**Barker Central School District**
**Board of Education Meeting**
**Auditorium**
**Monday, October 19, 2020 - 7:00 PM**

**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
Public: 16

**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. Under Section 9 – Personnel Items, Letter D was added to review and approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the Barker Teachers' Union and the District. Under Section 10 – Business & Financial Items, Letter F was added to change the November 9, 2020 Board of Education Meeting to November 16, 2020. With no additional changes, a motion was made 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 Board minutes. A motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to accept the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting dated of September 21, 2020 were approved as presented.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.
The Board reviewed the Audit Committee minutes. A motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to accept the minutes from Audit Committee Meeting dated of September 21, 2020 were approved as presented.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC FORUM** None.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Board Appreciation - S. Thibault & Elementary Students

In honor of Board Appreciation Day, the Board heard words of thanks for all their work each and every day for the District from Mrs. Thibault and two elementary students, William and Kathryn Jaques. They also received a small token of appreciation from the elementary students as well as the BTU.

Principal's Update - M. Carter

Mr. Carter thanked Mrs. Thibault and the students for coming out this evening. Mr. Carter provided an update on the plans to bring students back to school on a limited basis. In particular, to bring Special Education students back into the District four days a week at the Elementary level beginning November 2nd, and for the High School, half days on Wednesdays. The half day for the High School will focus on providing students additional support and getting caught up on work with the Special Education Teachers. General Education faculty can still operate office hours, plan, etc. Mr. Carter noted while the District does not have the ability to bring all students in four days per week, it is able to make this work for students with needs. Mr. Carter noted that IEPs are being followed in the hybrid model, but this will allow these students four days a week to get their program modifications in person. Mr. Carter commented that as the District has moved back to its master schedule at the High School level. The next step is looking at building in more support for at-risk students besides the extra support on Wednesdays and tenth period given a lot of students' grades are below where they typically are. He commented that in discussion with other district principals, this is not an isolated issue with Barker but is happening in other Orleans, Niagara and BOCES districts.

Mr. Carter commented that he and Dr. Kramer have commenced teacher observations.

He then talked about a Halloween event next week for the students. The Elementary kids will be trick or treating outside on Tuesday and Friday. The High School student leadership groups and teachers will be at different entry doors giving out candy. All COVID-19 guidelines will be followed.

Mr. Atwater inquired how transportation for students staying for tenth period is conducted. Mr. Carter noted a tenth period run was phased in to enable the students to be brought home.

Financial Update - C. Heiligenthaler

Ms. Heiligenthaler thanked the Board for its continued support knowing the difficult decisions it must make especially since the onset of COVID.

She provided a tax collection update noting that she has received a lot of calls which has been good in order to answer questions from the community. As of October 1, 2020, 8l.5% of the taxes were collected, with another 1% received to date. The

collection period ends November 2nd and historically the school collects an average of 93% of taxes due. Uncollected taxes are then sent to the county and are re-levied. The county subsequently makes a payment to the District to make whole. She noted that unfortunately, like other entities, partial payments can't be accepted on re-levied properties.

The final hard copies of the year-end financial audit were made available to the Board. The Management Correction Letter is being presented for review and consideration of approval at this meeting. All filing, such as with the SED, have been submitted.

Ms. Heiligenthaler noted that she continues to monitor State Aid numbers and will keep the Board apprised as appropriate.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION**

Mr. Reimer noted that the solar EPC continues to move along with one final piece outstanding before the project is sent to SED. The Letter of Intent with the State have been signed for the HVAC and lighting EPC which is the first step to initializing the project. He described the data collection that is occurring within the building over the next thirty days and how it will be used to determine what needs to happen in each room, resulting in a very efficient lighting system. He noted that this data collection will also drive the final decision making for the project. With regard to the capital outlay projects, the District is close to the point to begin the bid process for the three projects. Mr. Reimer noted that the District delayed bidding them out due to high project costs which have subsequently decreased. He noted that they will also be bid out together in an effort to obtain the best pricing. He noted that any unused funds would be placed into the Capital Reserve upon completion.

Mr. Reimer noted that today the District received confirmation from the NYS Department of Health (DOH) regarding a positive COVID case on campus. The District followed the COVID process and plan directives of the DOH. He then noted that given the first time going through this, it was difficult, but due to planning and reporting, the necessary information requested by the DOH was provided very quickly. The contract tracing is not done by the District, rather it is done by a team with a State applied specialist to manage the case and process. The District only provides information they need to do the contract tracing work as requested. Mr. Reimer noted that he has been in direct contact with the DOH throughout the day with regard to the situation. He noted that he does expect to have some individuals that will be quarantined, and is in discussion with the DOH if more action is needed tomorrow. Ms. Ecker inquired that if individual(s) in quarantine get tested and are negative, could they come back to school. Mr. Reimer noted that the District does not control when an individual's quarantine is over. Individuals are only allowed back into the District when the DOH releases them from quarantine and authorizes them to enter the building. This includes all sporting, extracurricular activities, etc.

Mr. Reimer then provided a report on behalf of Dr. Kramer who was not present. He discussed providing services for Special Education, noting there are many lawsuits out there with regard to services provided to meet IEPs during the COVID pandemic. The District looked at how to structure and bring students back and give the support and instruction as best as the District can as it is not able to bring all students back in the current environment. He noted that for various reasons, not all families have chosen to send their students back four days per week, commenting it is not a requirement, rather an option. Mr. Reimer discussed the thought process the District went through to make this determination at this point in time. He noted that this is not a formal decision needed by Board but did ask if they concurred with the process, noting it will be necessary to address various items as they come up. The Board concurred with process.

Mr. Reimer noted that the District again needed to purchase more mifis with five of the ten already accounted for. He stated that part of the expense will be aidable through BOCES and the District continues to look for other aidable opportunities to save money.

Mr. Reimer noted that the District held professional learning opportunities on October 14th for the staff and received good feedback which will be taken into consideration for planning the next and future professional learning sessions.

**POLICIES** Mr. Atwater presented the following policies for the first review and comment:

| **Policy #** | **Policy Name** |
|---|---|
| 6150 | Alcohol, Drugs and Other Substances (School Personnel) |
| 6151 | Drug-Free Workplace |
| 6160 | Professional Growth/Staff Development |
| 6161 | Conference/Travel Expense Reimbursement |
| 6170 | Safety of Students (Fingerprinting Clearance of New Hires) |
| 6180 | Staff-Student Relations (Fraternization) |
| 6210 | Certified Personnel |
| 6211 | Employment of Relatives of Board of Education Members |
| 6212 | Certification and Qualifications |
| 5661 | District Wellness |
| 6141 | Staff Wellness |

Mr. Atwater then presented the second reading of the policies listed below. There were no additional 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** |
|---|---|
| 6100 | Goals and Objectives of the Personnel System |
| 6110 | Code of Ethics for Board Members and All District Personnel |
| 6120 | Equal Employment Opportunity |

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|---|---|
| 6121 | Sexual Harassment of District Personnel |
| 6122 | Employee Grievances |
| 6130 | Evaluation of Personnel |
| 6140 | Employee Medical Examination |

There were no questions raised.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**EDUCATION** Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Ecker, to approve the accepting of H. C., M. C., R. F., and N. G., as non-resident students for the 2020 - 2021 school year with fees being determined based upon Board Policy #7132, Non-Resident Students.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL** Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the permanent appointment of Kelly Schnars, 10-Month Clerical 1, effective November 19, 2020.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.
Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve Katherine Douville as a Parent/Community Volunteer.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.
Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to accept the resignation of Sandra Podeszek, Food Service Helper, for the purpose of retirement effective August 14, 2020.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.
Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve Memorandum of Agreement between the Barker Central School District and the Barker Teachers' Union**.**
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**BUSINESS & FINANCIAL ITEMS** Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to accept the Warrant Report dated October 19, 2020.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.
Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to accept the Treasurer's Reports dated July and August 2020.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.
Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to accept the Extraclassroom Reports dated July and August 2020.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to accept the Corrective Action Letter in response to the Audit Management Letter for year ending June 30, 2020.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.
Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the budget transfer in the amount $30,000 for tuition money from Special Education Public Schools to Special Education Private Schools due to enrollment.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.
Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the changing of the November 9, 2020 Board of Education meeting date to November 16, 2020.
Yes: 7, 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 7:20 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing 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 7:45 p.m. and return to Public Session.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC SESSION/ ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, that the Board approve the end of the Public Session and adjournment of the meeting at 7:45 p.m.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk