



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Auditorium
Monday, November 15, 2021

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: 9

**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. Mr. Atwater noted that Item 10 - Business & Financial Items, Letter C – Tax Collection Report, has been postponed until December. Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the agenda as amended.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**ACCEPT
MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the minutes. A motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to accept the minutes from the Regular Board Meetings dated October 18, 2021, as presented.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC
FORUM**

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Curriculum Update - M. Kramer

Dr. Kramer provided an overview of the 21st Century Learning Community Grant. She noted that it is very competitive as there is \$4 million in funds for the region which includes Buffalo. The grant's purpose is to enable a district to plan,



implement, or expand projects that benefit the educational, health, social services, cultural and recreational needs of the community. The District is looking at different opportunities allowable if grant funds are received, some of which could possibly include: before school early intervention for K-2 to provide academic tutoring and enrichment opportunities for the students to keep them on pace; an after school program to provide 24/7 tutoring by certified full-time teachers through the Central Michigan University's literacy program; after school care and possibility of partnering with the YMCA; a PreK-12 partnership with the Girls Scouts for service learning opportunities; as well as STEM and robotic opportunities. She noted that the students would need to participate 15 hours per year and the funding is based on the number of students participating.

Principal's Update - M. Carter

Mr. Carter noted that based on the current direction of the state with regard to testing, the District is transitioning to computer based testing for grades 3-8's math and ELA testing in the spring. As there will likely be issues the first time administering exams, in January, simulated testing will be done by staff and students to determine if systems, equipment and programs are set. Switching to this type of testing method will also result in teachers not being taken out of the classroom for grading and thus provide more time to educate the students.

As discussed last month, the electronic method to track dismissal, called Pickup Patrol, continues to be evaluated for the Elementary. It is a very easy system to use, which Mr. Carter noted he himself has used. It will eliminate the need for paper notes for absences, pickup changes, bus changes, etc. The information from the system will link to attendance, the office, teachers, and bus garage and is very secure. It will increase efficiency, reduce chance of errors, and overall streamline the dismissal process. It will be rolled out slowly in-house before it is rolled out to parents.

Mr. Carter was excited to announce that the school will hold a Turkey Trot for grades 7-8 this year which is being coordinated by Mrs. Goodlander on Tuesday, November 23 in conjunction with a canned food drive. He noted that this will be a joint venture with the Somerset police, town, fire company, and Village of Barker.

Mr. Carter commented that the District is already reviewing the end of year Senior events given it is a very busy time for all. The Senior Breakfast, coordinated last year by Mmes. Ecker and Voss, will be done by Mr. and Mrs. DerSarkissian this year. As Class Night has not been held the last few years due to circumstances, a Senior Class picnic was held instead. Mr. Carter surveyed the Seniors with regard to their preference and noted that 90% voted for the picnic vs. Class Night. Graduation is currently scheduled to be in the auditorium this year. Prom has already been booked.

Financial Update - C. Heiligenthaler

Ms. Heiligenthaler provided a cafeteria update. Given the District was hybrid last year, her comparison used 2019-2020 figures to current. Breakfast and lunch counts have increased 1,048 from the same time period while student enrollment decreased from 745 to 670.

She noted the Budget Calendar is being presented for review and approval and it includes proposed dates for the Budget Advisory Committee. The dates proposed were based on deadlines pertaining to budget preparation, reporting and the budget vote, and were scheduled in order for the Committee to provide input prior to the Board Meeting when decisions would need to be discussed and/or finalized.

Ms. Heiligenthaler also noted that federal funding monies were received which will be utilized to upgrade the phone system and the District is currently planning to schedule the work during the February break if possible.

SUPERINTENDENT'S

INFORMATION Mr. Reimer commented that he felt there was no end in site to the current mask mandates or testing out, and expects it to continue through the rest of this year. He noted that different areas are having spikes, and some are lower, with Barker remaining lower compared to the rest of the region. He also noted that he does not expect regional decision making ability to being available as anticipated earlier this year. With regard to winter sports, mandates remain in place and no new information has been received. He will provide updates if, and when, more information is received. He discussed the option for testing to return from quarantine, Test to Stay (TTS), was recently allowed by NYS. This is an 'opt-in' program by each county which would allow one to be in school only, no other locations, while in quarantine if the individual tested negative. At this time, due to various constraints, Niagara County is not able to opt-in to this program. As a result, the quarantining rules and timelines remain unchanged for the time being. He commented that only a few counties across the state were able to opt-in because of different opportunities in that county. Mr. Reimer commented that the District is adding another opportunity for testing in the morning for staff and 10% of the student population starting November 19th between 10 – 11 a.m. on Fridays as a result of grant funding through Niagara County and therefore no cost to the District. He noted that this testing is not open to the general public, only school-based staff and students. He noted he would keep the Board updated as new information becomes available. Information from Niagara County regarding vaccines and testing continues to be provided to the community via the website.

Mr. Reimer then provided an update on the EPCs. A schedule was developed to do some of the lighting work during the dates due to contractor issues that were out of the District's control resulting in a good portion of the work set to be done after school hours needing to be moved to the school day. As such, some staff/classes will be relocated for 2-3 hours for one time in order for the contractors to get in and finish that particular room. He noted that the schedule will be adjusted as needed



to accommodate the classes. This will hopefully keep the project moving along as if it needs to occur during second shift, the project may not be completed until possibly February or March. He noted it was important to try to maintain the schedule due to the correlation of funding from the SED.

The prep work and evaluation of the current systems in equipment for the HVAC project has resulted in a list of things which need to be fixed or replaced. He discussed an issue that came up Friday, and noted that this would not have been discovered if not for the project and on a positive note, was beneficial to find out now before the project moved forward. The completion of these repairs will ensure the District will be getting the best systems in service once all aspects are completed.

The easement for the solar project is in and being reviewed. It is anticipated to be done in a week or two. At this time, Mr. Reimer is hoping this will be done by then in order to commence with the project in December to have completed and running in February.

With regard to the Energy Cessation Mitigation Fund, as noted at the last meeting, the application has been submitted and all information is in for review with the Department of Taxation and Finance. Mr. Reimer discussed how the funding will fluctuate over time due to the value of the plant which is continuously being monitored. The District's five-year financial plan will continue to be based on the lower of the anticipated amount. He stated that the latest forecast is \$1 million lower than projected 1.5 weeks ago. Mr. Reimer commented that he hopes the plant value will not have a huge negative impact in the overall long-term projections. He also noted the positive impact of foundation aid if it becomes fully funded in the future which would result in a more positive financial outlook over the next 5+ years.

Mr. Reimer reviewed the timeline of the 2022-2023 budget calendar as it relates to the Budget Advisory Committee meeting dates and importance of trying to keep to the schedule as presented due to related deadlines. He noted the proposed timing of the third Thursday in December, February, April (during Spring Recess), and June for the Facilities Committee, commenting it has more flexibility with regard to when it meets. Once the committees are finalized, he will reach out and confirm participation and availability.

POLICIES/ PLANS

Mr. Atwater noted that the first reading of policies included Policy 7241 – Student Directory Information which is presented out of cycle as a result of an inquiry about when and what can be posted with regard to student information. The current policy is what the District has followed for several years, and Mr. Atwater asked if the Board wanted to change what is or is not allowed. He noted that this correlates to publicizing awards, athletic programs, musicals, etc. After review and discussion, the Board concurred to not change the information that is allowable and continue



with the second review at the next meeting. The other policies brought forward without comments included:

Policy #	Policy Name
2110	Orienting and Training New Board Members
2210	Committees of the Board
2310	Membership in Associations
2320	Attendance by Board Members at Conferences, Conventions and Workshops
2330	Compensation and Expenses
3110	Media/Municipal Governments/Senior Citizens
3140	Flag Display
3150	School Volunteers
7241	Student Directory Information

The second reading of the policies referenced below was completed.

Policy #	Policy Name
1510	Regular Board Meetings and Rules (Quorum and Parliamentary Procedure)
1520	Special Meetings of the Board of Education
1530	Minutes
1540	Executive Sessions
1610	Annual District Meeting and Election/Budget Vote
1611	Business of the Annual District Election
1620	Annual Organizational Meeting
1630	Legal Qualifications of Voters at School District Meetings
1640	Absentee Ballots
1650	Submission of Questions and Propositions at Annual Elections and Special District Meetings

There were no questions raised. Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the policies as presented.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

EDUCATION Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the tuition for the SRO pursuant to the Agreement with the Town of Somerset.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL
ITEMS**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the appointment of Gregory Goodlander as a full-time Groundskeeper/Repairperson at a rate of \$22.50 per hour effective October 16, 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0, Mrs. Gow abstained due to the family relationship.
Motion carried.



Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the child-rearing leave for Kirsty Pagan-Wakefield through September 23, 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the appointment of Tiffany Davis as a Substitute Nurse at the per diem rate effective October 19, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Atwater welcomed and congratulated Mr. Goodlander.

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL

ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to accept the Warrant Report dated November 15, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to accept the Treasurer's Reports dated August 31, 2021, and September 30, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Atwater then discussed the Adhoc Facilities and Budget Advisory Committees and the need to fill the committees with up to two additional Board members. After review and discussion, the following members were recommended to make-up the committees:

Facilities Committee	Budget Advisory Committee
Atwater, Randall – Board President, Ex-officio Member	Atwater, Randall – Board President, Ex-officio Member
Clemens-Harris, Mary Jo – Board Member	Harris, Jennifer
Dewart, Jonathan	King, Ruth A.
Fuerch, Alexandra	Mallon, Tammy
Gow, Emily – Board Member	Stodolka, Charles K.
Mallon, Thomas	Sweeney, John – Board Member
Sukdolak, Todd	Voss, Virginia – Board Member
Ware, Francine	

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the Ad Hoc Committee memberships as noted above.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the 2022 - 2023 Budget Calendar.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the resolution pertaining to use of sick leave entitlements during the COVID-19 pandemic: Resolved, that due to the unique circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Education on a non-precedent setting, sun-setting basis through and including June 30, 2022 only, shall deem time off to care for an employee's child during the period of time that the child is subject to a mandatory order of quarantine or isolation issued by the state of New York, the department of health, local board of health, or any governmental entity duly authorized to issue such order due to COVID-19 to be an authorized use of sick leave entitlements.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the acceptance of the grant of \$2,000.00 from the Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the acceptance of the donation in the amount of \$1,500.00 from Douglas R. Nichols for the benefit of the Music Department.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Barker Teachers Union and the Board of Education effective July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Awater thanked the BTU and Administration for working together to work through the negotiation process to bring forward the collective bargaining agreement.

**END OF PUBLIC
SESSION**

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to end the Public Session and enter into Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. for the purpose of discussing particular legal matters.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



EXECUTIVE

SESSION Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 8:50 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 8:50 p.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk