



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Board Room
Tuesday, October 15, 2019

PRESENT R. Atwater, H. Ecker, C. Gancasz, L. Mead, J. Sweeney, V. Voss

EXCUSED M. Clemens-Harris

ALSO

PRESENT J. Reimer, M. Bundrock, M. Eadie, C. Heiligenthaler, M. Kramer
Public: 33

**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 Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**ACCEPT
MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the minutes from the Audit Committee Meeting and Regular Board Meeting both dated September 9, 2019 as presented.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC
FORUM**

Mr. Atwater commented that there are two individuals who would like to speak, and then read the rules regarding Public Forum.

Merrill Bender was the first speaker. He distributed his comments which were as follows:

“Barker Citizens, Taxpayers and parents are becoming concerned that this Board is not respecting the long tradition of careful review and concern for instructional excellence and have allowed for a rush to judgment for the sake of "Efficiency". With the children suffering unintended consequences.



After years of well planned uses for the facilities and grounds in our past major school projects you have rushed in this past year with a new superintendent to squish Jr High school in with Sr High school, abandoned the Middle School concept, and altered bus schedules- forcing some parents to drive their kids to school for safety reasons. After telling the community about the need for these changes to save money and be efficient you gave free reign to architects to spend 13.6 million that will save only \$50,000 in efficiency lighting which could have been achieved with grant money and/or simple changing to new light bulbs.

A proper needs assessment needs to be completed first with input from all stake holders with a process much more inclusive than the push poll survey you have currently constructed for after the fact. Though you have stated this initial presentation was very early conceptual - it appears to me that it was much further along than that. The evidence is the timeline shared at the meeting that had the vote to proceed happening this fall. You were obviously ready to steam roll forward quite quickly and that is a shame.

\$12 million of this bond proposal is un-warranted architect dreaming. Knowing we have a shrinking tax base the instruction to architects should have been guided by you - after a needs assessment that met your vision and mission of providing the best instructional environment for learning with our limited resources and reserves. Frankly, a much more fruitful use of your time would have been to support improving our tax base with the data center while simultaneously lobbying hard with the coal plant closing to have Albany make an adjustment in our taxable wealth formula to reflect 2020 instead of 2008.

Long standing environmental quality issues, windows, safety issues, Maintenance of equipment, grounds, fields, cross country track, nature trail, buildings, etc. These needed items and deficiencies were not at the top of this list as they should have been. This community has spent good money building and providing expanded opportunities for their children that improve instruction and support our community needs.

Don't squander that legacy. Build on it appropriately. Care for what you have been given, honor the staff, parents and community with their full input and don't spend on expanded boondoggles like new libraries, cafeterias or artificial turf. I ask that you go back to the drawing board and perhaps use architects that already have the drawings and schematics of the entire building from the last few projects. You might save some money there and once you have a justifiable list for a building



project bring it back to the community and let's see the whole board show up for a public meeting to show their support for what will probably be only 1.5 to 2 million dollars of qualified need.

Amy Dewart spoke next. She stated she agreed with Mr. Bender's comment. She noted that with regard to the proposed capital project, she would support items that support the health and safety of the students such as the play ground, parking lots and maintenance of the existing buildings. She commented on items she believed, and other people have commented on she said, that need to be addressed such as windows on the first and second floor, repair and replace existing lights, lighting outside the building rather than renting lights such as during conference nights, tiles that are falling off walls and being taped on, pieces of ceiling tiles falling out in the boys' high school lavatories, heat that is not efficient, and other structural repairs. She felt the high costs of the projects proposed by the architects are not necessary. She stated the two soccer fields with proper drainage should be opened up for usage by the Optimists soccer program, as it was a terrible injustice not to use them this summer. She also stated the Optimist's program builds learning and team building skills with the students. She commented that the lack of grounds staff outside is an issue. She said the District should consider spending money as a grounds person as the grounds are in shambles, and that the grounds earlier this year have never looked so bad. She commented that Barker has a 98% graduation rate and is doing well with two libraries and cafeterias; and sports are successful with students/teams reaching sectional and state-level accomplishments. She felt there would be a loss of instructional times by the students to walk to the locations of proposed cafeteria and libraries, vs. current locations, therefore, more wasted time. She stated that the proposed project was absurd and to ask those in the school for feedback on what is needed for the longevity of Barker, and to use conservative spending practices.

There were no additional comments brought forward.

PRESENTATIONS

NHS Board Appreciation Presentation

In honor of Board Appreciation Day, the Board heard words of thanks from Mrs. Bundrock's National Honor Society. They also received a small token of appreciation.

Principal's Update

Mr. Reimer noted that Mr. Carter was unable to attend the meeting this evening so no report will be presented.

Financial Update

Ms. Heiligenthaler distributed hard copies of the year-end audit for the Board members, noting there were no changes from last month's draft. She also noted that the information is available on the website. The corrective action plan letter



addressed recommendations from the auditors, which have already been implemented.

She noted that tax season is ending soon, and the community appreciated having the ability to pay the taxes in person at the school.

Budget season is commencing and a proposed budget calendar will be brought forward to the Board in November. Ms. Heiligenthaler noted that some budget processes will be streamlined, including meeting with clerical staff regarding ordering of supplies.

Curriculum Update/Professional Development Update

Ms. Kramer discussed professional development which is required of the teaching and teaching assistant staff, and how it is determined what professional development is needed. A needs assessment was performed, and based on observation and walkthrough data from last year and discussions with the Instructional Cabinet, it was determined there was a need to dive into the Danielson Framework for Teaching Rubric, and look at new state standards and expectations. Then, following this year, assess future needs.

A professional development day was held on October 4, 2019 during which the team was given an overview of the Danielson rubric, in particular, sections 3b and 3c which the focus of the teaching all comes back to. The staff enjoyed the development time, commenting that it assisted with team building, morale, and communication. The staff also asked for more specific and concrete examples of how to be highly effective in their grade level or subject area based on the Danielson model. The next steps will be three two-hour professional development sessions which will focus on examples as requested. There were no questions raised on the presentation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reimer recapped the last few weeks during which two public forums were held to inform the community and receive feedback on a proposed capital project plan. The forums held on October 2 and 8 had approximately 120 and 75 in attendance respectively. He noted that during the presentation portion, he discussed conversations held with the Board over the past year on the matter, how the District got to the point it was, and presented to the public the capital project concepts that it was seeking input on, and noted that this was just the beginning stage and the ideas being reviewed were extremely conceptual, as well as the concepts and rationale of the project. The concepts were developed as part of the RFP process for architects where they were charged with providing ideas that would be innovative, facilitate the District to be more effective and more efficient, while providing better programs for the students and staff, as well as ideas that enable the District to thrive. He noted that the architects' views were unbiased. The



information gathered during the public hearing, along with the surveys received from attendees were provided to the Board for review and consideration in determining how it should move forward. Mr. Reimer noted that there is a lot of emotion surrounding the proposed capital project's concepts and there was a wide range of opinions and topics received. He also noted that more information had subsequently been received since he updated the Board on Friday, which he would provide to them.

Mr. Atwater stated that given more information was received, and Mrs. Clemens-Harris was excused from the meeting, he inquired as to the Board's view about postponing further discussion on the concepts until November. Mrs. Voss commented that they owed it to the community to voice the Board's opinions even with there being six of the seven members present. She noted she values the community and investing in the right project. In reviewing the comments received at this point, she stated she thought there was not a lot of positive comments at the forums for the proposed project, although negative voices are usually heard more than positive voices. Ms. Ecker agreed with Mrs. Voss. She also commented that she felt that the cafeteria and library proposed concepts would be a definite no right now; parking lots absolutely; and to look at staffing for the outside grounds. Mr. Mead commented that input from the employees and community is needed, such as a general survey as to what the top five needs are and prioritize the list. Mr. Atwater commented that there will be a Building Condition Survey next year as required, and it will be very comprehensive. He also noted that there is no fixed timeline to make a determination. Mrs. Gancasz emphasized that the proposed capital project was a presentation the Board asked for. As a Board member, she takes her role very seriously and commented that there is no shame in doing what was asked, and to receive others outlook on the facilities. She stated that the Board would not have been doing its job if not to have looked at this. It is the Board's decision to determine whether or not it acts upon the information received and proposed, and she was glad it was done. Mr. Sweeney reiterated how he also takes his Board role seriously, and the request to have the architects make the proposal was done on the basis of what were the best choices for the students and staff. He also commented that he is also a tax payer, a larger one in the District, and did feel the total \$13.6 million project as he noted at the past meeting, was too large. He stated he believed that not everything proposed was needed, but that the architects and Mr. Reimer did exactly what the Board asked of them. The Board is not obligated to do anything, and would not go to the public with a proposal as it is now.

Mr. Reimer then discussed another concept he has been working on to save the District money, in terms of a solar project, which has been discussed with the Board the last few of months. An RFP was issued and two proposals were received back. He noted that this project would not have any financial investment by the District and could save it approximately \$25-30,000/year in energy costs. He reviewed the type of project, how it would be funded, and repayment mechanisms through the



panels themselves and state funds. He commented that both proposals had similar numbers. Mr. Reimer stated that one piece that still needs to be further looked into is how to access the lines, but also stated this would not move forward until the Board determined that was the direction to take. Mrs. Ecker inquired as to the location of the solar fields. Mr. Reimer noted they would be on District property, but not on current sports fields, rather unused property. Mr. Atwater asked the Board how they felt about voting to move forward. The Board concurred to continue. Mr. Atwater said it was a good project and to move forward.

POLICIES Upon motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the following policies:

- 5674 - Data Networks and Security Access;
- 5675 - Student Grading Information Systems;
- 5680 - Safety and Security;
- 5681 - School Safety Plans;
- 5682 - Cardiac Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in Public School Facilities;
- 5683 - Fire Drills, Bomb Threats and Bus Emergency Drills;
- 5684 - Use of Surveillance Cameras in the School District;
- 5690 - Exposure Control Program;
- 5691 - Communicable Diseases;
- 5692 - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Related Illnesses;
- 5710 - Transportation Program;
- 5720 - Transportation of Students;
- 5730 - School Bus Safety;
- 5731 - Idling School Buses on School Grounds;
- 5740 - Qualifications of Bus Drivers;
- 5741 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers and Other Safety -Sensitive Employees;
- 5750 - Bus Maintenance and Bus Replacement; and
- 5760 - Use of School-owned Vehicles.

There were no questions raised.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

The Board then reviewed the first reading of the following policies:

- 7110 - Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy;
- 7111 - Release of Students to Custodial/Noncustodial Parents;
- 7120 - Age of Entrance;
- 7121 - Diagnostic Screening of Students;
- 7122 - Transfer Students/Credit;
- 7130 - Entitlement to Attend -- Age and Residency;



- 7131 - Education of Homeless Children and Youth;
- 7140 - School Census; and
- 7210 - Student Evaluation, Promotion and Placement.

Mr. Atwater discussed with the Board a couple policies based on the information and/or suggestions provided. As a result, Policy 7111 will remain with the language as is; with Policy 7121 Students with Low Test Scores section, it was understood that students who score below level two would be the same as receiving a level one score for Grade 3; and although Policy 7122 could be deleted, it will remain in the policy book as a helpful reference for parents.

EDUCATION

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the overnight trip for Area All State Music Festival at SUNY Fredonia on November 22 - 23, 2019. Mr. Sweeney inquired on the number of students attending and chaperones. Ms. Heiligenthaler stated there are seven students attending and two chaperones.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the accepting of H. C. and M. C. non-resident tuition paying students for the 2019 - 2020 school year, with fees being determined based upon Board Policy #7132, Non-Resident Students.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the accepting of C. G. non-resident student for the 2019 - 2020 school year based upon Board Policy #7132, Non-Resident Students.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, 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: McGraw-Hill My Math Vol. 1 (7 books) ISBN= 978-0-02-115024-3; McGraw-Hill My Math Vol. 2 (6 books) ISBN = 978-0-02-116196-6.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Mrs. Gancasz noted that she needed to abstain from Item 9, Letter L.



Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve Ashley Atwater as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Elementary Education effective September 4, 2019 until a date to be determined with an annual salary in accordance with the BTU Agreement, Teachers' Salary Schedule at BA, Step 3 of \$40,831 pro-rated.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve Ashley Atwater request for leave of absence as a Teaching Assistant effective September 4, 2019.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the change in appointment of Chelsea Stratton from a Part-time Cleaner to a Full-time Cleaner effective October 16, 2019 at a rate of \$11.10/hour and shift differential of \$0.18/hour, probationary period from October 16, 2019 through October 15, 2020.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the appointment of Stephanie Gooding as a Full-time Teacher Aide effective October 16, 2019 at a salary in accordance with the Barker Support Staff Contract, Teacher Aide, Step 1 at \$12.15/hour.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the appointment of Morgan Cudney as a 10-month Clerical I effective October 16, 2019 at a salary in accordance with the Barker Support Staff Contract at \$26,984/year prorated subject to background check and fingerprint clearance.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the correction to the 2019 Falls sports appointment for the 2019 - 2020 school year for Sharon Lamb as Varsity Cross Country Assistant from Step 2 to Step 3 at a corrected rate of \$5,019.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the following Winter sports appointments for the 2019 - 2020 school year at a rate in accordance with the BTU Agreement as noted below:



Winter Sport	Coach	Step	Salary
Modified Girls Basketball	Sharon Lamb	4	\$2,382.00
JV Girls Basketball	James Bachman	2	\$4,530.00
Varsity Girls Basketball	Dave Luckman	2	\$5,596.00
JV Boys Basketball	James Harris	4	\$4,752.00
Varsity Boys Basketball	Michael Brooks	3	\$5,641.00
Modified Swim	Krista Beth Feltz	4	\$2,382.00
Varsity Swim	Brianne Strong	1	\$5,540.00

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the appointment of Lindsey Williams as a Student Teacher with Ronda Baronich, Science Teacher, from March through May 2020 of the 2019 - 2020 school year.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve Kaitlin Costich to present to or shadow Mrs. Voutour's classes as part of the post-secondary education requirements at SUNY Buffalo State for Early Childhood Education.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve Craig Pellow to present to or shadow Elementary grade classes as part of the post-secondary education requirements at Niagara County Community College for Early Childhood Education.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the following Parent/Community Volunteers as noted below:

- Tammy Garcia
- Laurie Kropp
- Erin Page
- Elisha Quinn
- Sarah Reed
- Megan Schmitt
- Dale Silversmith
- Stephanie Silversmith
- Karli Sturtevant



- Steven Sturtevant
- Brittani Sutch
- Nathan Sutch
- Kayley Wakefield
- Doris Walsh
- Amanda Wilson

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the appointments of William Goodlander and Madison Gancasz as Substitute Lifeguards for Community Education for the 2019 - 2020 school year. Mrs. Gancasz abstained from the vote.

Yes: 5

No: 0

Motion carried.

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to accept the Warrant Report dated October 15, 2019.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to accept the correction of the name for awarding of the bid for purchase of electricity to Energy Coop of America at the indexed adder rate of SC2 @ 0.00787 and SC3P @ 0.00787 per kwh from November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to accept the donation with appreciation and gratitude from Judy and Russ Whitehead for boxes of stained glass pieces.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to accept the Corrective Action Letter in response to the Audit Management Letter for year ending June 30, 2019.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.



END OF PUBLIC

SESSION Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to end the Public Session and enter into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Superintendent's Evaluation; and review of a legal matter.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE

SESSION Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. and return to Public Session.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC SESSION/
ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, that the Board approve the end of the Public Session at 8:11 PM and adjournment of the meeting at 8:12 p.m.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk