



**BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Meeting Minutes**  
**Herbert F. Ludwig Auditorium**  
**Monday, September 20, 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, M. Carter  
Public: 29

**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. Mr. Atwater noted the reason for the change in order of the meetings resulting in the Audit Committee meeting commencing the end of the Board Meeting.

**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 Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to accept the minutes from the August 30, 2021, Regular Board Meeting as presented.  
Yes: 7, No: 0  
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC  
FORUM**

None.



## PRESENTATIONS

Principal's Update – Mr. Carter stated it has been an interesting and exciting start to the school year. The District has been running on an alternative schedule due to the bussing issues with classes starting when all students are in. He equated it to being very similar to a one-hour delay start schedule. He noted how flexible and patient staff, students and the community has been with this and how appreciative the District is of that fact that everyone is working together.

Mr. Carter also noted that there have been a significant number of student life issues. It has been very beneficial having the social emotional/mental health team from BOCES on site every day. The SRO position has also been extremely helpful in working with the issues. There is a lot of assistance for the students and staff, and he thanked the Board for supporting these beneficial services.

The beginning of the year started with student talks addressing the Code of Conduct, DASA and other need to know items. The Jr.-Sr. High students participated in the Aud. and the elementary students were addressed in their classrooms. Mr. Carter noted the number of Seniors in attendance this evening, commenting that they were paying attention during the talks regarding getting their participation hours in early.

Regarding Homecoming, a letter was sent out Friday and the District is trying to make it as traditional as possible. He reminded everyone that plans could change at any time due to Covid and as such, adjustments will be made if needed. There will be the parade, dance, and pep rally this year. He noted that unfortunately, guests will not be allowed at the dance to reduce the number in attendance, and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be excluded from the pep rally in order to maintain social distancing guidelines.

Mr. Carter reiterated the District's appreciation for everyone's' flexibility and patience.

### Financial Update – Ms. Heilenthaler

Ms. Heilenthaler commented that the audit has been completed and will be reviewed following the Board Meeting this evening. The District is in the midst of tax collection which consumes the Business Office time each year. The post office box and drop box are working out well. Approximately 21% of the total taxes due have been collected to date which equates to approximately \$875,000.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S

### REPORT

Mr. Reimer provided a project update. He noted that if you travel down Haight Road, one will see colored stakes mapping out the fence and area will the solar project will be. The District is still waiting on National Grid with regard to the easement which he is hoping to be in receipt of at the end of the week. He noted



the project will not move forward until the easement is executed. The HVAC and lighting projects continue to move along. He noted that there is a noticeable difference in the lighting with the new lights being white and older lighting yellow. Two of the three capital outlay projects are now moving forward after the bids last month. Mr. Reimer noted that the District held off commencing when initially approved as it was too expensive, thus waiting the District achieved economies of scale by waiting. The two projects will be addressing work on the weight room, concrete areas outside, and doors.

Mr. Reimer then provided an update on the energy cessation program. He noted, that as previously discussed, the first application was sent in and the District was informed it was premature. This year, it waited until the tax bills were set. As the tax rate dropped the billable amount for 2021-2022 school year, it resulted in a larger change in the loss from year to year, thus more monies potentially being allocated from the program to the District. The energy cessation application was executed and mailed last week. Mr. Reimer is checking to ensure the application process is complete and the Empire State Development has everything it needs. Mr. Reimer anticipates it will take 2-4 weeks to review and process the application before forwarding to the New York State Office of Taxation and Finance, upon finalization by the Office of Taxation and Finance, the dollars will be wired to the District. This application process must be done every year for the seven-year period. As such, it has been calendared to ensure it will be done.

Mr. Reimer discussed Governor Hochul's issued a mandate through the NYSDOH for all staff in Prek-12 schools to be tested for Covid-19 at least once per week. He reviewed how the testing will be reported back to the school and Ms. McKee will be the only one tracking this due to HIPPA and confidentiality. There is an opt-out/waiver for the mandatory testing if a staff member provides proof of full vaccination to the District. He noted that to help staff with this mandate, for those not providing proof of vaccination or those who choose to not receive a vaccine, the Niagara County Department of Health has clinics starting September 18th at the Niagara/Orleans BOCES Career and Technical Center located at 3181 Saunders Settlement Road, Sanborn, NY 14132. He stated that given the distance for most employees and that it is on a Saturday, it may be difficult for some to utilize this service. As such, the District has also been working on trying to make the testing available onsite through Barker's District Physician, Oak Orchard Community Health during the regular school day. Details are being worked through such as the day of the week, times, etc. but Mr. Reimer is hopeful this will be available the beginning of October. Being able to offer this service to students is also being reviewed. The third option reviewed was a mobile testing but Mr. Reimer noted he was unsure how that will look and noted that given the size and location of Barker compared to other districts, this may not work out as easily for those who need the testing. He noted that these options are a way the District will remain in compliance



and be able to do what it needs to do to keep school open. As more is finalized, it will be communicated out.

Mr. Reimer felt that last week and this week have been one of the most impactful events since Covid started, and the virus is not going away. The DOH is seeing almost half of cases are vaccinated and those individuals needing hospitalization are unvaccinated. He commented that the District continues to meet three and six feet physical distancing recommendation as best as it is able due to the fact that if students and staff are within six feet and exposed, it may increase the quarantine numbers. He is hoping the rate of infection slows down as it is at 6.53% this week compared to 9% two weeks ago. He anticipates the red zone for the area will continue for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Reimer reiterated Mr. Carter's comments with regard to the flexibility and patience everyone has shown to keep the students here on campus to learn. The support has been excellent. The District will continue doing its best to keep it things safe by following guidance, mandates, cleaning protocols, etc. He noted that things can change at any time but he is hoping not to have the last two weeks repeated, but commenting if it does, the District has a tested model from which to work from.

With regard to the American Rescue Plan, the District must spend a certain percentage on afterschool services. Mr. Reimer noted that it may be hard to spend as the amount is so high. The District is looking at how to utilize these funds in the most effective way for students in order to provide them the best opportunities and programs.

Mr. Reimer discussed a grant for an expanded UPK program the District is applying for as a possible additional opportunity for the students if received. The grant funds will not allow the District to extend the half day programs, but rather, requires the creation of an all-day program if received.

In response to a question from Mr. Atwater, Mr. Reimer noted there were about 56 students and staff out due to the need to quarantine. How work was received home was dependent on the teacher and situation. Some teachers sent work home, other used online tools, and some students could sync into classes too.

Mrs. Voss asked about the type of Covid testing needed and was informed it would be the Binax antigen testing vs. diagnostic/Pcr testing if done on campus. Mr. Reimer noted that the District will not be doing the testing nor reporting. The school physician would do the testing and Ms. McKee will receive a report, and this information would then be provided to NCDOH and the District would enter counts into a separate portal. Mr. Reimer noted the duplication in reporting processes does exist and it is very time consuming.



There were no additional questions brought forward from Mr. Reimer’s report.

**POLICIES** Mr. Atwater provided an overview of the three-year review process of policies, noting this is the start of another three-year cycle which has a first and second review before approval of each policy. The policies being presented for first review at this meeting included:

1110	School District and Board of Education Legal Status and Authority
1120	Board of Education: Qualifications, Numbers and Terms of Office
1210	Board of Education Members: Nomination and Election
1220	Reporting of Expenditures and Contributions
1230	Resignation and Dismissal
1310	Powers and Duties of the Board
1320	Nomination and Election of Board Officers and Duties of the President and Vice President
1330	Appointments and Designations by the Board of Education
1335	Appointment and Duties of the Claims Auditor
1410	Policy and Administrative Regulations

There were no questions raised.

**SELECTION**

**COMMITTEE** The Board reviewed the process of the selection of individuals to make up the selection committee to determine the membership for the Finance and Facilities/Planning Committees as discussed previously. The selection committees would be made up of the Board President, Superintendent, and one other Board Member. After discussions, Mr. Atwater asked if any Board Member would be willing to volunteer for the selection committees. Mrs. Voss volunteered for the selection of the Finance Committee membership and Mrs. Clemens-Harris volunteered for the Facilities/Planning Committee membership. After motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, the makeup of the two selection committees was approved.

Yes: 7, No: 0  
Motion carried.

Mr. Reimer noted that post cards were sent to all community members regarding the development of the Finance and Facilities/Planning Committees, and they are also here at the entrance for people take this evening. The information on the cards requested interested individuals to send a letter of interest with a brief description of why they would like to participate and are qualified to do so to Ms. Eadie by October 22. The committees would then review the individuals and go through the selection process to determine membership. Both committees would then begin their work, ideally for the Finance Committee, around January.



**EDUCATION** None.

**PERSONNEL**

**ITEMS** Motion by Mrs. Clemens, Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the creation of a 1.0 FTE non-competitive Groundskeeper/Repairperson position effective September 20, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens, Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to accept the resignation of Rebecca Huenemoerder as a full-time Teacher Aide effective September 4, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens, Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the appointment of Francine Ware as an Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate for grades PreK-6, and as a Substitute Teaching Assistant at the rate of \$12.50 per hour for grades Pre-K-12, effective September 21, 2021 subject to fingerprint and background check.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens, Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the appointment of Kimberly Roberto as a full-time Teacher Aide effective September 21, 2021 at the rate of \$12.50 per hour subject to fingerprint and background check.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens, Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the appointment of Kaitlin Costich as a Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate, as a Substitute Teaching Assistant at a rate of \$12.50 per hour, effective September 21, 2021 for grades PreK-12.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens, Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the appointment of Sarah Bowman as a Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate for grades PreK-12, effective September 13, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Clemens, Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the following revisions from the July 6, 2021 appointments for the Fall sports Field Hockey coaching appointments for the 2021 - 2022 school year:

<b>Fall Season 2021-2022</b>	<b>Name/Coach</b>	<b>Step</b>	<b>Stipend</b>	<b>Change</b>
Varsity Field Hockey Coach (co-share)	Karin Menz	1	\$2,453	From only coach to now co-coach, salary changed from \$4,906
Varsity Field Hockey Coach (co-share)	Aileen (Hinton) Gilbert	1	\$2,453	Now co-coach for Varsity, removed as Modified Coach
Modified Field Hockey Coach	Jessamine Pavlock	1	\$2,196	Now Modified Coach from volunteer

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens, Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the amendment of the Sophomore Class Advisor appointment from August 2, 2021 to be a Co-chair position, Category D for Rob Mucha and Kate Broderick both at Step 2, at a rate of \$397.50 each for the 2021-2022 school year.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens, Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the appointment of (a.) Cynthia Harris as a Substitute for the Beginner Knitting class at a rate of \$13.00 per hour; and (b.) Paul DerSarkissian as a Volunteer Supervisor for Basketball Class, for Community Adult Education for the Fall 2021 school year from September 27, 2021 – November 23, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens, Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the following Parent/Community Volunteers: Christina Munn, Jillian Staines, and Jon Staines.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens, Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve Piper Moffitt to present to or shadow Mrs. Ober's class as part of the post-secondary education requirements Brockport College for the 2021-2022 school year.

Yes: 6, No: 0, Mrs. Gancasz abstained from voting.

Motion carried.



**BUSINESS AND FINACIAL**

**ITEMS** Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to accept the Warrant Report for September 20, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the awarding of the bid for purchase of electricity to New Wave Energy at the indexed adder rate of SC2 @ 0.00927 and SC3P @ 0.00738 per kwh used from November 1, 2021, to October 31, 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

**END OF PUBLIC**

**SESSION** Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to end the Public Session and enter into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. for the purpose of discussing particular legal matters.

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 7:40 p.m. and return to Public Session.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC SESSION/  
ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, that the Board approve the end of the Public Session and adjournment of the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie  
District Clerk