



**Barker Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
Auditorium
Monday, February 8, 2021 - 7:00 PM**

PRESENT R. Atwater, M. Clemens-Harris, H. Ecker, E. Gow, J. Sweeney, V. Voss

EXCUSED C. Gancasz

**ALSO
PRESENT** J. Reimer, M. Eadie, M. Carter, C. Heiligenthaler, M. Kramer
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. With no additions or changes, a motion was made 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 Board minutes, and a motion was made by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to accept the minutes as presented from the Regular Board Meeting dated of January 11, 2021.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC
FORUM** None.



PRESENTATIONS

Principal's Update - M. Carter

Mr. Carter reported that he is holding additional meetings with the class advisors this week to discuss year-end activities such as prom and graduation, and plan to meet again with the groups after break to receive additional input from them on these events. He noted the opportunity of two graduation speakers and that the Seniors did like the thought of being able to select a speaker, possibly a teacher.

Mr. Carter met with a representative from the Electronic Gaming Federation (EGF) which is the governing body of E-sports at the collegiate level. EGF is making inroads with high schools nationwide. EGF provides competitive e-sport leagues, scholarships, curricular opportunities, among other things which Mr. Carter thought the students would find engaging.

Mr. Carter has started to put a process in place at the elementary level regarding the retention of students. He believes there are a number of teachers and parents going to request their students are held back. He noted that he is not a fan of this as research has shown that in the long run, it does not work, as a district ends up with 19 or 20 year old seniors who are not engaged in their academic life. One of the main issues this year is lack of attendance. Some students are not being sent on days they could attend nor are remoting in on the other days. This impacts the staffs' level of evidence for these students to make a determination as to whether or not the student will be successful with the core learning standards. This process is important as it correlates to who should be retained, budgeting for staffing, enrollment per grade, and class sizes and number of grades needed.

Summer school and credit recovery has stated to be planned for. Mr. Carter noted there are currently ten students at risk of not graduating and credit recovery plans for them continue. The main problem with the majority is they do not attend and/or do not do the work. Some attend BOCES but then do not come back to school for the other half of the day. He noted ongoing efforts to assist them, including in some cases, going to BOCES to work directly with them. Mr. Sweeney inquired about how many Seniors there are this year and was informed there are approximately 59. Mr. Carter commented that there is usually only one or two students at risk of graduating, and unfortunately, this increase is not just occurring at Barker.

Curriculum Update - M. Kramer

Dr. Kramer noted that annual review season has commenced and are being conducted virtually unless the parent/guardian requests an online meeting. She also noted the change to beginning to move to annual review schedules on anniversary dates vs. going through the review by grade level. The benefit to this change is there are less meetings and they can combine re-evaluations with annual reviews.

Dr. Kramer noted that Instructional Cabinet has been discussing feedback from teachers regarding the professional development opportunities being held. The teachers have noted



they like having choices for the professional development sessions and the ability to do in-house or through other sources.

Financial Update - C. Heiligenthaler

Ms. Heiligenthaler reported that 2020-2021 budget projections are currently at \$16,815,000 which Administration will continue to update the next two months.

Ms. Heiligenthaler acknowledged and thanked Ms. Pattison, Mrs. Wozniak, and Mrs. Benoit for the additional backend work they perform to support the Business Office changes and collaboration with Erie 2 BOCES.

Review Preliminary 2021-2022 Budget Projections: General Support, Community Service, Transportation & Undistributed Presentation - C. Heiligenthaler & J. Reimer

Ms. Heiligenthaler provided a detailed with the review of the initial rollover 2021–2022 budget projections with regard to the components of the General Support, Transportation, Community Services and Undistributed portion of the proposed budget. With regard to General Support, under the Board of Education category, the largest portion is for BOCES Policy Services which includes GSAB45, BoardDocs, and Policy Services. District Clerk changes reflect contractual amounts, and District Meeting remains flat. Under Central Administration, the increase under Superintendent Salary represents an allowance for vacation buyback which was not done in the past. The last payment was made for Dr. Klatt for post-retirement of \$31,870 under Contractual and therefore that category is reduced for next year. The Business Official increase is due to contractual increases as well as vacation buyback. BOCES Business Services includes what the District contracts for with Erie 2 for accounts payable, purchasing and general ledger work. Erie 1 payroll services is under a different budget code. Ms. Heiligenthaler broke out the District's savings from this change. The District realizes an approximate savings of \$110,000 by contracting with BOCES. Contractual services are approximately \$147,500, less aidable portion \$98,000 for a net cost of approximately \$49,000. She noted the District now has backup support for these business processes and has become more efficient. With regard to Auditing, the projections remain flat, and the District is currently in the process of issuing a RFP for the external auditor as required every five years. Ms. Heiligenthaler will provide the Board with more information next month on that. District Treasurer and Tax Collector figures are reduced as processes have been outsourced and/or performed by Ms. Heiligenthaler. Operation of Plant and Maintenance of Plant have been reduced 4.43% and 5.56% respectively. BOCES Data Processing has increased 3% and includes items such as SBO, payroll from Erie 1, Frontline, PowerSchool, Data Warehouse, Network Services, Demote Backup Service, IP Surveillance, Mosiac and nVision. The other Areas of School Association Dues, Judgements and Claims, Assessments School Property, and Refund Property Tax remain unchanged. Approximate increase budget to budget of \$18,000 primarily reflects Erie 2 services which were not budgeted last year.

Mr. Reimer commented that the BOCES Services numbers reflect high gross numbers but the District still sees significant savings through BOCES aid which thereby reduces the tax burden on local tax payers.



Transportation reflects a 1.87% increase as a 2% increase was used for budgeting purposes. As the District must follow the guidance of NYS and Niagara County, it will continue to evaluate the numbers for transportation and see how COVID evolves and if it is possible to reduce the number of bus runs pending any changes to social distancing protocols.

Community Services remains flat with no change projected. Undistributed figures for NYS ERS (17%), TRS (11%) and Social Security are based on salaries. Workers Compensation increased due to the fact that the District's experience modifier increased. The District still realizes savings for Workers Compensation premiums as compared to the State Insurance Fund estimated premium of \$92,702. Health Insurance increased and will also be adjusted once actual rates are known. Ms. Heiligenthaler also noted that once new hires are finalized for the year, it may be reduced if the onboarding employees do not need family plans. The current number in the budget for health insurance is the maximum that the District would incur. Interfund Transfers decreased 8.33%. Transfer to Special Aid represents the District's portion of summer school for its special education population. Transfer Capital Fund is the District's mini-capital project that is completed in one year with building aid received the following year. This year the District is looking at the Lochinvar Boiler in the High School gym area as three companies have looked at, and the engineers as part of the Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs) are currently now looking at. Initial feedback from all, similar to the engineers, was that although it is not that old, it was not designed well and the District will need to keep spending money on it to keep it going and suggested it would be better in the long-term to address it. Mr. Reimer said that this will not fit into the spending limits of the EPC but could be addressed through a capital outlay. More will be known and provided to the Board next month from the engineer's report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION

Mr. Reimer provided an update on the EPCs. With regard to the HVAC EPC, he noted that one of the grants was saturated extremely fast so the District will have to see what it means in terms of the scope of the project in order to maximize every piece within the dollar constraints. More information on specific pieces of the project should be available over the next week or two and he will keep the Board apprised. He also noted that on February 16, 2021 there will be four classrooms (3 elementary close together, 1 high school room) installed with systems at no cost to the project to generate information on the equipment, receive feedback from the users, and thus enable the architects to get the most functionality of the upgrades planned.

The solar EPC has the final pieces of the submission completed and approval is pending. Mr. Reimer noted that the materials originally planned for the berm around the site were more expensive than anticipated. The District is therefore looking at different options to complete it more economically, including taking fill from the tower site prep, reaching out to the town and county for materials, etc. as long as it does not cause any environmental issues.



With regard to the Sheriff's tower, the intermunicipal agreement was received and is with the District's attorneys for review. The SEQR is near completion and the State approvals will be needed in order to commence the project.

Mr. Reimer noted that Section VI guidelines were issued pertaining to higher risk sports which include basketball and wrestling. Swimming is not considered higher risk and has been taking place with meets being coordinated virtually. The basketball rules issues were very clear that at this point in time, no spectators are allowed until at least February 22. Based on the guidance, if Section VI does allow spectators, Mr. Reimer noted that currently due to the District's gym size, the maximum that could be allowed would be two per athlete. This was an Executive Cabinet of Section VI decision not the Athletic Council. Wrestling has been pushed back, possibly until March, and could result in a very condensed season. The County health directors delayed wrestling due to a direct correlation between the wrestlers and the spread of COVID as a result of events in other places. Mr. Reimer noted that due to logistics with cleaning protocols and guidance, the District is only offering JV and Varsity sports. He noted that this is also true for other districts across the region not just Barker as districts can't logistically offer modified sports safely at this point in time. He noted that hopefully this will change so it can be offered to more students.

Mr. Reimer discussed ongoing discussions about graduation and options, commenting that regardless it will still be difficult. Students would ideally like as many to be there as possible to share their celebration. However, based on guidance and large gathering requirements, the usage of the auditorium as traditionally done will not likely be possible at this point in time. Therefore, alternative continue to be looked into. Currently, to have the ceremony outside again would allow for more to attend.

The District continues to look at action with the Somerset power plant to access the energy mitigation cessation program. The fund has roughly \$50 million in it and the school is working with the plant to finalize the application for submission. Originally, the application included the county and town. It now is just now being done by the District. The outcome of the funds that could be received will have substantial impact on the budget projection going forward as an offset to the deficit which is currently projected at \$5.7 million at the end of 2024-2025. These funds will be approximately \$2.6 - \$2.7 million this year and decrease approximately \$300,000 each year over six years, but even still the District is utilizing fund balance. If the anticipated level is not received, it will have a substantial impact on the budget going forward and may result in the need to take from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve (EBLAR) which is used to pay accrued benefits due to employees upon termination of service for vacation, sick, leave, personal leave, etc. Mr. Reimer noted that this fund is created through a resolution of the Board and as such, he discussed that he is reviewing if the utilization of these funds would need to be done through a vote as the community usually only votes on the expenditures and levy, and thus set once passed, whereas the budgeted revenues are able to be changed.



EDUCATION 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 presented:

Title	Identification	Copies
Scott Foresman Science	Copyright 2000 Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers, Inc. ISBN-0-673-59308-8	51
Time for Kids Treasures Grade 5	Macmillan/McGraw-Hill MHI: 0-02-203483-8 978-0-02-203483-2	75
New York Science A Closer Look	Copyright 2009 Macmillan/McGraw-Hill ISBN: 978-0-02-287564-0 MHID: 0-02-287564-6	97
National Geographic Our Nation	Copyright 2003 Macmillan/McGraw-Hill ISBN: 0-02-149267-0	75

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Atwater then presented the 2021-2022 school calendar for review and comment. No changes were recommended. Mr. Reimer noted that the Board will see the addition of the Juneteenth holiday for 2022 and regents are being adjusted for it. As this was not in the current year's calendar, pending usage of emergency days, he commented that he would like to make this a holiday for 2021 if possible. He would bring forward for more discussion later in the school year. Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the proposed 2021-2022 school calendar as presented.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Carter, Ms. Heiligenthaler and Dr. Kramer were excused from the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

POLICIES Mr. Atwater presented the second reading of the policies listed below. There were no comments or changes made from the last reading. Upon motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to approve the following policies:

Policy #	Policy Name
6510	Health Insurance
6520	Workers' Compensation
6540	Defense and Indemnification of Board Members and Employees
6550	Leaves of Absence
6551	Family and Medical Leave Act Policy



6552	Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)/Military Leaves of Absence
6560	Determination of Employment Status: Employee or Independent Contractor
6561	Professional Services Providers
6562	Employment of Retired Persons

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Mr. Atwater recognized the retirees listed on the agenda for their years of service with the District and community, and the gratitude for their service from the Board.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Amy Podgers, Teacher, with commendation and regret, for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Linda M. Gallagher, Teacher, with commendation and regret, for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Meg J. Denny, Teacher, with commendation and regret, for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Jeffrey D. Rogers, Guidance Counselor, with commendation and regret, for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the acceptance of the resignation of James Cantella, Teacher and Director of Adult/Community Education, with commendation and regret, for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Darnise Martino Annable, School Psychologist, with commendation and regret, for the purpose of retirement effective December 31, 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the appointment of Sandra Lewis as a Substitute Typist effective February 9, 2021 at a rate of \$12.50 per hour.



Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the following individual appointments for Nurse's Clinical Participation with School Nurse Sarah McKee during the 2020-2021 School Year:

Giambone, Amber	February 12, 26, 2021
Lewis, Alexandria	April 23, 30, 2021
Pellegrino, Meghan	April 12, 16, 19, 2021
Smith, Marisa	March 19, 26, 2021
Szuniewicz, Joelle	March 5, 12, 2021

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to accept the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to accept the Board Warrant Report dated February 8, 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to accept the Extraclassroom Report dated January 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Atwater asked for the Board's opinion on the time to hold the Tuesday, April 27, 2021 Board Meeting for the purpose of voting on the Orleans/Niagara BOCES administrative budget and the election of members to the BOCES Board of Education. After discussion, a motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the meeting time for 7:30 a.m. was made.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the resolution pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) for a Capital Project for work proposed in conjunction with an energy performance contract.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THE NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT FOR A CAPITAL PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Barker Central School District Board of Education (the "District") plans to undertake certain capital improvement work to include maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction, replacement and/or site work at existing District school



property as summarized below and more specifically set out in work plans on file with the District's Administrative Offices:

Barker Central School District Central Building – High/Middle and Elementary Schools- the work proposed includes the alteration, replacement and/or rehabilitation of building system components in conjunction with an energy performance contract – including lighting upgrades, envelope enhancements, mechanical component upgrades, electrical and control upgrades, plumbing system upgrades, and associated infrastructure and similar upgrades as referenced herein (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”).

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and applicable regulations set out at 6 NYCRR Part 617.1 et seq. collectively known as the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), the District is required to evaluate the Project to determine if same will have an impact on the environment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SEQRA the District has considered the Project in light of applicable regulations, including those set out under 6 NYCRR Sections 617.4 and 671.5 of SEQRA in order to evaluate the impact of the Project on the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The District has determined that the Project constitutes a Type II action (as that term is defined in the SEQRA regulations) because the Project is comprised of one or more of the following actions included on the Type II list specified in Section 617.5 of the applicable regulations including:
 - (a) maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility (617.5(c) (1)); and/or
 - (b) replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site; (617.5(c) (2)) and/or
 - (c) routine activity of an educational institution (617.5(c) (8) and or (c) (10); and
2. Because the Legislature have determined that Type II actions will not result in any significant adverse impact to the environment, the Project is not subject to review under SEQRA; and
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately and shall constitute the District's compliance with SEQRA for the Project

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris to approve the resolution pertaining to use of sick leave entitlements during the COVID-19 pandemic:



RESOLVED, that due to the unique circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Education on a non-precedent setting, sun-setting basis through and including June 30, 2021 only, shall deem time off to care for an employee's child during the period of time that the child is subject to a mandatory order of quarantine or isolation issued by the state of New York, the department of health, local board of health, or any governmental entity duly authorized to issue such order due to COVID-19 to be an authorized use of sick leave entitlements.

Yes: 6, 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 7:51 p.m. for the purpose of discussing negotiations.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. and return to Public Session.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC SESSION/
ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, that the Board approve the adjournment of the Public Session and adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk