022, and April 26, 2022.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Public Forum None.

Presentations Music Department Presentation - C. Johnson, J. Rappold & Students
Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Rappold, along with students: Elizabeth Hopkins, Adeline Atwater, Elise Monaco, Arnie Sturtevant, and Fiona Wass, discussed the Music Department program, opportunities made available to them, and the benefits of it. Some of the benefits of the music program according to students included the understanding of music and its applications in a multitude of ways, ability to participate in the musicals, chorus, All County, and other competitions, trips, working with the community, the development of confidence in one's self, as well as friendships, and how it enriches one's life. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Rappold talked about the impact of COVID and adapting their way of teaching and providing opportunities to the students to help them continue their musical education and keep them on pace, and the positive



change once back together in District. They then discussed the high caliber of students, past and most recent awards and successes which, for a small district, speaks for itself. They also thanked the Board for their continued support of the music program.

Curriculum Update - M. Kramer

Dr. Kramer talked about the Emergency Connectivity Fund and the submission for \$60,000 for the purchase of Chromebooks which, if approved, would provide the District with about two years of replenishment. She discussed the computer-based testing recently completed and noted overall it went very well with only a few minor glitches. She then discussed vendor scoring of ELA and math. She highlighted a Teachers of Tomorrow Grant which is a program that began in 2000 by the state legislature to help with teacher shortages or subject area shortages such as science, math, bilingual education, and ENL, especially in the big five city school districts which offers specific incentives to help districts across the state to recruit and retain teachers. She noted that this is a competitive grant based on need. She is hoping that with the projected needs and retirements the District may receive an award which would be divided amongst the big five, and then the other areas.

Principal's Update - M. Carter

Mr. Carter discussed the faculty meeting planned the day before the emergency evacuation drill to make sure all staff are prepared and to be able to answer questions. He thanked the Safety Team, church, fire company, police and all those involved in the planning and upcoming execution of the drill. He then discussed the computer-based assessments as noted by Dr. Kramer, and that the systems worked overall and will get better as more are performed. He noted that school is returning to “normal” as students and staff are preparing for local and regents exams anticipated to take place mid-June. He talked about year-end and the elementary schedule relative to the proposed changes the Board will review and vote on, and the correlation of the change to Moving Up Day scheduled for June 21st, commenting that the Board is welcome to attend. With regard to Summer School, recommendations are being taken from the teachers for elementary and it is anticipated that there will be approximately 15 students/grade. He discussed staffing and out-of-District outreach for teachers, and notification to parents regarding the program. The goal will be to service as many students as the District has teachers available for. He also commented that Teacher Aides would be hired if needed. Mr. Carter then discussed field testing from the state with grades 3rd and 7th, HS chemistry, and Living Environment as districts get picked every year. The 8th Grade Washington DC trip is progressing and a letter is being sent out to parents/guardians soon. He thanked Ms. Pagan for her work coordinating the trip and commented that there is a good group of students and chaperones going, and a great itinerary has been created for them.

Financial Update - C. Heilenthaler

Ms. Heilenthaler discussed the Audit Meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. before the Board meeting in June which will address audit process and procedures. Auditors will be on site in July. Ms. Heilenthaler then discussed the information provided for



review and consideration pertaining to Policy 5241-Property Tax Exemption as it relates to the exemption for senior citizens in District. She provided the Board with information on the STAR exemption, property tax exemptions for persons aged 65 or older in different municipalities and school districts, as well as overall information as it relates to the senior exemption. She commented, that although it is difficult to accurately predict income and population of older District members, there are currently 23 households who receive the senior exemption. The value of property currently exempted is \$1,417,678 and adding the exempted property back in reduces the overall tax rate by an estimated 0.06-0.10 per \$1,000 depending on the town. The current income level to be exempted is \$18,500. The current reduction is 50% of the assessed value. Application of exemptions are first applied to a household if it has a Veterans exemption, then the senior exemption, followed by STAR being applied. NYS allows up to a 50% exemption with an income up to \$29,000. As applications are due to the local assessor's office by March 1st, she commented that any decision and/or change would not take effective until 2023-2024. She also discussed the three ways to do the exemption through a sliding scale, straight dollar figure level(s), or keep as is. Ms. Heiligenthaler responded to questions from the Board.

Superintendent's

Information Mr. Reimer explained that once a school is listed as being susceptible to fiscal stress, an audit is usually performed by the State Comptroller's office. Barker was named on that list and was informed it would be audited by the Comptroller's Office. The initial meeting with him, the auditor, and Ms. Heiligenthaler is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11th and then they will commence the audit. It is anticipated that they will be on site a couple months which is not unusual. He noted that the auditor, Kaitlyn Howard, may reach out to the Board as part of the process. Mr. Reimer did not expect any findings out of the ordinary but there most likely will be findings noted to help improve the District and its processes.

Mr. Reimer discussed long-term planning which the District started a few years ago projecting out five years. This year extended out the projection through the 2028-2029 school year to analyze the impact of knowing more factors such as the Energy Cessation Mitigation Fund (ECMF), and planning based on no changes in staff, a projected 2% levy increase, roll-over of expenses, and a 1% increase to foundation aid. The end projected results continue to follow what the Board had already known. The impact of structure changes with staffing, energy efficiencies, the ECMF, etc. have had a positive impact thus far. 2026-2027 becomes the first year the District may see a potential reduction of the fund balance. On the revenue side, the levy is maintained at 2%. Also, 2027-2028 is the last year of the ECMF funding and the projection shows the impact as that goes away in 2028-2029. Mr. Reimer noted that what is unknown is the growth of the plant, future assessed value, impact on the levy if the values increase, and will plant property value growth absorb the change as expense increases for items such as health insurance which typically is a large portion of the total budget increase each year. The District has made substantial changes in the right direction but still needs to be very conscious of what it does.



Mr. Reimer then reviewed the proposed 2021-2022 end of year calendar changes, with the addition of Friday, May 27th as a closed school day for Memorial Day as three emergency closing dates were not used; the change for last day of school for elementary with a full day June 21st, and a professional development day coordinated to meet contractual and State Ed obligations.

The Facilities Committee met again on April 21st and continued its discussion on various items and the current state of the facilities, in addition to reviewing various options for needed improvements. Given where they are at to date, they asked to move at a quicker pace in order to put forth a project for consideration possibly in December for a vote. As a result, another meeting has been scheduled for May 26th. Mr. Reimer commented that while the Committee has reviewed a lot of information already, the group also wants to get additional input in this process and wanted to gather input from staff which is due next week. A survey was given to the staff on May 5th, and the results will be reviewed at the next meeting with the potential for recommendations to the Board in July for consideration. Mr. Atwater noted a lot of work has been done, and more to work through and consideration of limited funds must be considered.

Mr. Reimer provided an update on the ongoing EPCs. The lighting project is nearly finalized as the last pieces are being completed with the auditorium and the certificate of substantial completion will hopefully be done in June. The solar project is waiting on National Grid for hookup. The fence should be in place next week and trees will be planted shortly thereafter. The certificate of substantial completion for this project is targeted for June 30th. The sheriff’s department is working on the tower with a team and the town on the process and timing. A small entryway will be cut on Quaker Road with a gate and road into a treed area south of the tennis courts. This installation of the tower will result in better radio reception and increased safety for the school and town. Mr. Reimer reached out to the village and Mr. Nellist with regard to the Yorker House. The Historical Society may have some interest pending the ongoing usage of the Babcock House for the group. Mr. Reimer noted that he thought to have the historical society here and utilize the Yorker House and facilities for different events would be an option and an interesting thought. Teacher appreciation was last week, and Mr. Reimer thanked the Board for its support and recognition of the teaching staff. He mentioned that Mr. Carter nominated Mr. Pyskaty and Mrs. Mocariski for Teacher Appreciation Week citations from NYS Assemblyman Norris’ Office. Mr. Reimer noted that he only has five unannounced observations to complete for the school year which will be done very soon. With regard to Board goals, Mr. Reimer commented that there are some really good things going on in the classrooms and it is evident when visiting classrooms. He noted the great conversations and student engagement. The data on this will be reviewed at the June Board meeting.

POLICIES The second reading of the policies listed below was completed.

Policy #	Policy Name
5150	Contingency Budget
5210	Revenues



5220	District Investments
5230	Acceptance of Gifts, Grants and Bequests to the School District
5240	School Tax Assessment and Collection
5241	Property Tax Exemption
5250	Sale and disposal of School District Property
5310	Bonding of Employees and School Board Members

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the above referenced policies as presented.

The Board then discussed Policy 5241 and the senior exemption, where the District is in comparison to others, if the Board wanted it to remain the same, make a modest increase, and if making a change, what option to select. Mr. Reimer suggested when there is an exemption to understand the simpler to make it the better, especially for understanding for the taxpayers. He explained the option of the 50% exemption and increasing the exemption threshold and projected impact but noting it could be larger. He noted that the Board could change the threshold over a number of years in order to provide time to monitor the impact. Mr. Sweeney asked how the District compared to others. Mr. Reimer provided information to his inquiry. Mr. Atwater polled the Board for its thoughts. Mr. Sweeney noted he was sympathetic to the senior citizens but did not think a sliding scale was needed, and he recommended a possible \$2,000 increase to demonstrate that the Board is aware, monitoring, and being accommodating. Mrs. Clemens-Harris agreed and commented that it would show a good faith effort, and recommended changing slowly. Mrs. Voss concurred, as did Mrs. Gow who commented that it puts the District in line with others. Mrs. Gancasz and Mrs. Ecker also agreed. After discussion, Mrs. Clemens-Harris rescinded her motion original motion.

A new amended motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris was made, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the policies as presented with a change to Policy 5241 to increase the threshold to \$20,500 was made.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

The first reading of Policies 5320, 5321, 5322, 5323, 5330, 5340, 5410, 5411, 5412, and 5413 was presented.

Policy #	Policy Name
5320	Expenditures of School District Funds
5321	Use of the District Credit Card
5322	Use of the District Cell Phone
5323	Reimbursement for Meals/Refreshments
5330	Budget Transfers
5340	Borrowing of Funds



5410	Purchasing: Competitive Bidding and Offering
5411	Procurement of Goods and Services
5412	Alternative Formats for Instructional Materials
5413	Procurement: Uniform Grant Guidance for Federal Awards

There were no questions or comments pertaining to the first reading.

Education Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the resolution to amend the 2021-2022 school calendar.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve to amend the 2021-2022 school calendar to: (a.) close all District offices for staff and students on Friday, May 27, 2022, if no additional emergency school closings are used between today's date and May 26, 2022; (b.) adjust the last day for Elementary students to June 21, 2022, which will be a full-day; (c.) and add a half-day Superintendent's Conference Day for Elementary staff on June 22, 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

The Board then review the proposed 2022-2023 Board of Education calendar and agreed to adjust the July 2022 meeting date to Wednesday, July 6, 2022 due to the holiday on Monday. The Board will formally approve the dates after the election to give the new members an opportunity to review the proposed dates.

Board Goal #3 - Student Engagement & Investment in the Community

Mr. Reimer discussed the Board goal of increased participation in community-based and school activities. He commented that as seen from the music presentation earlier this evening, progress on the goal continues to be made as participation has increased. He commented that as this goal was developed in 2018-2019, put in place in 2019-2020, with the onset of COVID and restrictions in place and prohibited activities, the District did not have a good baseline from which to compare so it is difficult to say if the District met the goal completely but it can move forward from here. He noted that 25% of students are in band and 115 in choral, which is higher than other area districts. He noted from Mr. Carberry's presentation last month, that the results are similar with increase participation which he reviewed. He discussed changes with staff and the way students are recruited has changed and that staff are doing new and/or additional techniques to reach out, connect, and build the bond with students to encourage to participate outside the classroom. One example is the increased number of throwers that have joined track and field as a result of Mr. Post's efforts. Mr. Reimer then talked about increased opportunities and resultant participation in clubs. He noted that there are 27 clubs offered during 2021-2022 to students in grades K-12, whether new, existing, or past clubs that have been restarted, thus providing more opportunities to the students than in the past with a wider-array to select from based on their individual interests. There are approximately 450 students participating in the various clubs and other extracurricular activities, some students may participate in more than one. It is therefore estimated that 50-55% of the students are involved in at least one



extracurricular activity. The focus is on how to get students to participate and stay participating. Mr. Reimer noted the specific participation levels in the various new clubs such as the Conservation Club, Gay Straight Alliance, as well as with re-emerged clubs such as the garden club, and safety patrol.

Mr. Reimer continued with the changes since this goal was established with the number of hours students provide community service to the area. HS Guidance tracks grades 7-12. He noted that he gathered 20 pages of student community service whether for 4-H, churches, blood drives, cleaning up areas, food pantries, animal shelters, etc. He stated the list demonstrates there are plenty of instances for the students to become involved in the community. The staff does an excellent job to connect the students with opportunities that interest them in order to give back to the community. The students also have opportunities to give back through different programs within the District too such as M&M to support each other. He noted that being a small school, Barker has the ability to do this. He noted that even without the greatest data to track, he felt the District achieved the goal and continues to make good progress navigating through the COVID restrictions to do so.

Mrs. Voss noting one thing she liked and was impressed by the E-Club worked together on the Little Free Library for the community, and wondered if that could be incorporated and built into the other clubs objectives to do something specific for the community. Mr. Reimer will follow-up on that idea. Mr. Atwater commented that the District is making good progress and providing opportunities for the students.

**Personnel
Items**

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded Mrs. Gow to approve the appointment of Ruth Scofill as Technical Theater/Lighting Assistant for the Elementary Musical for 2021-2022 at a rate of \$19.32/hour.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded Mrs. Gow to accept the resignation of James Cantella as Director of Community Education and as a Substitute Teacher effective May 1, 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded Mrs. Gow to approve the appointment of the following individuals as Summer Music Teachers for the 2022-2023 school year.

Teacher	Rate Per Hour/Cap
Cheryl Johnson	\$35 / \$2,500
Jeff Rappold	\$35 / \$2,500
Amanda Burdick	\$35 / \$2,500
Judy Peterson	\$35 / \$2,500

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded Mrs. Gow to approve the appointment of the following individuals as Summer School Teachers and Teacher Aides for the program running July 5, 2022 - July 29, 2022. The teachers' salary will be the higher of \$32.00 per hour or their hourly rate based off their 2022-2023 contractual agreement. The teacher aides' will be paid based off their 2022-2023 hourly rate.

Summer School Teachers	Position
Drew Burke	Teacher
Mary Dudek	Teacher
Krista Beth Feltz	Teacher
Adrienne Laufer	Teacher
Karen Schian	Teacher
Mark Scofill	Teacher
Summer School Teacher Aides	Position
Amanda Lamb	Aide
Jamie Schwab	Aide

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded Mrs. Gow to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Board of Education approves the written agreement between the Superintendent of Schools and an employee of the District, executed on May 6, 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded Mrs. Gow to approve the following parent/community volunteers:

Individuals

- Albert Alexander
- Amos Andrews Jr.
- John Bouter
- Andrea Castro
- Katie Fisk
- Danielle Glaubitz
- Jennifer Harris
- Kimberly Kinne
- Julie Luxon
- Jodi Manning
- Susan McNulty-Atwater
- Bryan Mussell
- Julie Socie
- Nathaniel Westcott



Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded Mrs. Gow to approve Nicholas Sanford to present to or shadow in the Elementary School, primarily with Messrs. Carson and Sanford, as part of the post-secondary education requirements at ECC for his Physical Education Teacher Program.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Business & Financial

Items

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to accept the Warrant Report dated May 9, 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to accept the Treasurer's Report for April 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to accept the Extraclassroom Report dated April 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement regarding Special Education Placements for the 2022-2023 school year between Barker Central School District and Lockport City School District.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the acceptance of the donation of materials for the creation of signs from the Dergel family with an approximate value of \$310.00.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the attached Agreement regarding payments owed to the District by a particular corporation and authorize and direct the Superintendent to execute the Agreement.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.



End of Public

Session Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to adjourn public session at 8:38 p.m., and move into Executive Session for the review of negotiations; discuss matters of a particular personnel; and the Superintendent's evaluation.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Executive

Session Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 9:23 p.m., and return to Public Session.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Public Session/

Adjournment Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gow, that the Board approve the end of the Public Session and adjournment of the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk