



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Board Room
Monday, September 9, 2019

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

EXCUSED None

ALSO

PRESENT J. Reimer, M. Carter, M. Eadie, C. Heiligenthaler, M. Kramer
Public: 19

**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**

The agenda was adjusted to include under Section 10, Business & Financial Items, #5 to review and approve budget adjustments for the 2018 – 2019 school year. There being no additional changes recommended to the agenda, a motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**ACCEPT
MINUTES**

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Mead, to accept the minutes from the August 12, 2019 Regular Board Meeting as presented.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC
FORUM**

Mr. Atwater commented that Mr. Ciavatta would like to speak, and then read the rules regarding Public Forum. Mr. Ciavatta stated he is presenting a petition to appeal the bussing decision to non-public school by Mr. Reimer. He also stated the petition gave the reasons why the family did not meet the deadline, and that it was being sent to the Commissioner of Education. Mr. Ciavatta then handed the petition to Mr. Atwater who accepted it, after which, Mr. Ciavatta left the meeting.



No additional people spoke during the Public Forum.

PRESENTATIONS

BOCES Presentation

Mrs. Feltz, a former teacher for the District and now current BOCES Board of Education member, highlighted her history with the District and BOCES, and then introduced Dr. Godshall. He introduced two Barker students, Dylan Ruffin and Rebecca Pisarski, who attend BOCES. The students highlighted the program they are enrolled in and the benefits of BOCES. Dr. Godshall highlighted enrollment rates, the rapid growth in Special Education services, and mental health programs. He noted his appreciation for being offered the ability to use space in the District for classes, and why BOCES declined the offer. He highlighted the breakout of graduates with approximately 60% attending college, 10% joining the military and 30% entering the workforce after graduation from the BOCES programs. He noted how the District continues to maximize its BOCES aid. He also highlighted changes BOCES had made in order to meet the needs of its districts, and distributed a handout showing various facts about BOCES of NYS. Mr. Atwater thanked both Dr. Godshall and Mrs. Feltz for their services.

Principal's Update

Mr. Carter thanked both students for their presentation. He stated that it was a really great start and solid first four days for the new school year, and noted his appreciation to both Mrs. Bundrock and Mrs. Thibault for their support while also becoming acclimated to their new roles. He noted that the students are becoming accustomed to the 20-minute lunch period structure and it is keeping them busy and moving. He is also working on a mentor program with the Elementary and High Schools with a meeting scheduled for next Thursday. The program would pair up an identified elementary student with an older student that would be there to help them. Tenth period will start for the Elementary students on September 16. He discussed the R&R (Raider Reflection Room) room in the Elementary wing for students and the positive impact it has had already when a student needs time to gather themselves. The room is a place they can go that is staffed at all times which will decrease disruptions in the classroom when a student is having a difficult time. He commented that parents and staff have been very flexible as the school works through logistical changes the first week. Transportation has been working well and becoming more efficient daily as a few adjustments to runs were made to make it better for the students. The drivers, bus company and staff have done a great job being flexible and working with the kids. October 2, 2019 is National Walk to School Day and Mr. Carter highlighted the planning to date and the coordination to involve the town, village, policy, county, bussing and community which will promote wellbeing and community involvement. He then noted some positive student data trends resulting from the implementation of various support plans for students and having a SRO on campus. He noted that for Grades 7 – 12 in 2017-2018 there were 458 referrals involving 350 students. For 2018 – 2019 there was



a decrease of 38% in referrals with only 284 referrals resulting in fewer out of school and in school suspensions, detention and problems.

Financial Update

Ms. Heiligenthaler reviewed the reasons for the requested budget transfers for year-end 2018 – 2019, which were distributed to the Board. She noted that these transfers did not have any impact on the final year-end financial numbers. She discussed the changes to the tax collection process for this school year, of which includes a dedicated person to receive the tax payments on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the school from Noon – 4:00 p.m. The payments must be via check or money order, that no cash is being accepted. She also discussed a change in process for handing extraclassroom account activities as suggested by the District's auditors.

Curriculum Update

Ms. Kramer reviewed the Guidance Plan developed by her, Mrs. Lakeman, and Messrs. Gendrue and Rogers as required for the implementation of the NYSED Commissioner's Regulation part 100.2(j) pertaining to school counseling programs. The Guidance Plan is a living document and will be updated frequently in order to meet the diverse needs of the student body. The plan requires the collaboration between educational professionals, parents/guardians, and the school community. There were no questions with regard to the plan.

Ms. Kramer noted that the District's open wifi is being worked on, and is anticipated to be running next week.

She commented that the extended Pre-K grant being worked on should be completed next week.

Now that school is in session, she is commencing her classroom visits as well as focusing on curriculum.

SUPERINTENDENT'S

REPORT

Mr. Reimer provided an updated on the solar project, noting proposals were received, and a couple companies will be in on September 17, 2019 to present to ensure we are getting the most for the District's money.

Mr. Reimer also provided praise to Mr. Carter, Mrs. Bundrock, Mrs. Thibault and staff for the opening of school, particularly with the impact of a staff accident opening day. He noted that what came through is being a BCS family and shining through for those affected by tragedy. He discussed how the first day is his favorite school day to see the enthusiasm of staff, parents, students, neighbors. He commented that he saw this first hand riding the bus on the student's first day, and that seeing the older kids helping the younger on and off busses and into school was exciting and correlates to the Mission, Vision and Values and making this a more cohesive Pre-K – 12 organization.



Mr. Reimer then discussed the Capital Project options which has been a topic of his reports over the past year, and presented in detail options for the Board of Education to view and consider in order to determine if the Board would like to move forward. The conceptual designs presented were developed by SEI Design, the District's architects. The concept presented to them was to look at ways to become as efficient as possible based on the enrollment and financial issues of the District. He noted the pricing for the different options is the maximum for the scenarios and based on what option if any is to be chosen and final design, may be less. The amounts are 88% aidable. The two primary areas of focus would be the consolidation of the (a.) two cafeterias, and (b.) both libraries into two versus four areas. The end result of such a project would be the creation of multi-functional and effective use of space, staff, and time while reducing building costs with more energy efficient heating/air, lighting, equipment, etc. This consolidation would also impact other areas to achieve the end product and thus there would be renovation and reconstruction of adjoining rooms/areas. The consolidation would provide programs and services in a better and more efficient way for students and staff.

Other areas presented to the Board for consideration were the auditorium with a new entrance, exterior areas of courtyard, new playground, the track could possibly be widened with turf and drainage installed, and improve the state of the current athletic fields, as well as fix and/or resurface parking lots areas in need of repair. Mr. Reimer discussed the reasons for all the areas being presented, and broke down the estimated pricing for the options of the two main scenarios and what it would look like, as well as timing and cost relation to timing if the Board decided to move forward. He also detailed the costs of the auditorium and exterior areas suggested by SEI Design. Mr. Reimer responded to questions throughout the presentation. The breakdown of the detailed overviews on pricing options are as below. There would be no impact on the current tax rate or levy.

- Up to \$3.0 million – library
- Up to \$2.7 million – cafeteria
- Up to \$1.0 million – courtyard
- Up to \$2.2 million – “knuckle”/redo combined access to HS/MS
- Up to \$750,000 – Auditorium entrance
- Up to \$150,000 – refurbish athletic fields
- Up to \$300,000 – parking lots (does not include entire lot nor complete tear off, only spot repairs and resurfacing where needed)
- Up to \$500,000 – playground
- Up to \$300,000 – track/drainage
- Up to \$3 million – turf

With a hypothesized \$13.6 million project, 88% would be covered through State building aid. \$1,062,295 would be annual State building aid; \$1,207,150 would be



the annual expense and over five years at an estimated 4%, \$144,855 would be annual reserve use, budgetary allocation, and the project would not begin until approximately June 2020 and completed by 2022.

Board discussed current economics of the area with regard to the proposed project. Mr. Sweeney commented it is a lot of money for the projects. Mrs. Clements-Harris noted it really isn't once you consider the aid. Mrs. Gancasz asked if the 88% of State building aid projected for the project could fluctuate and was told it could, but not likely to be significant, if at all. Mr. Sweeney noted that if the District's State Aid increases, it benefits the District regardless and that aid is separate from building and foundational aids. Mrs. Clemens-Harris inquired about the cost savings analysis in the project. Mr. Reimer stated it was estimated currently about 40 – 45% of the local portion or a \$60-65,000 savings, but that would also vary on the final decisions of the project if the Board chose to move forward. Mr. Sweeney asked if other capital improvements had been reviewed by SEI such as the roof. Mr. Reimer noted they had. Mrs. Voss inquired about current library usage and was told that it varied as the staff must cover two separate areas which means access is not always available to students at the present time. Mrs. Clemens-Harris inquired about security aspects of the proposed plans. Mr. Reimer noted that security has been looked at and will be part of the design process. He noted also that the changing of the entryways to a common access point was presented but the cost of such a change to combine the High School, Middle School and District Office areas was eliminated due to the cost estimate. He noted that updates to the various entryways as such, are being looked at separately through the use of grants. The District does have a number of old systems, some would be addressed through the project, others would be addressed down the road based on useful life and when it would be projected to be needed. He explained the District's low debt service, which the Auditor mentioned at Audit Committee, is beneficial in timing out the projects in the future and correlates to an appropriate time to commence a capital project. He reiterated that there would be no impact on the current tax rate or levy, and it would only cost the District approximately \$144,000/year on the high end once the project was completed in 2022. That expense would also be offset by some of the cost savings relating to the project, and that there is \$4.5 million in the capital budget line to finance the District's share of the expense for the capital project at present. Mr. Mead reiterated the cost savings that would offset the expense. Mr. Atwater asked the Board their views on if the savings and efficiencies were reasons to move forward and determine the scope of a project. The Board agreed that input from the community would be beneficial, and necessary to discuss the funding, and how it works to pay for the capital project. Mr. Reimer agreed and noted that this also follows the Mission, Vision and Values by involving and asking the community for input. The Board concurred that having the community understand the scope, the financial aspect with regard to cost and funding, and input on the options of the projects presented is critical in order to have acceptance moving forward when determining what direction to go. As such, two public forums will be scheduled prior to the October Board Meeting. The Board discussed



the large expense with regard to the athletic fields being upgraded, especially the turf. They agreed there were related savings now and down the road, thus it is an important component of the capital project, not only to the school, but given the benefits to the entire community that utilizes them as well as return on that particular investment.

POLICIES Policies 5672 - Information Security Breach and Notification, and Policy 5673 - Employee Personal Identifying Information as noted on the 2019 – 2020 policy review schedule were delayed until October.

The Board then reviewed the first reading of 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.

EDUCATION

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to ratify the clarification of the approval from July 8, 2019 Board of Education meeting regarding the Transportation Contract between Barker Central School District, and Dawn and Frank Croisdale that it covered summer transportation as well as for the 2019 - 2020 school year.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

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: Elements of Literature Annotated Teacher's Edition, Fourth Course,



Copyright 1993, 1989 by Holt, Rinehard & Winston, Inc., ISBN 0-03-075939-0 - approximately 30 books.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

PERSONNEL **ITEMS**

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve Mariah Kramer as APPR Teacher Evaluator.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve Wendy Pellow and Ronda Baronich as Co-advisors for the Jr. High School Student Council for the 2019 - 2020 school year, split stipend in accordance with the BTU Agreement at Category B, Step 4.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve Marissa Jowdy to present to or shadow Mrs. Voutour's classes as part of the post-secondary education requirements at Niagara University for Early Childhood Education.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve Lydia Voutour as a classroom helper in Mrs. Voutour's classes as part of her high school graduation education requirements.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the following Parent/Community Volunteers: Debra Sutch, Lynette Delacruz, Kristin Clark, Brandon Clark, Mikayla Jackson, Charlotte Clause, Brianna Hurley, Richard Thering II.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the Interscholastic Athletic appointment of Michael Gendruie as the Modified Soccer Coach for Fall 2019 season of the 2019 - 2020 school year, as per the Barker Teachers' Union Agreement at Step 3, salary of \$2,273.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL **ITEMS**

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to accept the Warrant Report dated September 9, 2019.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the Agreement between the Barker Central School District and the Barker Central School Cafeteria Staff Association effective July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the Agreement between New Directions Youth and Family Services and Barker School District for the 2019 - 2020 school year.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mrs. Heiligenthaler noted that Energy Coop of America should be Direct Energy.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the awarding of the bid for purchase of electricity to Direct Energy at the indexed adder rate of SC2 @ 0.00787 and SC3P @ 0.00787 per kwh from November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the budget transfers as outlined in the attached for the 2018 - 2019 school year totaling \$53,713.18.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The Board concurred that an Executive Session was not needed.

**PUBLIC SESSION/
ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, that the Board approve the end of the Public Session and adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk