



**BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Meeting Minutes**  
**Herbert F. Ludwig Auditorium**  
**Monday, August 2, 2021**

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**PRESENT** R. Atwater, M. Clemens – Harris, H. Ecker, C. Gancasz, J. Sweeney, V. Voss

**EXCUSED** E. Gow

**ALSO**

**PRESENT** J. Reimer, M. Carter, M. Eadie, C. Heiligenthaler, M. Kramer  
Public: 15

**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: 6, No: 0  
Motion carried.

**ACCEPT  
MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the minutes. A motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to accept the minutes from the July 6, 2021 Audit Committee, Reorganizational, and Regular Board Meetings as presented.  
Yes: 6, No: 0  
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC  
FORUM**

None.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Principal's Update – M. Carter

Mr. Carter noted that the updated Codes of Conduct, District and building Safety Plans are being presented for review and approval this evening. The only change



was a result of a recommendation of BOCES with regard to live and spent ammunition.

There will be an orientation for 7<sup>th</sup> graders, which will include 8<sup>th</sup> graders who were fully remote and not in the building last year, on August 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Carter provided an update on the hiring process, noting it was an extensive, multi-round process including a screening, panel interview, demo lesson, and final interview with administration. The results were the three recommendations this evening for math, reading, and elementary education/AIS. He stated that the District is looking to hire cafeteria monitors. These were positions from last year which were not filled as a result of COVID. The jobs are posted, but interest has been limited. He commented that if the Board knows of anyone who would like to work for the District a few hours each day, to please reach out and have them contact him.

Summer school is ending this week. There has been very good attendance in both schools. A lot of Jr.-Sr. High School students have caught up on their credits and many will do so by the end of the week. He noted if there are students who have work to complete after Thursday, they will have the option to work from home on their devices to complete the online course curriculum for credit.

With the final weeks before school commences, the staff is working on scheduling, class rosters, and the routine school opening items and processes.

#### Curriculum Update – M. Kramer

Dr. Kramer noted that she is looking to hire two full-time teacher aides. These positions have been posted and she also stated that if the Board knows of anyone who would be interested, to please have them contact her.

Last Monday, July 26, 2021 the PreK and Kindergarten program took place with 38 of the 66 registered students attending and over 100 people total, not including staff. The feedback has been very positive. Dr. Kramer and the staff involved are now in the process of debriefing to see how to improve upon the event for next year.

July 26-28, 2021, Erie1BOCES provided professional development training regarding a multi-tiered system of support with regard to academic, emotional/social, and behavior to help students and their families. Dr. Kramer noted that the District has been working for three years on the academic portion with PreK – 6 but this Fall, the program will be for PreK – 12 and will include behavior and mental health concerns. The program will be evaluated as an ongoing process for what is working and what is not in order to continuously improve upon what is provided to the learning community.

Financial Update - C. Heiligenthaler

Ms. Heiligenthaler stated that the District had lead testing performed on May 11 and July 12, 2021, in order to meet the June 30, 2021 deadline requirement for sampling of all potable water. The testing is done every five years. The results, received the afternoon of July 27<sup>th</sup>, showed that of a total 224 samples were taken, 14 came back exceeding the allowable threshold for lead. All of the outlets that tested high were either bathroom sinks, lab sinks, or sinks used for handwashing in classrooms which were seldom used. All outlets that tested for lead have all been labeled out of service, non-potable water with an icon that indicates they are not for drinking, and will be retested the week of August 9, 2021. The retest is being performed as some of locations may have been sitting unused too long to give accurate results. The District is required to notify the Niagara County Department of Health within 24 hours of receiving results and this was completed the morning of July 28, 2021. The District is also required to notify all staff and guardians of our students within 10 days in writing of the results which will be finalized this week, post the results on the website, and enter results into the NYS DOH site.

Ms. Heiligenthaler noted that the financial audit has commenced. Most work has been online but the auditors will be on site this Friday. Expenses remain approximately \$16.4 million for the year. The cafeteria ended the year in the black with approximately \$12,000 in profits.

Cara Fox is again working on the District calendar. Ms. Heiligenthaler showed the Board four options for this year's cover. They will be sent in a PDF format so the members will be able to email their choice back. The artwork not selected will be put into the calendar at various locations.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S**

**INFORMATION** Mr. Reimer noted that the EPCs continue to move along. Most of the HVAC work has been completed. There is some work left on the software, but training on the system took place this week. Some benefits of the system are that it can be accessed anywhere and is intuitive. Work on the lighting has been delayed as some of the components have been held up in shipping and are now expected the second week in August. The contractors continue to work on the rooms available to keep the project moving. At this point, it is not certain if the lighting will be completed on time for the commencement of school but the crew is working overtime. If it is not completed, the workers will work on the project after hours so there will be no disruption during the school day. The solar project is waiting for National Grid to get the inter-connection online. The actual installation will take approximately four to six weeks but is expected to be up and running before the snow hits the area.

With regard to the opening of school, Mr. Reimer stated that the District, as other schools, is waiting on guidance from New York State, CDC, Department of Education, and Niagara County Department of Health. He noted that New York State is reviewing the CDC current guidance, and he feels strongly at this point in time that the Commissioner of Education will be requiring the continuation of



wearing masks. As there is not a lot of guidance at this point in time, nor is what is available definitive, Mr. Reimer stated that administration continues to take the approach to plan for the opening of school based on students attending five days per week with three foot distancing. He noted that he wants school to be in person, commenting that one potential issue is remote learning, which he felt the District should not offer this year unless required. He stated that it is extremely difficult with the staffing levels the District has compared to larger schools to offer remote learning. He noted that unless there is a legitimate medical issue for having a student learn remotely, he felt all should be in attendance. If a medical reason requires this, he commented that services would not be provided through a Barker teacher, rather it would be through BOCES, another school, or resource, and the District would pay through the use of stimulus funds. His rationale for this view is that this would provide the staff the ability to put all their focus on the students here in District. He stated that at this time last year, the school districts had pretty good guidance on the opening of school which they don't this year. As such, he asked the Board's views on the direction the District should take. Mrs. Voss inquired about the feasibility of BOCES providing services for medical need remote learnings if necessary. Mrs. Ecker inquired if remote is being offered all students and/or medical-needs students, the cost and logistics for the District. It is estimated the cost per pupil for remote learning services could run \$3,000 - \$10,000. Mr. Atwater, Mrs. Ecker and Clemens-Harris concurred with the view to offer the remote option to students only with a legitimate and documented medical reason. Mr. Sweeney inquired about when more guidance might be known. Mr. Reimer told the Board that a discussion with the Department of Health, who can override the Commission of Education, will take place tomorrow, and Governor Cuomo noted that the state is still looking at CDC and the Commission's information. Mr. Reimer is hopeful that more will be known next week, but he is not sure at this point in time. Mrs. Voss inquired about the numbers of potential remote requests. Mr. Reimer noted that last year by the end of the year in the elementary school, there were 8-10% of the student population learning remotely but the numbers for the 2021-2022 are not known at this point in time. A communication has been drafted to reach out to families to get an idea based on the direction the Board chooses to take. He noted he anticipated that the number would be lower, as some remote learnings may come back if the District is offering on campus learning five days per week. Mrs. Voss asked if the governor requires remote learning, would the District do so and was informed it would. Mrs. Clemens-Harris asked if there was a legitimate medical concern, how would it be addressed. Mr. Reimer commented that medical documentation would be needed. She agreed remote learning should be available for legitimate medical reasons. Mr. Atwater asked about masks. Mr. Reimer commented that at this point in time, masks will most likely be required unless fully vaccinated but it is still unsure. After discussion, the Board concurred that unless required, remote learning should only be made available to students with legitimate documented medical concerns.

Mr. Reimer discussed the status of year-end financials, commenting that the District finished the year with about 4% of unreserved fund balance being utilized, and as



the District looks forward, the Board needs to continue its long-term discussions as it has over the last three years. Given the District ran in a structural deficit for nine years, the impact of anticipated funds from the Energy Cessation Program, which the District is reapplying for; the anticipated stimulus funds; and if the foundation aid fund changes as being discussed to be fully funded which would result in \$8.5 million vs \$5.1 million of funds being received by the District; it would mean the District would have \$6.2 – 6.3 next year and \$7.2 - \$7.3 million the following, and \$8.4 million in 2023-2024, along with the usage of the tax levy of 4% and 2% thereafter could result in the District being in a sustainable budget in the near future. As such, Mr. Reimer stated that the Board needs to start discussion about what-ifs assuming the funds to come to fruition. These discussions need to be strategic and determine how the District would best utilize the funds. He noted that this is where the development of committees could provide structure and input to the Board to consider to assist with long range strategic planning and decisions. Mr. Reimer noted that he will develop how committees could be potentially structured to provide guidance for the Board to consider at an upcoming meeting. The Board could then utilize the committees to assist their decisions with regard to long-range planning. Mr. Atwater noted that it sounds encouraging. Mr. Reimer noted that all the advocacy by the District, as well as others around this area, have helped push for changes, especially the Niagara Falls lawsuit on loss of foundation aid.

With regard to Kindergarten enrollment, it continues to be monitored. Currently there is no need for another section, but often more enroll closer to the commencement of the school year. If that occurs and there is a need for another section, the District will move quickly on it.

#### **POLICIES/ PLANS**

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the 2021 - 2022 District-Wide School Safety Plan.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the 2021 - 2022 Pratt Elementary Building Level Emergency Response Plan (Confidential Safety Plan).

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the 2021 - 2022 Junior/Senior High School Building Level Emergency Response Plan (Confidential Safety Plan).

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the 2021 - 2022 Pratt Elementary Code of Conduct.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the 2021 - 2022 Junior/Senior High School Code of Conduct.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the 2021 - 2024 Policy Schedule.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

**EDUCATION** Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the attendance of the Superintendent of Schools to attend the 2021 Virtual Western New York Educational Law Conference August 10 & 12, 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the attendance of the Superintendent of Schools to attend the NYSCOSS Fall Leadership Summit in Saratoga Springs, NY being held September 26 - 28, 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the transportation agreement between Barker Central School District and Stephanie (Dimon) Williams for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the transportation agreement between Barker Central School District and Dawn & Frank Croisdale for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL**

**ITEMS**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the appointment of Katie Snell to be appointed as a probationary Elementary Education Teacher effective September 1, 2021, as per the Agreement between the Barker Central School District and Barker Teachers Union. Probationary period effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2024, tenure area of Elementary Education. 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 \$68,678.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the appointment of Kyle Sosnowski to be appointed as a probationary Math 7-12 Teacher effective September 1, 2021, as per the Agreement between the Barker Central School District and Barker Teachers Union. Probationary period effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2025, tenure area of Secondary Math. 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 \$45,712.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the appointment of Amanda Cottle to be appointed as a probationary Reading Teacher effective September 1, 2021, as per the Agreement between the Barker Central School District and Barker Teachers Union. Probationary period effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2025, tenure area of Reading. 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 \$47,161.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the creation of a Conservation Club effective July 1, 2021, commencing at Category E.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the creation of an Elementary Musical Club effective July 1, 2021, commencing at Category E.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the appointment of club and class advisors for the 2021 - 2022 school year as outlined below:

Clubs for 2021-2022 School Year	Advisor	Category	Step	Stipend
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade/DC	Kirsty Pagan	E	3	602.00
American Field Service	Joel Strong	A	2	3,303.00
Conservation Club	Joel Strong	E	1	602.00
DECA	James Luckman	C	1	1,219.00



Elementary Band	Drew Burke	B	1	1,882.00
Elementary Musical (split)	Aileen Hinton	E	1	301.00
Elementary Musical (split)	Andrea Nobles	E	1	301.00
Elementary School store	Jamie Weller	E	4	602.00
Elementary Vocal	Drew Burke	C	1	1,219.00
English Club	Jackie Moffitt	D	4	888.00
Entrepreneurs Club	Krista Beth Feltz	E	4	602.00
Freshman Class Advisor	Karen Schian	D	1	747.00
Garden Club	Cynthia Calandra	D	4	888.00
Jazz Band	Jeffrey Rappold	D	4	888.00
Junior Class Advisor	Adrienne Laufer	B	3	1,974.00
Junior High Band	Jeffrey Rappold	B	1	1,882.00
Junior High Student Council (split)	Drew Burke	B	2	963.00
Junior High Student Council (split)	Wendy Pellow	B	4	1,011.50
Junior/Senior Vocal	Drew Burke	B	1	1,882.00
Latrator Business Advisor	Michelle Wing	B	4	2,023.00
Latrator/Yearbook	Michelle Wing	A	4	3,396.00
Multicultural Club	Ashley Atwater	E	1	602.00
Musical Orchestra Director	Jeffrey Rappold	C	4	1,361.00
Musical Producer/Director (split)	Drew Burke	A	3	1,673.50
Musical Producer/Director (split)	Cheryl Johnson	A	4	1,698.00
National Honor Society	Michael O'Sullivan	D	2	795.00
Newspaper Club	Sean Ross	D	1	747.00
PC/Minecraft	James Luckman			
Photography Club	Krista Beth Feltz	E	1	602.00
Safety Patrol (split)	Leann Briggs	E	1	301.00
Safety Patrol (split)	Adam Norris	E	1	301.00
Senior Class Advisor	Heather McIntyre	B	4	2,023.00
Senior High Band	Jeffrey Rappold	B	1	1,882.00
Senior High Student Council	Michelle Wing	B	2	1,926.00
Sophomore Class Advisor	Rob Mucha	D	2	795.00
Varsity Club	Ryan Carberry	A	4	3,396.00
Walking Club (split)	Dave Carson	C	1	609.50
Walking Club (split)	Paul Sanford	C	1	609.50

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the following Community Adult Education appointments for the Fall 2021 school year from September 27, 2021 – November 23, 2021 as outlined below:



Position	Name	Rate/Hour
Director (appointed July 6, 2021)	Cantella, James	
Antique Auto	Mallon, Thomas	\$ 13.00
Barre Class	Burke, Molly	\$ 13.00
Basketball	Morgan, Jared	\$ 13.00
Beginner Knitting	Davis, Karen	\$ 13.00
Body Sculpting /Stretch & Tone	Mathison, Trisha	\$ 13.00
Book Folding	Dudek, Mary	\$ 13.00
Ceramics for Beginners	Feltz, Krista Beth	\$ 13.00
Greeting Card Class	Kersch, Mary	\$ 13.00
Greeting Card Class (Substitute)	Martell, Loriann	\$ 13.00
Quilting Class	Stoll, Janice	\$ 13.00
Staff/Supervision (Substitute)	Wilson, William	\$ 13.00
Stained Glass	McGee, Susan	\$ 13.00
Stained Glass (Substitute)	Diez, Laura	\$ 13.00
<b>Swim Lessons/Water Aerobics:</b>		
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/Water Aerobics	Wilson, Lynne	\$ 16.00
Life Guard/WSI	Wilson, William	\$ 16.00
Volleyball	Harris, James	\$ 13.00
Volleyball (Substitute)	Morgan, Jared	\$ 13.00
Zumba	Durfey, Melissa	\$ 13.00
AARP SMART Driver (special program not paid by District)	George Laskey*	

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the following individual appointments for Nurse's Clinical Participation with School Nurse Sarah McKee during the 2021 - 2022 School Year

Jackson, Breanna	September 10, 13, 17, November 5
Calandra, Cassidy	September 20, 24, 27, October 1
McCabe, Keith	October 4, 6, 15, 18
Dudek, Allison	October 22, 25, 29, November 1
Kavney, Alexander	November 8, 12, 15, 19

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the appointment of Rachel Hutter as a Student Teacher from SUNY Brockport for the



2021-2022 school year from September - December 2021 with Messrs. Bruning and Carson as part of her Physical Education Teacher undergraduate program

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

#### **BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL**

#### **ITEMS**

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to accept the Treasurer's Report dated June 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to accept the Warrant Report from July 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to accept the Extraclassroom Report dated June 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to accept the 2020 - 2021 Year-end Extraclassroom Report.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to adopt the bond resolution of the Board of Education authorizing the issuance of \$1,600,000 in serial bonds of the District to undertake various energy improvements to various district buildings and facilities.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the scheduling of a Board Meeting on August 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of setting the tax levy for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the awarding of the bid to Allgaier Construction Company for the 2018 - 2019 and 2020 - 2021 Capital Outlay Projects with a base bid of \$164,000.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the awarding of the bid to Empire Natural Gas for the purchase of natural gas from September 1, 2021



– August 31, 2022 using the two-year Option 1 Index Pricing at \$0.204 plus the current month's NYMEX.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the transfer of the remaining treasury balance from the Class of 2021 to the Class of 2022.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

### **END OF PUBLIC**

**SESSION** Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to end the Public Session and enter into Executive Session at 7:34 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's evaluation.

The Board received a thank you note from Mrs. Darcy Annable.

Mr. Atwater noted that he received a letter from a parent regarding the opening of school and a few questions the parent had. The Board concurred that Mr. Reimer would respond on their behalf.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

### **EXECUTIVE**

**SESSION** Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. and return to Public Session.

Yes: 6, 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 8:45 p.m.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie  
District Clerk