



**BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Meeting Minutes**  
**Board Room**  
**Monday, May 10, 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, M. Kramer  
Public: 7

**CALL TO  
ORDER**

President Atwater welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge to the Flag was given.

**APPROVE  
AGENDA**

The agenda was reviewed. Mr. Reimer asked that Item 13, Executive Session, have the subject potential litigation added to it. 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 Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the minutes from the Regular Board Meetings dated of April 12, and April 27, 2021 as presented.  
Yes: 7, No: 0  
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC  
FORUM**

None.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Curriculum Update - M. Kramer

Dr. Kramer discussed a kindergarten transition grant submission that would provide \$10,000 to the District to help students transition through the summer. The program would educate parents/guardians so they understand the expectations for their



children. Data has shown that this type of program will lead to higher graduation percentages, as well as more proficient readers by the time students reach third grade.

Dr. Kramer also discussed the numerous professional development opportunities for the staff over the summer which include a multi-tiered social/emotional wellness program; co-teaching training programs which will benefit the teachers new to this type of classroom environment, as well as some in-house professional development classes.

#### Principal's Update - M. Carter

Mr. Carter noted that after posting internally for the elementary summer school program, due to lack of response, an external posting for staffing has been done. Mr. Carter said he believes he would have enough internal people for the credit recovery in the high school. He commented that this is not uncommon with other districts too at this time as teachers are exhausted due to the changes in teaching to provide for the students during the pandemic. He noted that the program will run Monday through Thursday, three hours per day for approximately one month. He noted that the high school program will be different than the traditional summer school program as the students will work through the District's APEX software credit recovery program and the teachers will be there more to assist where help is needed.

New guidance has been received again regarding graduation ceremonies and will impact other events such as prom and Honors & Awards. Under the new guidance, each graduate will likely be permitted eight (8) guests at an outdoor ceremony. Mr. Carter noted that multiple scenarios were developed but at a certain point a plan has to be finalized due to the number of logistics involved and guidance needs to be provided to families. However, there is still the fact that the state makes further changes which could impact the final plan selected. Communication to the seniors and their families will be provided next week.

The grades 3-8 completed their math and ELA NYS assessments. The AP English was also completed. This week the District will be administering the APUSH exam on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Last week a survey was issued to elementary parents/guardians for input for their child's class placement for the next school year as the District does not take teacher placement requests from parents. This process was put into place last year. Mr. Carter then noted that the District is in the middle of moving some faculty to different grade levels or assignments for next year to meet the changes in grade level numbers and student needs.



Mr. Carter noted that May 12<sup>th</sup> is National School Nurses Day and recognized Ms. McKee for all her effort supporting the District and community during the pandemic with COVID-related planning, guidance, illnesses, while still handling the everyday needs of students and faculty. She is a very essential employee that continues to do a tremendous job.

Financial Update – Ms. Heiligenthaler

Mr. Reimer noted that Ms. Heiligenthaler was excused from the meeting and he would cover information during his report.

Mr. Reimer noted that the solar project closing for tomorrow has been postponed as the financial institute needed additional time to complete its documentation. It is anticipated that the closing will take place in a few days. Based on a meeting last week with the architects and solar company, the project should commence installation over the summer and be complete before the winter and snow season.

The HVAC EPC work has commenced ahead of state approval. Mr. Reimer noted that a subcontractor for Day Automation is running the cabling for the units into the servers through the halls and unoccupied classrooms. They are willing to do this before the state approval at no cost to the District to ensure it is completed as planned. This work will allow the District to control the components of the HVAC system in real time, provide information if an adjustment or fix is needed, and automatically dispatch someone if necessary.

Mr. Reimer noted that work continues with regard to the opening of school in the fall and potential full return of students pending receipt of continued guidance from the CDC and state, as well as ongoing COVID transmission rate. He also noted that the Pfizer COVID vaccine became eligible today for ages 12 and older and information was put on the website regarding this for parents/guardians to review and consider. With regard to the current COVID transmission levels, Niagara County is current at 153 cases per 100,000. If the area's COVID diagnosis rate falls below 100 per 100,000 county residents over a seven-day period it could mean the potential return of students in grades 7 – 12. As such, Mr. Reimer asked the Board their views on bringing the grades back at this time. He explained that the school would need seven school dates below the transmission rate which could be the end of May leaving only approximately two weeks of school at a four-day per week schedule. Mrs. Eckert noted the increased risk to the students being all brought together now with regard to year-end activities, especially for the Seniors, and increased potential to be quarantined and/or sick and miss the events. Mrs. Clemens-Harris noted that this time of year is often the least productive for the upperclassman and did not feel it was a good idea given how late in the school year. The Board discussed the pros and cons, and upon conclusion of the discussion, concurred that at present, it was best to continue with the hybrid model for grades 7-12 through year-end and to have Mr. Reimer continue to monitor and if things



change quickly to enable students to return, the Board would again look at the situation and determine if a change should be made from their current view.

Mr. Reimer provided an update to the discussion last month regarding a joint administrative retreat with Lyndonville Central School District which has now been scheduled for July 14, 2021. The retreat purpose will be to facilitate discussion for sharing between the two districts to increase cost efficiencies, programs for kids, etc. Based on the discussion, the group would then set up structured times in August and September to develop a proposal and timeline to ensure the plan, due diligence, and implementation is good for both districts and for the betterment of the students.

Mr. Reimer reviewed the status of hiring for summer school as well as the upcoming school year. He noted that given six retirements this year, and after review of enrollment, student needs, etc. the District will have three appointments, two from the Preferred Eligibility List, Ms. Menz and Ms. DeMarco and a school psychologist, Ms. Breier who will work with Mrs. Annable for the first half of next year. With the retirement of Mrs. Annable and Mr. Rogers, the transition will include a greater use in the amount mental health support through BOCES and result in increased services for students at a decreased expense to the District.

Mr. Reimer noted that before the June Board of Education meeting, the new hires, retirees and newly tenured teachers will be recognized.

Regarding the federal stimulus plan, the District will be receiving a little less than \$3.1 million of federal funds through the American Rescue Plan and CRRSA, and must develop a plan on the usage of the funds based upon some very specific guidelines. Mr. Reimer noted that he has been meeting with Administration on the plan that must be reviewed and approved by the Board at the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to meet deadline requirements. A public forum will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. With regard to the plan, learning loss, summer programming, after school programs and technologies are the primary focus of the spending and the District is analyzing how best to invest the funds for the long-term benefit of the District and in relation to being able to receive additional aid. The District is looking at items that would not fall within the budget which are expensive. Technology and network refreshes could be a primary part of the plan in order to continue with the one on one student device plan where the District would replace a few grades each year. Another item being evaluated is replacement of the phone system with VOIP as the current system is antiquated, crashes with power outages and the District runs the risk of it not coming back on line each time this happens. Supplies, materials and equipment are also being considered such as the cafeteria ovens as two of the five ovens do not work. The plan put together would assist the District moving forward in the future. Mr. Reimer reviewed the accounting of these funds compared to how the general fund and state aid applicable items. This federal aid will help in the short-term to offset the deficit and usage of the reserve. Plans are being reviewed with



the BTU and other collection bargaining units in order to provide input by May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Reimer asked the Board for their input on items or areas to spend the funds on and to reach out should they think of additional items beyond what was discussed. Mr. Atwater noted that it sounded like a good strategy so far. Once the plan is finalized and approved it will be placed on the District website with the reopening plan.

**EDUCATION** Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the resolution to amend the 2020-2021 school calendar to close all District offices on Friday, May 28, 2021, and Friday, June 18, 2021, and to further approve the move of the last day for students to June 22, 2021, if no additional emergency school closings are used between today's date and June 22, 2021.

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves to amend the 2020 - 2021 school calendar to close all District offices on Friday, May 28, 2021, and Friday, June 18, 2021, and

**FURTHER RESOLVES**, to the move of the last day for students to June 22, 2021, if no additional emergency school closings are used between today's date and June 22, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0  
Motion carried.

Mr. Reimer discussed the 2021-2022 District calendar approved by the Board with regard to their view on changing the Spring Recess, currently April 15 – April 22 to the week before of April 11 – April 15 to coincide with the BOCES calendar. He noted that a lot of time was put into the calendar and it was developed based on multiple factors such as contractual obligations, placement of vacation and related travel times such as a return the day following Easter, the impact to the students and families Pre-K through 12, alignment with other districts, BOCES, and lengths between breaks, especially in between April and June due to related behavior aspect of students. Overall, the calendar presented and approved represented the aforementioned very well with good pacing for the year. He noted that the decision is the Board's and he had good reasons to recommend leaving the Spring Break as approved as well as to move it earlier. The Board discussed and Mr. Reimer responded to questions regarding the change which included but was not limited to the contractual day of Good Friday, if other districts followed the BOCES calendar which varied, districts taking a two-week break at Easter vs. a mid-Winter break, historical timing of Spring break which of the past years has been Good Friday through the following week, and impact of various option in relation to BOCES. He noted that although districts regionally review and plan their calendars based off the BOCES calendar, it is challenging to perfectly match especially, as other districts have contractual obligations in relation to breaks. Upon conclusion of the discussion, the Board concurred to let the 2021-2022 calendar stand as approved.



Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the following books be declared excess property and that the Superintendent, or his designee, be authorized to dispose of said items: MacMillan McGraw-Hill Science, Published in 2005, ISBN: 0-02-281212-1/2, 68 student textbooks along with related teacher resources and manuals.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL  
ITEMS**

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the appointment of Megan Breier as a full-time probationary School Psychologist effective September 1, 2021, as per the agreement between the Barker Central School District and Barker Teachers Union. Provisional Certification NYS School Psychologist pending. Tenure area of School Psychologist, four-year probationary period effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2025. The expiration date is tentative and conditional only. In order to be eligible for and considered for tenure, Megan Breier must meet all requirements of the Educational Law and corresponding regulations. Annual salary based on Master 30, Step 1, \$49,222 of the BTU contract.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve the resignation of Leon Szczerbinski the Officer for the positions listed below for the purpose of retirement effective April 19, 2021, and appoint the individuals effective April 20, 2021 for the positions as noted below.

Position	Appointed Officer effective 4/20/2021	Stipend
“AHERA” Asbestos Local Education Agency (LEA) Designee	Paul Nawotki	\$ 0
Chemical Hygiene Officer	Loriann Martell	\$ 0
School Pesticide Representative	Steve Donner	\$ 0
Infection Control Officer	Carol Heiligenthaler	\$ 0

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve Karin Menz, who was placed on the preferred eligibility list as a 1.0 FTE Teacher of Secondary Math effective July 1, 2016, be recalled from the list and appointed as a 1.0 FTE Secondary Math Teacher tenure area, at Masters, Step 14 at a rate of \$61,871 per year, effective September 1, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney to approve Diane DeMarco, who was placed on the preferred eligibility list as a 1.0 FTE Teacher of Reading effective July 1, 2016, be recalled from the list and appointed as a 1.0 FTE Reading Teacher tenure area, at Masters, Step 8 at a rate of \$52,181 per year, effective September 1, 2021.



Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Atwater welcomed and congratulated Ms. Breier for joining the District and for Ms. Menz and Ms. DeMarco for their return.

**BUSINESS & FINANCIAL**

**ITEMS** Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Ecker accept the Warrant Report dated May 10, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Ecker accept the Treasurer's Report for April 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Ecker accept the Extraclassroom Report dated March 2021 and April 2021.

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 7:43 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations, discussing the Superintendent's evaluation and to discuss potential litigation.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE**

**SESSION** Motion by Ms. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 8:28 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 8:30 p.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie, District Clerk