



**BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
Auditorium  
Monday, December 13, 2021**

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**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: 5

**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. A motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to accept the minutes from the Regular Board Meetings dated of November 15, 2021, as presented.  
Yes: 7, No: 0  
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC  
FORUM** Mr. Jason Dodge addressed the Board with regard to a recent hold-in-place at the school; the fear his children have; his concern for his children and other students' safety; and what is or was done in regard to the incident. Mr. Reimer noted that a hold-in-place could be for anything from a child becoming sick in the hall, to a larger concern, and it is put in place to address a situation, and protect others. He noted all protocols, Code of Conduct, and policies were followed relative to the other day. The student discipline phase is currently being addressed. Mr. Reimer also discussed the length of the hold-in-place, follow-up with students and staff afterwards, noted the debriefing to analyze the particular situation which



occurred, and that the primary concern is always for the students and staff well-being. He also noted that Mr. Dodge and any community member should contact him with concerns.

**Mr. & Mrs. Dodge exited the meeting at 7:05 p.m.**

**PRESENTATIONS** Principal's Update - M. Carter

Mr. Carter thanked Mrs. Goodlander for coordinating the turkey trot held before Thanksgiving break which went off very well. He thanked everyone who came out, watched and participated, including Mr. Atwater who was the fastest adult runner. Plans are in the works already to make the event larger next year. The canned food drive portion of the event was also very successful. Mr. Carter stated that the District is getting into a "normal" holiday spirit time with holiday concerts this week and next, food drives, spirit days, as well as, hopefully, Santa visiting the elementary school.

Mr. Carter noted that coincidentally, this past Friday the District held a Safety Committee meeting. The purpose was to begin planning the evacuation drill for some time later in the school year. Representation on the committee includes the Somerset Police, Niagara County Sheriff's Department, Faith United Methodist Church, Ms. Walker from transportation, Mr. Atwater as a Board representation, Mrs. Martell as a teacher representative, and the SROs. The Fire Department is part of the committee but was unable to attend this particular meeting, so Mr. Carter noted he would follow-up with them. The Committee discussed the evacuation of campus, reporting sites, and dismissal from the sites. The next meeting will be February but in the interim, Mr. Carter will be visiting with the locations to coordinate with their representative what the staging and process will look like. Mr. Carter also discussed that this is the time of year the scheduled lock down and lock out drills take place. He reviewed the process and notification to parents and guardians.

Curriculum Update - M. Kramer

Dr. Kramer was excused from the meeting and the report was by provided by Mr. Reimer during his report.

Financial Update - C. Heiligenthaler

Ms. Heiligenthaler was excused from the meeting and the report was provided by Mr. Reimer.

Parameters for 2022-2023 Budget Development and Review of Tax Cap Rules & Regulations – J. Reimer

Mr. Reimer noted that the District is already commencing the 2022-2023 budget cycle with the budget development and reviewed of the tax cap rules and regulations in order to provide the Board a basis for determining what level they would want the tax cap to be for the upcoming year. He reviewed the two factors that determine the tax cap limit that could be used with a simple majority. First, the new building growth factor to be added on to the tax base which, currently, is approximately 0.34%; and second, the actual allowable growth factor which could be up to 2% but could be lower. At present, it is estimated the tax cap levy could go up to 2.34%. This being estimated, Mr. Reimer thinks it may be higher but



will need to wait and see what the tax base will be. He also noted that the District is reviewing if it would be able to go back to the prior year tax cap based on when the Somerset plant went off the PILOT, resulting in a carry-over which may allow the District to increase the levy over 2.34% for a simple majority vote. The NYSED and NYS Comptroller's offices are reviewing this. Mr. Reimer reiterated that the tax levy cannot exceed the calculated tax cap unless 60 percent of voters approve such an increase.

With regard to the Energy Cessation Mitigation Fund, the first submission was considered untimely, and was resubmitted in the fall. On Friday, the District was informed it is on the December 16, 2021 agenda for vote by the Empire State Development Agency. If approved, it would result in approximately \$2.49 million being received in whole in January. With the events that occurred, the dollar amount set in the calculation of funds was higher and it worked out the best it could have for the District economically.

Mr. Reimer then discussed three hypothetical scenarios, as per the presented document, with regard to the power plant moving forward and long-term impact on the financial well-being of the District. He noted that the predictions relative to the PILOT in 2013-2014 were spot on and highlighted how it impacted the District. The first scenario is if there is no change in the plant value, and the District goes out with a 2% levy increase. In this case, in 2026-2027 the District will still not see dollars it needs as the fund balance decreases to balance the budget. Mr. Reimer noted that in his opinion he could advocate for this as it would minimize the impact on taxpayers as the plant would provide revenue. In the second scenario, if the Plant goes on a PILOT, the District would bring in roughly the same amount of money but the tax rate will increase faster for the taxpayers, this scenario shifts the burden on the taxpayers in 2025-2026 with the plant not being on the tax roll, and decreases the funds usage for a balanced budget. The third scenario shown outlines what it could look like with a 5% levy increase. This could result in a more stable budget at the end of 2025-2026 but if the plant is on the PILOT, this scenario puts more burden on the local taxpayers and the plant pays less. Mr. Reimer noted that, to his knowledge, there is no discussion on a PILOT for the plant to date with the IDA. Budgeting to date has been based on the plant value and tax portion being built in. Mr. Atwater asked about the basis for the plant value and was informed it only pays on the structure and property value, not the equipment within the facility for the data center. Mr. Reimer noted that he continues to work on the past due funds owed by the plant. The meeting scheduled for Friday did not transpire and will be reschedule for this week hopefully.

Mr. Reimer discussed acknowledgement of donations/grants offered to the school and asked the Board's view on commemorating these. He noted that Policy 5230/Acceptance of Gifts, Grants and Requests to the School District addresses what the District may accept and use of funds but does not address how the school could acknowledge and/or commemorate them. He asked the Board's thoughts regarding establishing a threshold and levels to commemorate, or if they would like to look at them on an individual basis. Mrs. Voss commented it did not hurt to review as it is a matter of public record. Mr. Atwater asked about discussing at a future meeting and the Board concurred. Mr. Reimer shared one idea about a commemorative tree with a plaque and lighting to acknowledge larger gifts as the vegetation at the front of the building is older and some should be replaced. Mr.



Sweeney noted that the Cornell Cooperative would be a good resource on what options would work best for the front of the building. The Board noted that for the one large donation received (\$40K) it would be a good idea.

Mr. Reimer provided an update on the solar project, noting the easement is done and Solar Liberty ordered the base racking which will arrive in approximately four weeks and it will be able to be installed even if the ground is frozen. He speculated that it will be ready to go in February. Due to the delay, the screening around the site with pines needed to be pushed back to April/May depending on the ground conditions. Mr. Reimer noted he would like to have it complete by Memorial Day. He also noted that he will keep the neighbors updated on when the work will commence due to the related noise caused by the pounding in of the pylons.

The Sheriff's tower is waiting on the NYSED for approval. Even though it is not a District project, it is on District property, and therefore must run through NYSED. All necessary documentation from the school has been submitted.

The HVAC and lighting projects continue and as of tomorrow, the District will have the certificate of substantial completion to submit after the walk thru and confirmation that 85% of the work is complete. It will be submitted and will allow the District to be able to receive payment which will align with when the District begins to pay for the project. As a result of a labor issue, not all work could be completed at night resulting in some areas needed to be done during the work day, and he stated that the staff has been very flexible to accommodate this need. Most work will be done by Wednesday, and the gym and auditorium will be completed over break. Training of personnel on the HVAC system will be done in January and February, with the system being turned over to the District in March. Day Automation will be providing support through year-end and with the start-up of school in the Fall.

The first meeting of the Facilities Committee is being held on December 16 and Mr. Reimer provided an overview of the meeting. He will take the Committee on a walk thru inside and outside; review what has been done to date; talk about areas that the Committee wants or does not want to address; and plan what to do for the best possible learning environment for the students.

Mr. Reimer discussed the District's reserve funds and provided an overview of how reserves are setup and utilized. He noted that the District has a couple reserves for the exact same purpose with the same language. Generally, capital reserves are for a specific project or a reserve for special things such as transportation. He discussed the concept of taking the two existing reserves and consolidating for use for a capital project with a specific purpose to more clearly designate the usage of the funds. Going forward, he would like the District to create a plan and have in place on how to use funds, and clearly articulate how reserves will be used which would then be brought forward for Board approval in time for a vote in May. The Board concurred with this thought process.



Mr. Reimer then discussed Niagara County still being unable to accommodate the “test to stay” but late on Friday he received information from Niagara County regarding a “test to return” which may allow people return if they test negative on day 5, 6, 7 to come out of quarantine on day 8, which would cut out three dates of waiting to return. This would help to get students and staff back in District sooner. Only antigen or PCR tests would be allowed to be used for this purpose, not home test kits. Erie County is basing it on only if you are a point of contact in school, whereas Niagara County is more flexible to be across the board. Mr. Reimer is working with Ms. McKee on this matter. He noted that testing at the District on Friday is still available for staff and students to take advantage of. Mrs. Ecker inquired if students are vaccinated, would they be quarantined due to exposure. Mr. Reimer said that Niagara County would make that determination but generally, if they are two weeks past the second vaccine, they typically would not be quarantined.

Mr. Reimer noted that Board goals have been developed and should be looked at again and inquired if the Board would like to reserve specific time to focus on them or incorporate into the regular meetings. He reviewed the various goals, discussed strides that were being made in all areas since development prior to COVID, the restart now that the students are not virtual, and as such, does the Board want to start to focus and shift the goals. He asked to consider where they would want to begin, and to give consideration to condensing the timeframe from five to three years to make it easier to measure and evaluate. The Board asked that the information be sent to them so they can review, consider and come back with ideas to brainstorm in January. Mr. Reimer encouraged the Board to individually send to him what they would want to focus on and he will compile the list for the next meeting in order to keep the pace moving. Mrs. Voss noted that before COVID the school was doing really good things and making progress on goals, and it now it feels like it is starting up again. After discussion, the Board agreed to set aside time to work on this. The Board will send availability to Mr. Reimer to schedule time for this exciting and important work.

Mr. Reimer addressed school closures given the recent power outage and whether the school would close. He noted that if a widespread issue, travel ban, or state of emergency, the District would more than likely close. If a localized issue, as the school has generators, hot food, heat and is safe, and therefore it would remain open.

Mr. Reimer noted that with the musical rehearsals commencing, stage work will be starting and it is a unified set design this year, and a request was made to move the Board meetings to accommodate this need. As such, after reviewing various options, the least disruptive and easiest location to utilize was determined to be the elementary cafeteria and use the elementary main entrance. After discussion a motion was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss to move the location of the January, February, and March 2022 Board Meetings to the elementary cafeteria.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



**Policies/Plans** The second reading of policies listed below were completed.

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Policy Name</b>
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

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

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

The Board then reviewed the first readings of the policies listed below. There were not questions or concerns brought forward.

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Policy Name</b>
3210	Visitors to the School
3230	Public Complaints
3250	Parent-Teacher-Student Association
3260	Use of Service Animals
3271	Solicitation of Charitable Donations
3272	Advertising in the Schools
3280	Use of School Facilities, Materials and Equipment
3281	Use of Facilities By The Boy Scouts of America and Patriotic Youth Groups

**Education** None.

**Personnel  
Items**

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve Jacob Reimer, Michael Carter, and Mariah Kramer as approved Teacher APPR Evaluators for 2021-2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to accept the resignation of Zina McFarland as a Part-time Lunch Monitor effective November 13, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointment of Melissa Monthony as a Part-time Lunch Monitor at a rate of \$13.20 per hour effective December 14, 2021, pending fingerprint and background check clearance.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointment of Angela Moriarty as a Substitute Nurse at a rate of \$30.00/hour effective December 10, 2021, subject to fingerprint and background check clearance.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the unpaid leave of absence for Jason LaRock January 7, 2022, through June 30, 2022.

Meeting.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the Long-term Substitute Teacher appointment for Sarah Bowman effective September 13, 2021, with a salary at Step 4, MA, \$47,868 as per the BTU Agreement.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointment of Marissa Jowdy as a Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate, and a Substitute Teaching Assistant at a rate of \$13.20 per hour for Grades PreK-6 effective December 14, 2021 subject to fingerprint and background clearance check.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the change in appointment for Angela May as Substitute Teacher and Substitute Teacher Aide from PreK-5 to PreK-12 effective December 14, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the correction in appointment from the August 2, 2021, BOE meeting of Adrienne Laufer's 2021-2022 Junior Class Advisory Stipend from B3 to B1, \$1,910 (prior class advisor position was a D vs. B).

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the change in stipend for James Luckman as Mindcraft Advisor for the 2021-2022 school year from a



voluntary position as approved August 2, 2021, to Category B, Step 1, \$1,910/year as per the new BTU Agreement.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the change in appointment from the October 18, 2021, BOE meeting for Christopher Post from a club advisor to a coach as per the new BTU Agreement for E-sports and stipend change to Step 1 for the 2021 Fall Season in the amount of \$1,237/year.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointment of Kyle Sosnowski for the 2021-2022 Spring season as the coach for E-sports at Step 1, stipend of \$1,237/year as per the BTU Agreement.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointment of Krista Beth Feltz as the Modified Swim Coach for the Winter 2021-2022 sports season, Step 4, \$2,418/year as per the BTU Agreement.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the following Parent/Community Volunteers: Emily Donner, Theresa Gobeli, Keith Robison, and Paige Sutch.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointments of the following 2021-2022 Community Education staff members for the Winter semester being held January 24 - March 24, 2022.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Rate/Hour</u>
Antique Auto	Mallon, Thomas	\$13.20
Beginner Knitting	Davis, Karen	\$13.20
Beginner Knitting (Substitute)	Harris, Cynthia	\$13.20
Body Sculpting /Stretch & Tone	Mathison, Trisha	\$13.20
Book Folding	Dudek, Mary	\$13.20
Ceramics for Beginners	Feltz, Krista Beth	\$13.20
Greeting Card Class	Kersch, Mary	\$13.20
Greeting Card Class (Substitute)	Martell, Loriann	\$13.20
Life Guard	Costello, Lori	\$16.00
Life Guard	Dergel, Heidi	\$16.00
Life Guard	Lamb, Sharon	\$16.00



Life Guard/Water Aerobics	VeRost, Beth	\$16.00
Life Guard/WSI	Wilson, William	\$16.00
Staff/Supervision (Substitute)	Wilson, William	\$13.20
Stained Glass	McGee, Susan	\$13.20
Stained Glass (Substitute)	Diez, Laura	\$13.20
Volleyball	Morgan, Jared	\$13.20
Zumba	Durfey, Melissa	\$13.20
AARP SMART Driver	George Laskey	<i>Not paid by District.</i>
Yes: 7, No: 0		
Motion carried.		

**Business & Financial****Items**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss to accept the Warrant Report for December 13, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss to accept the Extraclassroom Reports for July - November 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss to accept the Treasurer's Report for October 2021 and November 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the following be declared excess property and that the Superintendent, or his designee, be authorized to dispose of said item: 2000 Chevrolet Pickup, Light Gray, Vin 1GCGK24R3YR184225, Weight: 8,600, 8 Cylinder.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the tax collection report for 2021–2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the acceptance of the grant in the increased amount of \$2,550.00 (from \$2,000.00) from the Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society.

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 7:53 p.m., the purpose of which was to discuss student discipline of a particular student.

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 8:20 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 8:20 p.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie  
District Clerk