



**Barker Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
Auditorium
Monday, November 16, 2020 - 7:00 PM**

PRESENT R. Atwater, H. Ecker, C. Gancasz, E. Gow, J. Sweeney, V. Voss

EXCUSED M. Clemens-Harris

ALSO

PRESENT J. Reimer, M. Carter, M. Eadie, M. Kramer
Public: 3

**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. Ecker to approve the agenda as presented.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**ACCEPT
MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the Board minutes. A motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to accept the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting dated of October 19, 2020 were approved as presented.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC
FORUM**

None.

**PRESENTATIONS**Curriculum Update – Dr. Kramer

Dr. Kramer provided a professional learning update describing some of the programs and learning track options available to the teachers to choose from as part of their six-hour required training during their work year as outlined in their contract. Some of the programs included:

- 1.) Words Their Way which looks at patterns in spelling and will be brought into the balanced literacy program next year;
- 2.) Meeting the Needs of English Language Learners with Ms. Tasker;
- 3.) K-12 Arts standards which looks at the new standards, what has been done, what needs to be implemented;
- 4.) Balanced Literacy PK-1st grade program which looks at how to best teach literacy in the primary grades;
- 5.) Balanced Literacy 2-6 Program which also looks at how to best teach literacy in the intermediate grades;
- 6.) Project Based Learning Workshop being done by Mrs. Goodlander and Dr. Kramer which focuses on teaching through real-world problems and solving those problems;
- 7.) Leveraging Technology for Digital Responses which will apply to literacy skills and technology to engage students; and
- 8.) Teacher Literacy in the Content Areas which will help content area teachers incorporate literacy in their subject areas.

She discussed how the programs are implemented into the classroom after training, assessed, and are designed to align with learning standards. She noted the benefits of having smaller groups which enhances participation, communication and sharing amongst the participants. It also enables the District to have more flexibility to plan the learning opportunities around the teachers' schedules thereby making it easier for more teachers to participate to reach their goal by year-end.

Principal's Update - Mr. Carter

Mr. Carter noted that the first night of Parent/Teacher Conferences was held virtually on November 12th from 4:00 – 7:30 p.m. Overall, the new process went well. The second night will be November 18th from 3:15 – 7:00 p.m. Participation rate was similar to the past.

High School report cards will be issued by the beginning of next week. As discussed with the Board previously, grades are down for many students. The staff has looked for reasons and patterns to the decline and worked to address them as best as possible. He stated he has noticed improvement in many instances. Overall, it continues to be a huge concern of staff, students and parents within our District, as well as other school districts.

Due to the uncertainty of the Governor's Micro-cluster Plan and increasing rates of positive COVID cases, Mr. Carter stated that beginning this week, Cohort A (M/T)



and Cohort B (Th/Fri) are being asked to start taking as much of their materials home as possible in case the District needs to suddenly shut down. By getting the students accustomed to this practice, it will hopefully eliminate the need of the District to do a big materials pickup over the course of multiple days like that which took place in March. He reiterated that there is no current plan to close, but things change rapidly and the District will continue to follow guidance.

In terms of the Seniors' requirements for graduation, Mr. Carter noted that as various municipalities are calling asking students not to attend public meeting session to keep attendance down and provide for social distancing, the District is looking at the requirements for the students. He noted that some requirements may be adjusted or eliminated for this year.

Mr. Carter also thanked the Board for their support of the District having the SRO on site. He commented that a lot is happening and increased stresses are appearing in different ways within and outside the community and the SRO is a very good resource to have.

Mrs. Gancasz inquired why the parents/guardians received a notice about not having to complete the attendance forms online going forward. Mr. Carter commented that a workaround was created in PowerSchool to track the attendance now for the cohorts by the staff which will take the burden off the parents.

Mr. Atwater asked about participation levels for extracurricular activities. Mr. Carter stated that while Fall sports just ended, there was good attendance for the events. Students continue to stay after for clubs and to receive extra help. The numbers are down only due to there are lower number of students in the District.

Financial Update – Mr. Reimer

Mr. Reimer presented Ms. Heiligenthaler's report. Tax collection has closed. Mr. Reimer reviewed the historical collection percentages from 2017-2018 to present, all of which were around 93%. This year's collection rate of 93.7% reflects the amount as of the end of October and includes some small penalties paid. The District used a drop-box this year for in-person payments due to COVID. This also saved the District money in salaries. Utilizing Erie 2 BOCES for tax collection, as done by some districts, has been looked into but the cost, even with aid, is still higher than the related expenses this year. It will be looked at again next year before making a final determination whether to process in-house or through BOCES.

Mr. Reimer noted that the year-end audit has been finalized and completed.

Mr. Reimer then discussed the 2021-2022 budget calendar being presented for review and approval at the meeting. He noted that the timeline is the same as last year. He did anticipate if something needed to change, like last year, notification to the District would be earlier which would enable the District to adjust and most



likely maintain the proposed timeline. There were no questions raised with regard to the timeline which commences with discussions at the December meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION

Mr. Reimer noted that as a precautionary measure, due to increasing COVID levels, he will be asking the Administrative Team to leave after his report given the potential impact of quarantining should anyone in the room test positive for COVID. This will therefore protect the District and provide for an administrator to be available on campus.

Mr. Reimer discussed how things change daily with regard to COVID, noting that Monroe and Erie Counties have now been designated to be in a Yellow Zone. He reviewed the Governor's "Micro-Cluster" Strategy beginning to be implemented in some communities close to Barker. This plan was provided to parents and legal guardians on November 10, 2020 along with a notice of a positive COVID case in the District. He reviewed the impact of this strategy once placed within a zone and what is required to be removed, as well as the impact on the school. In particular, testing of students and staff once placed in a Yellow, Orange or Red Zone. He noted one recent change included that once a district is designated in a Yellow Zone, the district will be required to test 20% of the student/staff population (approximately 135) within two weeks vs. weekly. If the results show the district's positivity rate to be above the current 7-Day positivity rate in the area at the time of testing, it will then be required to continue testing 20% of its students and staff every two weeks. If the district's testing shows the positivity rate to be lower than the current 7-Day positivity rate in the area at the time of testing, the district will no longer be required to test its students and staff as it would indicate the infection is not coming from the school. If the district falls into a Red or Orange Zone, it will be forced to go remote and all staff and students would need to be tested before being able to resume in-person schooling.

The testing for COVID is a huge issue that is being looked into with regard to how it is done, where, consent of parents, participation of staff and students, make-up of the sampling of the population. Mr. Reimer is working with the Department of Health to get clarification on various items, in particular the make-up of the testing participants. There are a number of logistical issues to work through. One in particular, is the receipt of consent of families for students to be tested. If the District does not meet the 20% testing threshold, it will be forced to shift to remote learning until the District is able to test 20% of the student and staff population. Mr. Reimer noted that he is in the process of trying to have the school be an approved testing and is working to get an approval of a limited service laboratory to perform COVID tests, possibly using the Abbott Binax NOW COVID 19 AG Cards versus the nasal or throat swab tests. Somerset has the lowest number of positive cases at 28 to date. He commented that the zones are dictated by zip codes, and in certain circumstances even more granular factors vs. districts. Even if the District is not in a Yellow Zone, if other districts are, Barker may have a hard time with staffing if the staff themselves are in a Yellow Zone as it may cause a child-



care issue on a short-term basis. Mr. Reimer then asked the Board their view on the idea of letting staff bring their school-age children to the campus, having tutoring and coverage for them, in order to provide the staff the ability to continue in-person teaching the Barker students. Mrs. Voss said she would agree to this with the understanding the logistics and legal concerns be left up to administration to work through. She thought it would reduce stress for the staff, as well as the community. Mrs. Ecker agreed, noting it would help the community and staff, as well as reduce concerns. Mrs. Gancasz also agreed, only noted how would the District address individuals coming into a Yellow Zone and ensuring they do not have the virus. Mr. Atwater noted he was okay with this plan but had the same concern as Mrs. Gancasz. Mrs. Gow concurred with Mr. Reimer's idea. Mr. Sweeney agreed with the concept, and noted he would leave it up to the administration to work through. After hearing from each Board members, the Board agreed it was the general consensus in order to maintain in-person instruction to the District's students, the teaching staff may be allowed to bring in their school-age students if feasible.

Mr. Reimer stated that the Fall sports season has concluded, and then commented on the successes of the teams/individuals, including the Boys Varsity Cross Country being Sectional Champs, Girls Varsity Cross Country placing third in Sectionals with Carla Stoloski qualifying for States, and Varsity Field Hockey making it to finals this season. Overall, it was a very good season which provided great opportunities for the students. Mr. Reimer noted that given the increased COVID activity around the area, he stated there is a high chance Erie County may go into an Orange Zone the next couple days, causing a full closure of those schools, moving them to remote school learning. This will impact the schools, athletics and other things. With regard to Winter sports, low risk activities such as swimming have a chance to continue. Other higher risk activities such as basketball, musicals, he felt, in his opinion, given the current COVID trajectory, are at risk. It is likely these things will be postponed for a longer time which is very unfortunate. He stated that this is not good for the students and community both emotionally and physically. Due to the increasing infection rate, Mr. Reimer noted that he did not see any way to safely bring students back for more in-person instruction than currently being provided any time soon. The first opportunity may be considered after Christmas pending infection rates.

Mr. Reimer then discussed how contract tracing and notification is performed by Niagara County. He noted that the District will be asking people/familites to start to isolate if there is a confirmed positive in District that might impact them if the tracing is behind. Mrs. Voss inquired about the testing being done at the school on Wednesday, November 18. Mr. Reimer noted that this is being offered by Niagara County Department of Health on a voluntary basis for staff members and is a 15 minute PCR test. To date, the Department of Health noted that of the hundreds of tests performed, there had only been a few positive cases which were of asympamatic people.



Mr. Reimer commented that the Energy Performance projects still continue to move forward. There are a few items the District is waiting for with regard to the power plant agreement and hope to have the agreement in place by December. Reduced payments from the plant are being received.

Mr. Carter, Dr. Kramer and Mrs. Goodlander were excused from the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

POLICIES 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. Voss, to approve the following policies:

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

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

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

Policy #	Policy Name
6111	Testing Misconduct and Mandatory Reporting Requirements
6213	Registration and Professional Development
6214	Incidental Teaching
6215	Probation and Tenure
6216	Disciplining of a Tenured Teacher or Certified Personnel
6217	Professional Staff: Separation
6220	Temporary Personnel
6230	Selection of Athletic Coaches
6310	Appointment - Support Staff

No comments were received.

EDUCATION None

**PERSONNEL****ITEMS**

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz and Mr. Sweeney, to approve the change in appointment for Cynthia Harris as a Substitute Teacher, Substitute Teaching Assistant, and Substitute Teacher Aide for Pre-K - 6 to include all grades, Pre-K - 12 effective November 20, 2020.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz and Mr. Sweeney, to approve the following individuals as Substitute Cleaners effective November 17, 2020 at a rate of \$11.80 per hour, subject to background check and fingerprint clearance.

Name	Position
Bielak, Steven	Substitute Cleaner
Walker, Ashley	Substitute Cleaner

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz and Mr. Sweeney, to approve the appointment of the following individuals for the 2020 - 2021 Winter Sports season at a rate in accordance with the BTU Agreement of the interscholastic salary schedule as noted below:

Name	Position	Step	Salary
Jacob Haight	Boys Varsity Basketball	1	5,539.59
Ryan Carberry	Boys JV Basketball	1	4,489.81
Paul DerSarkissian	Boys Mod Basketball	4	2,382.18
Dave Luckman	Girls Varsity Basketball	3	5,640.53
James Bachman	Girls JV Basketball	3	4,602.86
Sharon Lamb	Girls Mod Basketball	4	2,382.18
Brianne Strong	Varsity Swim Head Coach	2	5,596.11
Cindy Calandra	Varsity Swim Assistant Coach	2	4,061.83

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Business & Financial**Items**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to accept the Warrant Report dated November 16, 2020.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to accept the Extracurricular Activity Report dated September and October, 2020.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to accept the Treasurer's Reports dated September and October 2020.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to accept the Tax Collection Report for 2020 – 2021.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the 2021 - 2022 Budget Calendar.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

END OF PUBLIC

SESSION Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to end the Public Session and enter into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing upcoming negotiations.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE

SESSION Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. and return to Public Session.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Voss, that the Board approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to end the Public Session and adjournment of the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk