



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Board Room
Monday, December 16, 2019

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

EXCUSED L. Mead

ALSO

PRESENT J. Reimer, M. Eadie, C. Heilighenthaler, M. Kramer
Public: 0

**CALL TO
ORDER**

President Atwater called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge to the Flag was given.

**APPROVE
AGENDA**

There being no changes recommended to the agenda, a motion to approve the agenda was made by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**ACCEPT
MINUTES**

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting dated November 18, 2019 as presented.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC
FORUM**

There were no comments brought forward from the floor.

PRESENTATIONS

Financial Update and Parameters for 2020–2021 Budget Development & Review of Tax Cap Rules & Regulations

Ms. Heilighenthaler commented that at the January 13, 2020 Board meeting, the 2020-2021 roll-over budget will be presented. As the District will be half way through the fiscal year, the projections should be accurate barring any unforeseen circumstances. She noted that the projected budget will continue to be adjusted as more is known, such as with regard to transportation needs.



Ms. Heiligenthaler distributed a handout illustrating the tax levy limit calculation based on current projections for the District. She and Mr. Reimer reviewed the information and responded to questions regarding the tax cap in order to provide the Board a basis for determining what level they would want the cap to be for the upcoming year. The growth in the annual allowable tax levy limit is determined and limited to the lesser of 2% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI)/rate of inflation factor, subject to certain limited exceptions and adjustments. Mr. Reimer noted that the tax levy cannot exceed the cap unless 60 percent of voters approve such an increase.

The allowable tax levy limit for 2020 before adjustments/exclusions is projected to be \$6,439,881, which is 43.2% higher than the real property tax levy based. The impact of the PILOT and other adjustments as part of the new levy were reviewed with the Board as part of the new levy, and are not projected as a PILOT moving forward.

Mr. Reimer discussed recent meetings with the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency (NCIDA) with regard to the Somerset Plant closing and its PILOT. Based on discussions with Susan Langdon and Michael Dudley, it does not appear that a new PILOT can be entered into with the plant closing as it is not creating or saving jobs. Backing out the addition of the PILOT and adding the plant on the tax roll, it is estimated to equate to a 2.1% levy. Mr. Reimer reviewed the difference in revenue to the District if the plant goes on the tax rolls vs. a PILOT. He noted that the revenue of the plant on the tax roll will be comparable to the PILOT if at \$125 million assessed value, but that value could be lower.

If the District loses 20% of its current PILOT revenue, it can tap into the Energy Cessation Mitigation Program and be reimbursed for a portion of the decrease in revenue. This program would cover a seven-year period and starts at 80% reimbursement of the lost revenue with the percentage of the reimbursement decreasing each year. Mr. Reimer discussed conversations with Assemblyman Norris regarding this program and its current requirements/language with hopes to possibly change its structure.

The District has not been able to have in depth conversations with the assessor regarding the value of the plant to date. Mr. Reimer also discussed various other possibilities related to the plant and potential revenue received in the future. The Board and Administration discussed the different factors involving the plant and revenues so the Board would have a basis for determining the tax levy percentage for next year's budget in January. Mr. Reimer noted that the levy may be adjusted as more is known before it is taken to a vote in May. With regard to the percentage, Mr. Sweeney thought a 4% limit would be a stretch to be approved based on current feedback from the community. Mrs. Clemens-Harris concurred.



Mr. Atwater commented that he did not believe the tax cap could be raised above 4%. Mr. Reimer noted that a 2% tax cap is safe, but if the District does not continue to build a revenue base, it doesn't help decrease the forecasted deficits over the next 5 years.

Curriculum Update

Ms. Kramer noted that New York State has released the Accountability Standings Status Report for 2018 - 2019, and the District, Elementary, Jr./Sr. High are all in good standings and she predicts this will remain for next year.

She discussed the work with the staff regarding an initiative that will shift grades Pre-K – 6 towards a standards-based grading format for the 2020-2021 school year. The change will help staff, students and parents evaluate where a student is with regard to a standard, where on the continuum, and where a student may or may not need additional focus/support. The new ELA and Math Standards are to be implemented next school year, Science this school year, and Social Studies standards a few years ago.

She noted that this is a shift in the grading process will also result in a change to trimester progress reporting for the elementary vs. ten-week reports. Trimesters, especially for younger students, give a more accurate picture of their progress. Mr. Reimer noted that this also frees up the reporting time of the teachers and thus typically ends up with a more in-depth review and feedback on the reports to parents. She explained the three assessment levels agreed upon for next year and noted that after the initial year, if more levels are determined to be necessary, it could be adjusted. She also noted that not all standards are taught at the beginning of the year and therefore an assessment would not be provided until it was introduced. When asked if this is done at the high school levels, Ms. Kramer noted that some schools do, but commented she would need to talk with them and research the concept for the higher grades and how it correlates to State testing and post-secondary education admittance.

Ms. Kramer reviewed the professional development (PD) to date and discussed the November 20, 2019 session. She noted that after the first Superintendent's Conference Day, only 14 participants completed the survey at the end which was utilized to plan and adjust for the next PD. The latest PD had 44 respondents whose input will be used to frame the next PD with the staff. She noted that as she works with the Instructional Cabinet to develop the PD sessions, this feedback is very valuable. The next event will be two hours in February. She commented that this gives time for the staff to take what they had learned or participated in and apply it to their lesson plans, teaching methods, and approach with the classroom, as well as determine what did or did not work for them, ask questions, and/or make adjustments.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mr. Reimer outlined the history behind and the results of the research work Mr. Carter did pertaining to the use of graduation cords as requested from students and parents to distinguish students at graduation who have succeeded in various aspects of their education. Mr. Reimer noted this is not a Board policy of how graduation would look, but Administration wanted to review with the Board for feedback. He noted that Mr. Carter talked with a number of districts, students, and others regarding the matter. As a result, he broke the types of cords into four categories that would possibly apply to the students. Mr. Reimer outlined these. He noted that the students would need to complete an application that would be submitted to the principal with a brief explanation of why the student is eligible. The types of cords would be outlined in the graduation program and how the students became eligible. With regard to Regents achievements, after discussion, it was concluded that Advanced Regents diplomas would fall under the Academics category.

Mr. Reimer then reviewed the proposed solar project. He noted that the Board did not receive a proposal for vote at this meeting as anticipated as during the final due diligence review, the attorneys found one item that needed additional follow-up on. As a result, until that is clarified, Mr. Reimer said he was not comfortable bringing forward. He noted that he wanted to ensure the Board understood the scope of the project completely and reviewed it again with them. The project would utilize 1-2 acres at the west side of the District's property which has approximately 5 acres available should the District choose to expand. The 500 kilowatt system is scalable to nearly a 1 megawatt system depending on approvals at the State level. The proposed project would be located west of the pine tree line, enclosed with a high fence and vegetation to hide it. The attorneys and financial advisors have reviewed both proposals and vetted them, narrowing it down to one company. This proposed project is one the Board would vote on whether or not to proceed. The Board concurred that it would be more beneficial to keep moving forward at this time. The Board also discussed scalability and Mr. Reimer noted that at this time the RFP was for 500 kilowatt but was designed to be scalable. A larger size was not put forth initially, rather to make scalable, in order to minimize initial expenses before a decision was made. If the Board decided to expand, a conversation would be needed with NYSEG and additional paperwork would be filed. Growth beyond a 1 megawatt grid was discussed and what would be involved with that process. The larger the solar project is, the more aidable it would be and more savings from the energy generated would occur. Mr. Reimer responded to various questions from the Board. Mr. Atwater inquired if there were any concerns. Mrs. Ecker inquired if the Board would be provided with environmental information due to concerns with solar projects, i.e., brownfields, albeit those are on a much larger scale. Would the District receive a statement of assurance that what is being done will not hurt the land. Mr. Reimer noted that all this is in the specs which the Board would receive. This is the same information which was reviewed and vetted by legal. The term of the lease purchase agreement, warranty and maintenance of the panels and



components were also reviewed. Mr. Reimer noted that the lease purchase agreement is a 15-year term and the company would maintain the site, after which the District would maintain but would most likely enter into a preventative maintenance plan. The plan would be managed by professionals familiar with solar projects which would be more economical for the District than hiring a person. The panels have a 30-year warranty and if they go below 80% capacity, would be replaced. Mr. Reimer also noted that STEM activities would be provided to the District as a result of the project too. Mr. Sweeney inquired to what would happen if the lease were to be sold. Mr. Reimer noted that it is a risk, but that risk was reviewed as part of the due diligence process. A sale often means the terms and conditions of the lease remain the same, and the District would only be able to enforce the specifications in place. Mrs. Voss asked about if the company selected had worked with other districts on solar projects, and the Board was informed it had and they are considered highly reputable. Mrs. Gancasz inquired as to how much would be aidable, and was informed 78%. Mr. Sweeney asked about anticipated start time of a project. Mr. Reimer stated that if approved at the January 2020 Board meeting, groundbreaking could begin as early as the summer and be fully functional by fall. With regard to light intensity of this region, Mr. Reimer noted that the level in this area is pretty good and direct sunlight is not needed as it was in the past. He noted the Board would be able to look at nysolarmap.com for additional information on this subject.

Mr. Reimer then discussed capital work concepts and commented that when looking at the feedback from the public forums there were concepts presented and brought forward that were definitely supported and others not. i.e., supported ideas – parking lots, play grounds, renovate fields, particular work inside the buildings like windows and heat, etc. He noted that there is a process to packaging projects to ensure they are aidable. He suggested that the Board have a retreat which would be purely educational, the purpose of which would be for Mr. Reimer to go through different concepts that would allow some of the projects that were supported which could not be aided on their own to be done in conjunction with other items and receive aid. There would be no discussions or decisions at the retreat, only the Board would be able to look at the individual components, how they are aidable, and consider what they believed would be supported by the community. After discussion, the Board agreed upon January 18, 2020 at 9:00 for a retreat.

Mr. Reimer noted that looking at the bigger picture for the District, staff members have attended NYSCATE conference and had the opportunity to see other types of instructional learning spaces and how library media centers look and came back and asked if the District could look into these types of concepts for Barker. The teachers felt it would better prepare students for the future and help define us, noting that they also believed these centers elevate the use of collaboration and have a profound impact on learning. Concern about when these types of sites would be used was brought forward. Mrs. Clemens-Harris noted that given recent tours of



other academic sites such as colleges, that it is not just about books any longer. Centers have become places for classes to meet as well as student groups. It is a lot about the digital media and the equipment made available in such spaces which raise the level of education and preparedness of the students.

Mr. Reimer noted that in response to the inquiry of the teachers, Mrs. Goodlander is doing a project-based research activity with her students which Miss Tabone will help with, and Miss Wing and Miss Dudek are doing the same. The students need to present what they see is needed, research its possibilities and develop justification. The ideas are preliminary on the student project at this point, but Mr. Reimer noted he may then have the students do a “Shark Tank” type presentation about their ideas and examples. The Board inquired about the possibilities at seeing some of these centers that have been highly noted whether in person, or via virtual fieldtrip. Arrangement will be made for the Board to do so.

Mr. Reimer also noted that Administration continues to look at other energy items within the District and has had companies come in and evaluate for additional energy performance projects (EPCs) and the results look very promising. A company was recently in and evaluated replacing all the lightbulbs which would pay for itself over a short time period. Mechanicals for doors and windows, as well as replacing windows were also being looked at. Whether or not the project makes sense to do depends on the return. The doors would pay for themselves, but the windows, given the cost of an average \$6,000/window to replace would not equate to a return on investment for the District. Mr. Reimer noted that to fix the mechanics on windows could be done. Evaluating consumption of energy and controls are what all the EPCs are looking at and a report will be brought forward of the results in February.

Mr. Reimer noted the upcoming Legislative Breakfast on January 25, 2020 and asked the Board to attend if at all possible as State Senator Shelly Mayer, Chair of the Committee on Education, will be speaking. She has ties to the area and is very influential and could assist with advocacy connections down the road for Barker. He also noted that Senator Robert Ortt and Assemblyman Michael Norris will be in attendance, who he has discussed and had meetings regarding Barker’s foundation aid issue.

With regard to advocacy, Mr. Reimer inquired as to the views of the Board with regard to moving forward now with or waiting. He noted that based on his meetings with Messrs. Ortt and Norris, the sooner the District starts its advocacy campaign the better, noting it needs to be done now and be continuous into the future. The advocacy letters would be sent to every legislator and as many as possible so that Barker becomes known as part of the conversations, as it is expected that the foundation aid will become a much larger topic shortly. Coordination of the efforts with the community were discussed and how expenses related to the campaign



would be covered as the District is not able to use its resources for this purpose. Mr. Reimer noted that the BTU has expressed willingness to assist with the advocacy efforts.

Mr. Atwater inquired about a Board resolution formalizing that the District is focusing on advocacy relating to its foundation aid issue and whether or not a resolution would be valuable to its support. Mr. Reimer believed it would be and noted he would follow-up with the attorneys to put something together for the January meeting.

The Board agreed that after the holidays and before the commencement of budget season would be a good time to start the campaign.

POLICIES Upon motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the following policies:

Policy #	Policy Name
7211	Provision of Interpreter Services to Parents Who Are Hearing Impaired
7212	Response to Intervention (RTI) Process
7220	Graduation Requirements/Early Graduation/Accelerated Programs
7222	Diploma and/or Credential Options for Students with Disabilities
7230	Duel Credit for College Courses
7240	Student Records: Access and Challenge
7241	Student Directory Information
7242	Military Recruiters' Access to Secondary School Students and Information on Students
7243	Student Data Breaches
7250	Student Privacy, Parental Access to Information, and Administration of Certain Physical Examinations to Minors
7260	Designation of Person in Parental Relation
7311	Loss or Destruction of District Property or Resources

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the first reading of the following policies as listed below. Mr. Atwater inquired with regard to Policy 7340 – Bus Rules and Regulations, if the Board agreed to strike the sentence regarding suspension and transportation as Mr. Reimer noted in his comment number 11. The Board agreed to remove as it is not legally required. Mr. Atwater asked if there were any additional comments are questions on the policies. None were brought forward.



Policy #	Policy Name
7312	Student Dress Code
7313	Suspension of Students
7314	Students Presumed to Have a Disability for Discipline Purposes
7315	Student Use of Computerized Information Resources (Acceptable Use Policy)
7316	Student Use of Personal Technology
7320	Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs and Other Substances (Students)
7330	Searches and Interrogations of Students
7340	Bus Rules and Regulations
7350	Corporal Punishment/Emergency Interventions
7360	Weapons in School and the Gun-Free Schools Act
7410	Extracurricular Activities
7411	Censorship of School Sponsored Student Publications and Activities
7420	Sports and the Athletic Program

EDUCATION Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the 2020 Senior Class Trip to New York City from Wednesday, June 10, 2020 – Friday, June 12, 2020.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the disposal of McGraw-Hill My Math Teacher Editions (Volume 1 & 2) which were reissued by McGraw-Hill with updates for Grades K - 5 (five sets per grade) see below; as well as 77 outdated library books (one copy each, see attached listing) and said items be declared excess property and that the Superintendent, or his designee, be authorized to dispose of said items.

McGraw-Hill My Math Teacher Editions Grades Pre-K - 5 (Vol. 1/Vol. 2)

K: ISBN: 978-0-02-116197-3; 978-0-02-116198-0

1: ISBN: 978-0-02-116199-7; 978-0-02-116200-0

2: ISBN: 978-0-02-116201-7; 978-0-02-116202-4

3: ISBN: 978-0-02-116204-8; 978-0-02-116203-1

4: ISBN: 978-0-02-116206-2; 978-0-02-116205-5

5: ISBN: 978-0-02-116207-9; 978-0-02-116208-6

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL****ITEMS**

Mrs. Gancasz noted she needed to abstain from the Item 9.A. – Adult/Community Education appointments as her daughter, Madison Gancasz, is included on the list. Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the appointments of the individuals as listed within for the Winter 2020 Adult/Community Education semester, starting January 27, and ending April 2, 2020 at a rates listed below:

Program	Instructor	Rate/Hour
Antique Auto	Mallon, Thomas	\$12.00
Barre Class	Burke, Molly	\$12.00
Basketball	Morgan, Jared	\$12.00
Basketball (Substitute)	Phillips, Shane	\$12.00
Beginner Knitting	Davis, Karen	\$12.00
Beginner Knitting (Substitute)	Nieth, Lois	\$12.00
Body Sculpting/Stretch & Tone	Mathison, Trisha	\$12.00
Book Folding	Dudek, Mary	\$12.00
Ceramics for Beginners	Feltz, Krista Beth	\$12.00
Greeting Card Class	Kersch, Mary	\$12.00
Greeting Card Class	Martell, Loriann	Volunteer
P.M. Workout	Dent, Tyler	\$12.00
Quilting Class	Stoll, Janice	\$12.00
Staff/Supervision (Substitute)	Costello, Lori	\$12.00
Staff/Supervision (Substitute)	Lamb, Sharon	\$12.00
Staff/Supervision (Substitute)	Wilson, William	\$12.00
Stained Glass	Diez, Laura	\$12.00
Swim Lessons/Water Aerobics:		
Life Guard	Dergel, Heidi	\$16.00
Life Guard	Gancasz, Maddie	\$16.00
Life Guard	Goodlander, William	\$16.00
Life Guard	VeRost, Alexandra	\$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	\$12.00
Volleyball (Substitute)	Morgan, Jared	\$12.00
Special Programs:		
AARP SMART Drive	George Laskey	Not paid by District



Yes: 5

No: 0

Mrs. Gancasz abstained.

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the appointment of Christa Wright as a Substitute Nurse at a rate of \$115.00/day effective December 17, 2019 subject to background check and fingerprint clearance.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the appointment of Brooke LaGreca as Substitute Nurse at a rate of \$115.00/day effective December 17, 2019 subject to background check and fingerprint clearance.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the correction of the pay rate approved November 18, 2019 for Angela May and Joan Morgan as a Substitute Teacher Aide effective November 19, 2019 for grades Pre-K - 12 from \$12.10/hour to \$11.10/hour.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the appointment of Joan Morgan as a Substitute Teacher and Substitute Teaching Assistant for grades Pre-K - 12 effective December 17, 2019 at the per diem rate and a rate of \$11.10/hour respectively.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to accept the resignation with accommodation and regret of Pamela T. Garringer, Teacher Aide, for the purpose of retirement effective January 30, 2020.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the appointment of Pamela T. Garringer as a Substitute Teacher Aide for grades Pre-K - 12 effective January 31, 2020 at a rate of \$11.80/hour, and District Community Volunteer

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the appointment of Julia Voutour as a Substitute Teacher at a per diem rate, Substitute Teaching



Assistant and Substitute Teacher Aide at a rate of \$11.10/hour for Grades Pre-K - 12 effective December 17, 2019 subject to background check and fingerprint clearance.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL

ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the Warrant Report - December 16, 2019.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the Extraclassroom Report for August 1, 2019 - November 30, 2019.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the Treasurer's Reports for August, September, October, November 2019.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the Tax Collection Report for 2019 – 2020.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the donation with appreciation and gratitude from Linda Chodos in memory of Amrom Chodos for the benefit of the Barker Central School District's Music Department.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

END OF PUBLIC

SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to end the Public Session and enter into Executive Session at 8:37 p.m. for the purpose of discussing 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 8:50 p.m., and return to Public Session.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

PUBLIC SESSION/

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris that the Board approve the end of the Public Session and adjournment of the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk