



**BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Pratt Elementary Cafetorium
Monday, February 7, 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
Public: 14

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

Accept Minutes The Board reviewed the minutes. One adjustment was made under the Superintendent's Information section, "annual boiler inspection" should have read "annual generator inspection". Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to accept the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting dated of January 10, 2022, as amended.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Public Forum None.

Presentations

Tech Presentation – T. Mallon, C. Post & Students

Mr. Mallon discussed the Tech Wars competition which the District has participated in for approximately 20 years, with the exception of last year due to COVID. He highlighted the various types of competition which took place at NCCC on January 12, 2022, commenting Barker swept the King of the Hill competition. Students, Roryer Brinson, and Ean Wagner demonstrated how the King of the Hill competition works and discussed their designs. Mr. Mallon discussed how this programmed ties to Barker's technology curriculum. Mr. Post

highlighted the various courses offered at the school with regard to technology and computer programming, and the relationship to e-Sports which is a new opportunity for the students this year, as well as work to possibly add a tech AP course next year.

Principal's Update - M. Carter

Mr. Carter discussed the Safety Committee meeting scheduled for February 11th and ongoing planning for an evacuation drill. In an effort to provide more after school activities to students, Ms. Pellow and Mr. Burke held an Olympic Day today for grades 7-8 which included games and other activities to participate in after school from 3-5 p.m. It was well received by the students. The elementary school has begun using Pickup Patrol and it is working very well. The cut-off date for calls and paper notes from the parents is March 11th.

As the District continues to move forward, field trips are now being planned. A visit to the Challenger Center for Grade 7 is being organized for the Spring. The 8th Grade Washington DC trip planning continues. Mr. Carter noted that the 8th Grade and 12th Grade New York City trip continue to be monitored due to restrictions in place pertaining to if you are vaccinated or not. He commented that if the restrictions are not lifted or adjusted, the trips may need to change.

Mr. Carter then noted that Ms. Finitz is in the audience, and her appointment as a Counselor is before the Board this evening for consideration.

Financial Update and Review Preliminary 2022 - 2023 Budget Projections: General Support, Community Service, Transportation & Undistributed Presentation - C. Heiligenthaler & J. Reimer

Ms. Heiligenthaler updated the Board on the prior year's tax cap adjustment. After discussion with the State Comptroller, the District was able to adjust the PILOT payments related to the Somerset plant for 2021-2022 tax cap calculation. This increased the District's carry-over from \$4,000 to \$124,767. The new allowable tax cap levy limit for 2022-2023, with a simple majority, would equate to \$5,004,625 or 4.96% over last year vs. the projected of 2.34% at the last meeting. She noted that even going out the full amount, tax rates (based on current assessments and utilization rates), would still be less than 2020-2021 for most of the towns within the District.

Ms. Heiligenthaler continued with a detailed review of the 2021-2022 projected expenses at year-end totaling \$17,146,712, which includes the \$345,411 carry-over from last year due to retirement incentives. Two large increases projected are from BOCES Special Education and Transportation expenses. She stated projected total expenses for the year will continue to decrease as more is known and the figures are refined.

Ms. Heiligenthaler then reviewed the various areas of a draft of General Support for the 2022-2023 school year in detail. Under the Board of Education category, the largest portion is for BOCES Policy Services which includes GASB75, BoardDocs, and Policy Services. District Clerk changes reflect contractual amounts, and District Meeting which is comprised of the annual vote expenses, remains flat. Under Central Administration, the increase under Superintendent Salary represents an allowance for vacation buyback. BOCES Business Services under Business Administration represented the work performed by Erie 2 BOCES for the general ledger, accounts payable and purchasing processes which is contracted and

reflects a cost savings to the District through the reduction of 2 FTEs. Auditing increase of 13.92% is due to the fact that the District now has to have a single audit performed as it is over the threshold with federal funds that it received. The increase under the Tax Collector category is due to software programming. Purchasing's increase is related to BOCES purchased services. Legal has remained flat.

Personnel fees are administrative fees for Benefit Resources, OMNI, and participation in the BOCES workers' compensation consortium. Operation of Plant expenses cover items related to running the inside of the building such as salaries, utilities, contractual repairs, BOCES services. Ms. Heiligenthaler noted that utilities decreased due to the EPC and lighting project. The projection for this will be updated once more bills are received as the project is not fully complete to date. Maintenance of Plant addresses items outside the building. Increases include the salary for a full-time staff member effective November 2021, and other items such as tree removal, car inspections, septic services, and bee spraying. BOCES Printing/Mailing remains flat. BOCES Data Processing covers management programs such as Frontline, PowerSchool, nVision, network services/broadband. Special Items include insurance expenses, such as liability insurance. School Association Dues is for Niagara Orleans School Board. Refund Property Tax remains flat. BOCES Admin Costs increased 2.0%. Overall, the total general support categories increased 2.42% with the largest increases result from contractual obligations and BOCES Services.

Mr. Reimer commented that the three categories being reviewed with the Board this evening are less volatile and less change is anticipated from these than the others areas.

Transportation overall decreased by 0.84%. Ms. Heiligenthaler explained that the District went from eleven runs to ten bus runs. She noted that reviewing the number of bus runs is a continual process and could be changed before a final budget is recommended.

Community Services reflects summer programming and continues to remain flat.

Undistributed was reviewed next. Employee Benefits increase reflects projections for FICA, TRS and ERS which are all driven by salaries, along with an adjustment from last month to reflect the 5% increase in health insurance. Debt Service increased 112.64% due to bond payments relating to the EPCs. The last 2007 bond payment will be in 2022-2023. Mr. Reimer noted that the District will receive building aid to layer on and factor into the savings.

Overall, the projected budget total currently stands at \$17.9 million for a 4.04% increase over the prior year.

Mr. Reimer further discussed the tax cap and the change in carry-over from last year due to the plant resulting in an almost 5% allowable tax cap with a simple majority. He commented that this is a discussion for the Board and the Budget Advisory Committee. Mr. Reimer noted that the Board can increase the levy to the full amount for a starting point and see the impact of plant value and growth factor with the ability to adjust down during the planning period. He noted however, that at present, this is an opportunity to bring the plant in and residents up to where they were, and is an opportunity the District will more than likely not have again down the road. If the plant value was to increase, the levy will increase and lower the tax rate depending on the values of the towns. Mr. Reimer suggested to keep the levy rate increase on the table until more is known with the plant and property values. The Board can

approve the budget in April for the vote in May, and then, adjust if other revenue is realized before setting the levy in August. The Board agreed with this concept.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reimer stated the 2022-2023 State Executive Budget Proposal came out after the last Board Meeting and he shared it the Budget Advisory Committee on January 24th. Last year, the District surprisingly experienced a 15% increase in foundation aid. This year, it is again projected to be between 15-16% which is a very positive change for the District. He noted that he expects this number to increase again for 2023-2024, but does not foresee this size of an increase to continue for the long-term. This increase in foundation aid, along with BOCES aid increase, equates to aid moving in the right direction for Barker.

Mr. Reimer provided a financial report update. He noted that the basic formula for aid through 2026 remained the same. Even though it is expected to increase, it will not be added until receipt is definite. If the foundation aid becomes fully funded, the District may see a 2-4% increase as the norm each year if the current projection comes to fruition. Mr. Reimer noted that this will continuously be monitored in order for the District to receive the most dollars it is able to. Mr. Reimer reviewed the figures in the budget plan, noting that as the District builds the plan, it uses revenue and expenses projected out, and the District is getting close to a sustainable budget in the future. If in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 the District receives the aid expected, it could get to a stable budget on a long-term basis.

Mr. Reimer discussed the Fiscal Stress Report released by the NYS Comptroller's office which was also in the news and had Barker listed as Susceptible Fiscal Stress for year-ending 2021. In 2019 and 2020, the District's score was 20.0 which equates to No Designation. The 20 points accrued in the score the past eight years were the result of the District operating in a deficit. The difference between the last couple years to this year was a higher score was triggered by the use of reserves. The District has a healthy fund balance overall but that is not necessarily accounted for in this calculation. Mr. Reimer noted that this is a point in time calculation which does not look at the overall picture. The 20 points for operating deficit will be wiped-out by the Energy Cessation Program and the change in operations which will likely cause a change to No Designation again next year.

Mr. Reimer noted the solar EPC project date has been moved back as the contractor does not have the main piece of equipment available at this time to start. The lighting EPC is just about finished.

Mr. Reimer provided an update on COVID and masking. There is a court case ongoing related to this issue. Current masking mandates are set to expire February 21, 2022, which he stated are not the same as the indoor mandates. He noted that he has heard some talk about extending the school mask mandate through June but he does not know what will happen. The area superintendents sent a letter to Governor Hochul asking for a road map so the districts can plan and get things in place if the mandates are lifted. Mr. Reimer stated that this important in order for the districts to address concerns on both sides of the masking issue, and ensure the District provides the safest environment. He noted that if the masking mandate is lifted, but the quarantine rules remain in place, the number of quarantines could increase substantially. Mr. Reimer commented on the District's ongoing use of its

Reopening Plan, as well as the Return to School Protocols. The District's plan, which follows the CDC matrix, will continue to be utilized to maintain in-person instruction except if there are Federal, State, or other local mandates requiring masking or other measures. In the event there are mandates applicable to the District, the District will comply with such mandates until they are suspended or eliminated. He also commented that this continues to be a very challenging situation.

Mr. Reimer stated the District was informed it was awarded the Utica National safety award with titanium honors. The \$500 award and plaque are anticipated to be received in March.

The Budget Advisory Committee met and was provided a lot of information that is shared with the Board and used for planning the budget such as the budget roll-over, revenue projections, foundation aid and other state aid information. These are some of the tools used in developing the current and long-term budget. The committee will meet again on February 14th at which time the group will look more in-depth into the revenue piece of the budget and other areas. The following meetings will review and discuss the expense side. The committee will also discuss stimulus funds and the education components of the budget.

Education

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the transportation agreement between Barker Central School District, John Mott, and Victoria Whitman for the 2021-2022 school year effective January 11, 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

2022-2023 School Calendar

Mr. Reimer reviewed the proposed 2022-2023 school calendar draft with the Board of Education. The proposed calendar was based on the WNY Regional Calendar. This year, the District shifted the timing of the Spring Break away from the regional calendar but for next year, the calendar is aligned with all BOCES breaks as Mr. Reimer heard support for it. He discussed the alignment of both options relative to students attending BOCES, and commented on what other districts do. Mr. Reimer noted that he did not feel this was the best calendar for the students given the length of time from April through June with only two holidays in between during what is a very busy and stressful time of the year for them and the staff. He commented that there is one extra day to be built in and the timing of the Superintendent's Conference days are being reviewed to be able to possibly provide for another long weekend. The bargaining units will provide input prior to bringing forward again in March for approval. He asked the Board to let him know if they have input between now and then.

Policies/Plans

The first reading of the following policies was completed and there were no questions raised.

3430	Uniform Violent and Disruptive Incident Reporting System (VADIR)
3510	Emergency School Closings
4110	Administrative Personnel
4210	Administrative Organization and Operation
4211	Organizational Chart

4220	Administrative Authority
4230	District Committees
4240	Evaluation of the Superintendent and Other Administrative Staff

The second reading was completed of the following policies.

3282	Naming of School District Facilities
3290	Operation of Motor-Driven Vehicles on District Property
3310	Public Access to Records
3320	Confidentiality of Computerized Information
3410	Code of Conduct on School Property
3411	Prohibition of Weapons on School Grounds
3412	Threats of Violence in School
3420	Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the School District

There were no questions, comments, or changes brought forward. A motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the above referenced policies as presented.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Board Goals Review & Discussion

Mr. Reimer discussed the Board Retreat, the look at the process as it relates to goals, and noted the current plan ends next year. The Board discussed looking at whether or not to go back and redo the process and redo the plan; or look at this as a condensed process with results, and adjust goals going forward. Mr. Reimer commented that he believed the general consensus of the discussion was to take a slower review and look deeper at data before the Board decides to do anything. This would mean the Board would look at one goal per month over the next four months and then in July, determine the direction the Board would like to take to move forward with the understanding that the review might change how the Board views things and what adjustments they would like to implement. He also discussed the reliability of data given the impact of COVID just after implementation, but noted data and information would be provided for consideration. Mr. Atwater noted that he felt the Board agreed not to redo the entire process, and the Board concurred.

Personnel Items

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the appointment of Allison Finitz to be appointed as a full-time probationary Mental Health Counselor effective March 14, 2022, and as per the Agreement between the Barker Central School District and Barker Teachers' Union, probationary period effective March 14, 2022, through March 13, 2026, tenure area of School Counselor. The expiration date is tentative and conditional only. In order to be eligible for and considered for tenure, the employee must meet all requirements of the Educational Law and corresponding regulations. Annual salary rate of \$49,961, MA30 Step 1. Subject to fingerprint and background clearances.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the agreement between the Superintendent of the Barker Central School District and Shelby Watry, School Nurse, effective March 14, 2022 - June 30, 2023.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the following 2021-2022 School Year Spring Sports appointments.

Position	Name	Step	Stipend
Paid Positions			
Varsity Baseball	Rob Mucha	4	\$5,405.00
JV Baseball	Shane Phillips	4	\$4,323.00
Varsity Softball	Aileen Hinton	4	\$5,405.00
JV Softball	Ryan Carberry	4	\$4,323.00
Tennis	Jeffrey Pyskaty	4	\$4,725.00
Modified Track	Paul DerSarkissian	4	\$2,418.00
Varsity Track Head Coach	Heather McIntyre	2	\$5,180.00
Varsity Track Assistant	Karin Menz	4	\$4,123.00
Varsity Track Assistant	Christopher Post	2	\$3,897.00
Track Assistant	Kyle Sosnowski	n/a	unpaid
Track Assistant	Jacob Haight	n/a	unpaid
Track Assistant	Sharon Lamb	n/a	unpaid
Track Assistant	Bill Wilson	n/a	unpaid
Softball Assistant	Bill Moeller	n/a	unpaid
Softball Assistant	Jessie Pavlock	n/a	unpaid

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the appointments of James Bachman and Karli Sturtevant as volunteer advisors for the 5th/6th Grade Girls Basketball for the 2021-2022 school year on a voluntary basis effective January 19, 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the change in appointment for Meada Taylor as a Substitute Teacher and Substitute Teaching Assistant to cover grades PreK-12 from K-4 effective January 14, 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve Tyler Sieczkarek to present to or shadow classes with Mr. Carberry as part of the post-secondary Physical Education degree requirements at Brockport College.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Awater congratulated Ms. Finitz and Ms. Watry on their appointment.

Business & Financial

Items

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to accept the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to accept the Warrant Report dated February 7, 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to accept the Extraclassroom Report dated December 2021 and January 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

The Board discussed the time for the April 26, 2022, Board meeting for the purpose of voting on the Orleans/Niagara BOCES administrative budget and the election of members to the BOCES Board of Education. After discussion, it was agreed to have the meeting at 7:30 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the setting of the April 26, 2022 Board of Education meeting at 7:30 a.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the Audit Corrective Action Plan letter for the year-ending June 30, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the budget transfers in the amounts of \$57,048 and \$1,150.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

End of Public

Session

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to end the Public Session and enter into Executive Session at 8:17 p.m., the purpose of which was to discuss negotiations.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Executive

Session

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 8:36 p.m., and return to Public Session.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Public Session/

Adjournment Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, that the Board approve the end of the Public Session and adjournment of the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk