



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Herbert F. Ludwig Auditorium
Monday, October 18, 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. Carter
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. 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 Audit Committee and Regular Board Meetings dated September 20, 2021, as presented.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Board Appreciation – Mmes. Goodlander and Thibault presented the Board with a token of appreciation, a key chain, to represent the Board being keys to the District's success and thanked them on behalf of the staff and students for their continued support.



Principal's Update – Mr. Carter reiterated the thoughts of Mmes. Goodlander and Thibault, noted it has been five years he has worked with the Board and commented that they have been great listeners and supporters of the District.

Mr. Carter provided a summary of Homecoming, noted it went very well and the District was able to have many of the traditional events such as the parade, field hockey game under the lights, dance, etc. and the students were great. He thanked the advisors, Student Council, and others who worked together to make it happen for the students, staff and community.

With regard to additional events, the first of two parent-teacher conferences for the year has been scheduled for Thursday, October 21. A meeting regarding the DC trip meeting for the 8th grade class and parents will be the same day. He noted that travel options are in a much better situation currently than the last years, but it still is not easy as there are some COVID restrictions for traveling to DC and proof of testing and/or vaccination is needed for entering some private businesses and institutions. The Senior trip will most likely be changed to a day trip as New York City is still pretty restrictive, as is going to a lot of major cities. Options are being looked at for locations in WNY area for ease of logistics and cost. For Halloween, there will be an outdoor parade, weather permitting, and musical performances. The high school students will help out with setting up trick or treat stations along the Haight Road bus look sidewalks. He also invited the Board and noted they are welcome to set up a station too. Parents will be permitted to come watch as long as it remains outside. If moved indoors due to weather, they will not be able to watch.

There continues to have significant delays/issues with busing, mostly at dismissal. Mr. Carter noted that they continuously make adjustments and differentiate the plans as quickly as notified, and commented that the community continues to be understanding of the situation. Staffing for bussing continues to be an issue.

On October 19th the Barker Fire Department is coming in to do presentations on fire safety with the elementary students, and the following day, there will be a traffic safety program for the students.

The Elementary Building Leadership Committee and Mr. Carter are looking at a program called Pick Up Patrol. This is an electronic record keeping of plans and changes in elementary students' dismissal plans. Mr. Carter noted he has used it as a parent, and that the program is very secure and user friendly. The app can be downloaded on phones as well. Mr. Carter reviewed the current process, and stated the program would cut down on the amount of paper notes going through the building and in multiple directions. A demo was provided to staff last week and is being reviewed.

Financial Update – Ms. Heiligenthaler

Ms. Heiligenthaler echoed everyone's appreciation and noted that the Board is a great team. She provided the Board with the hard copies of the final audit of



financial statements. She noted the digital version has been posted to the District's website, and all communications with New York State have been completed. She stated that the corrective action plan, in connection with the audit, is part of the meeting materials for review and approval by the Board this evening. It primarily addresses extraclassroom reporting processes and changes made to encourage more student engagement and accountability with regard to the recording of funds on the ledgers.

Ms. Heiligenthaler provided a tax collection update, noting that 91% of taxes have been collected to date compared to 93.7% in 2020-2021, 93.4% in 2019-2020, and 93.8% in 2018-2019.

She highlighted the budget transfers presented for review and approval which are to cover the expenses for the additional BOCES personnel of the 0.6 FTEs for a social worker and behavioral specialist which were added after the completion of the budget process.

Ms. Heiligenthaler reviewed the CRSSA, an extension of the Cares Act, which is separate from the American Rescue Plan and provided the District with additional federal money. As noted at the last meeting, the District received approval and some of the monies were used to purchase devices, and upgrade the kitchen service line which is circa 1964, parts of which have not been or barely functioning over the past few years. The monies were also being utilized to upgrade the District's phone system which is at the point of not coming back online whenever there is a power outage and many replacement parts are unavailable due to the age of the system. The District has also begun to use some of the funds to order flexible seating for individual classrooms as teachers had requested.

Ms. Heiligenthaler provided a cafeteria update noting that total meals serviced to date in 2021 are 9,543, representing an increase of 432 meals from 2019 despite the decrease in enrollment from 745 students to 670 students. Even with the decrease in enrollment, revenues for the same timeframe have increased \$11,763, from \$23,131 to \$34,894. All students do eat for free regardless of income as they did last year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reimer provided an update on what is known to date with regard to winter sports. He is hoping to see guidance change for the season as the required wearing of masks guidance has not changed, and he is not sure how it would work with regard to sports such as wrestling, basketball and swim. It continues to be a discussion item, and the districts are working with the state and Niagara County to address the issues. He felt the state will most likely wait and see how the transmission rates are. He noted that schools continue to have a lower rate than county and surrounding areas. He commented that as schools continue to be a safe environment, he and other superintendents are hoping for some additional flexibility and localized decision making power, and to have a resolution before the winter sports season.



With regard to COVID testing of non-vaccinated workers and tracking of workers' status, the District continues to remain in compliance. The District is still waiting on the county and what it plans to do as it pertains to regional testing. Mr. Reimer noted that the goal is to be as flexible as possible with regard to the situation. To date, the District has not had any positive cases since testing and he noted that the regional positive cases remain low.

Mr. Reimer discussed the EPCs and Capital Outlay projects. The boilers and controls were brought up, with some minor adjustments being made but overall it went well. The lighting updates continue to progress with 80% of the exterior lights completed. There is a noticeable difference in the interior lighting and wattage. Concrete work is being done in the front of the elementary and middle school area to make it safer and eliminate tripping hazards. This work was started earlier than scheduled to take advantage of the current weather conditions.

The easement for the solar project is in and with the attorneys for review. This needs to be finalized before work commences. Mr. Reimer discussed the noise that will occur when the pilings are installed on that side of the building which will be approximately 4 – 5 days. Otherwise, disruption to classrooms should not happen during the remainder of the installation.

The Energy Cessation Mitigation fund, submitted last year when the District was told it was too early to do so, has been sent in a few weeks ago with additional documentation being requested compared to the prior year. A letter from the state needs to be reissued with a new date for this process. Once the Department of Taxation and Finance has reviewed and approved the application, funding should take place in approximately six days.

Mr. Reimer discussed the importance of continuing to discuss District long-term planning especially with the potential change in foundation aid which would result of the District being fully funded as it pertains to state aid. He commented that Ms. Hochul noted this weekend that the current discussions represent a very good first step. If the foundation aid changes to being fully funding, the District may see \$8.5, \$8.6, \$8.7 million approximately in subsequent years in funding that will help maintain and stabilize the budget. Other districts who are currently overfunded will see their aid most likely freeze over subsequent years, and aid for underfunded district be brought up with small increases in subsequent years. He anticipates that the District could be fully funded by 2022-2023. He also commented that he felt the additional federal funds received during COVID will not continue in future years. Based on a question from Mr. Atwater, Mr. Reimer reviewed the calculation regarding the funding which has been the same since 2006-2007 based on income levels and property wealth values, and how the Current Wealth Ratios (CWR) have been kept at the same rate vs. being reduced. The change to fully funded would use the correct and current CWR for the District, thereby increasing funds.

Mr. Reimer provided a budget review, noting that the figures presented do not reflect the receipt of projected funding. \$16.1 million of revenue projected at 2025-



2026 does not reflect increase to property taxes and projected foundation aid. He reviewed why there will be a decrease in the energy cessation fund in relation to the seven-year window. Mr. Reimer continued and highlighted other changes including the reduction in the real property tax line; expenses; costs projected; and changes occurring through the projected 2025-2026 school year. Expenditures will increase from approximately \$17.2 million to \$19.1 million representing a 2.24% change. The key behind the general fund balance figures he noted is that it did not reflect stimulus monies and hires, so the District is still running at a deficit, albeit smaller than in the past.

He discussed correlated the involvement of the ad-hoc facilities and finance committees with the budget, strategic and long-term planning, and how the committees may provide and assist the Board with information for which they can make decisions. Mr. Reimer noted the letters of interest received for the committees which he, Mr. Atwater and Mrs. Clemens-Harris will review. The committees' focus will be at longevity planning in order to meet the needs of our students. Mr. Reimer noted that the Board will need to determine what it wants the District to spend resources and focus on, and how to be strategic. He reiterated, the District must maintain the sustainability long-term because of ripple effect changes can have and how the District builds out to not just survive, but thrive. Mr. Reimer discussed the applied demographic information available through Cornell which the District can review with regard to long-term planning as it includes information on enrollment, revenue, etc. and can be a tool to drive the data for the process. The draft five-year revenue forecast will continue to be a dynamic document. He noted that he would provide an updated version at the November meeting.

Mr. Reimer noted that Dr. Kramer's report will be provided to them in the next Friday letter.

POLICIES The policies being presented for first review at this meeting included:

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



The second reading of the policies referenced below was completed.

Policy #	Policy Name
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. 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 accepting of J. F., and R. F. as non-resident students for the 2021-2022 school year with fees being determined based upon Board Policy #7132, Non-Resident Students.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the following books be declared excess property and that the Superintendent, or his designee, be authorized to dispose of said items as outlined below:

A Student’s Dictionary
The Dictionary Press, Inc. ISBN: 978-1-934669-30-3 Copyright – 2016 Number of textbooks - 12
The American Heritage Children’s Thesaurus
Houghton Mifflin Books ISBN: 0-618-28024-3 Copyright – 2003 Number of textbooks – 7



Webster’s Elementary Dictionary
Merriam-Webster, Inc. ISBN: 0-8779-475-8 Copyright – 1980 Number of textbooks - 25

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL
ITEMS**

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to accept the resignation of Meg Denny as Substitute Teacher and Substitute Teaching Assistant effective October 7, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the appointment of Meg Denny as a Substitute Teacher at a per diem rate, as well as a Substitute Teaching Assistant and Substitute Teacher Aide at a rate of \$12.50 per hour effective October 12, 2021, subject to the receipt of fingerprint clearance and background check.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the appointment of Christopher Post as the E-sports Club Advisor for the 2021-2022 school year unpaid for the first year.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the appointment of Katrina Hammond as a substitute cleaner for the district effective October 19, 2021, at a rate of \$12.50 per hour.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the following appointments for coaching for the winter season during the 2021-2022 school year.

Coach	Sport	Step	Rate
Jacob Haight	Boys Varsity Basketball	2	\$ 5,596.00
Shane Phillips	Boys JV Basketball	1	\$ 4,489.00
Paul DerSarkissian	Boys Mod Basketball	4	\$ 2,382.00
James Bachman	Girls Varsity Basketball	1	\$ 5,540.00
James Bachman	Girls JV Basketball	4	\$ 4,752.00
Sharon Lamb	Girls Mod Basketball	4	\$ 2,382.00
Brianne Strong	Varsity Swim Head Coach	3	\$ 5,641.00



Cindy Calandra	Varsity Swim Assistant Coach	3	\$ 4,110.00
Paula Bachman	Assistant JV and Varsity Girls Basketball		Unpaid/Volunteer
Aileen Gilbert	Girls Modified Basketball Assistant		Unpaid/Volunteer

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the child rearing leave for Kirsty Pagan Wakefield through her return to work date of November 5, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve Randy Atwater, Meredith Black, and Amy Dewart as a Parent/Community Volunteers.

Yes: 6, No: 0, Mr. Atwater abstained.
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve Lydia Voutour to present to or shadow Mrs. Voutour's class as part of the post-secondary education requirements with Niagara University for the 2021-2022 school year.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve Destiny Baran to present to or shadow Mrs. Calandra's class as part of the post-secondary education requirements with Niagara County Community College for the 2021-2022 school year.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

BUSINESS &

FINANCIAL Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to accept the Warrant Report for October 18, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the 2021-2022 budget transfers to cover additional BOCES Services, and adjust summer school salary codes.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to accept the Corrective Action Letter in response to the Audit Management Letter for year ending June 30, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the Agreement between New Directions Youth and Family Services and Barker School District for the 2021-2022 school year.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the Purchase of Service Contract Agreement between Barker Central School District and The County of Niagara effective September 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

END OF PUBLIC

SESSION Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to end the Public Session and enter into Executive Session at 7:46 p.m. for the purpose of discussing particular legal matters.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE

SESSION Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, 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: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk