



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Board Room
Monday, April 8, 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, D. Farese, C. Heiligenthaler, J. Hoar, M. Wing
Public: 20

**CALL TO
ORDER**

President Atwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
The Pledge to the flag was given.

**APPROVE
AGENDA**

Being no changes were recommended to the agenda, a motion to approve the agenda 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. Sweeney, to accept the minutes from the March 11, 2019 Regular meeting.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC
FORUM**

No items were brought forward.

PRESENTATIONS

Budget Discussion/Financial Update

Ms. Heiligenthaler presented in detail the instructional components of the 2019 – 2020 proposed budget in comparison to the 2018 – 2019 budgeted and year-end projected. Curriculum, Development & Supervision had a slight increase due to the addition of some addition summer hours budgeted for finalizing the transitioning over alignment of the K-12 schedule. Otherwise, that category remains flat. Supervision – Regular School, although there were increases as a result of the addition of the SRO contract, and an increase in the high school principal salary due to greater responsibilities with having a single principal, this category has decreased 16.28% overall, primarily as a result of the elementary principal



position not being filled. Supervision Special Schools remained unchanged. In-service Training – Instruction increased 15.62% because the per RWADA charge was significantly increased. Changes in Teaching – Regular Schools accounts reflect the retirement of one teacher; change in allocation of accounts to reflect the transfer of Teacher Aides from self-contained classes to regular classes; and planned contractual increases. Programs for Special Education remained level. Ms. Heiligenthaler noted that even though several students are graduating or aging out, the budgeted levels for tuitions in Special Education were maintained as determination of placement for some students as well as incoming students is still to be made. Occupational Education expense represents the Career Technical programs offered through BOCES. BOCES utilizes a three-year rolling average for budgeting. With the increase in the number of students enrolling in this program, this area has a budgeted increase of 16.34% from the prior year. Summer School, Library and Audio-Visual do not have any significant budget change. Computer Assisted Instruction changes reflect the addition of summer hour salaries for Mr. Luckman, previously not budgeted for; budget for a laser printer; and the reduction of \$10,000 for the discontinuation of a software license. The increase in the Guidance area of the budget is due to the inclusion of summer hours which was not budgeted in previously. The primary impact to the Health Services area is the budgeted contractual increases. Psychological Services remains in line with the prior year. The budgeted Co-curricular Activities increase represents the potential maximum that could be incurred. Interscholastic Athletics decreased slightly due to potential maximum incurred being reduced. Overall, these component pieces of the budget total \$9.68 million representing a 0.36% increase in the 2019 – 2020 proposed budget.

Mr. Reimer noted that overall the proposed budget is relatively flat with a small surplus for needs the budget scenarios did not anticipate. He commented too that although the dollars are budgeted, it does not mean the District will spend it. Excess funds will be carried over to the next year. He described the proposed budget as being very sensible, in particular, in the areas just reviewed.

Elementary Update

Mr. Hoar provided an update on the elementary area, noting that ELA testing took place last week with opt-outs decreasing from last year's 45 students to 21, which will be beneficial when analyzing the results. He also commented that the PTO closed out another successful book fair; the elementary play, Jungle Book, will take place April 12 at 7:00 PM and April 13 at 4:00 PM; and that Mrs. Gallagher's efforts with the PARP program this year were greatly appreciated and created a lot of enthusiasm amongst the readers.

Athletic Presentation

Mr. Carter presented an athletic overview and the participation numbers for all three seasons; awards for the Fall and Winter; shared program participation; the breakout of athletes by grades; and sports being covered by new coaches. Mr. Carter then reviewed athletic participation with students in at least one sport to discipline referrals to those students that do not participate in sports. Overall, those students participating in a sport had less referrals than those who do not. He commented that the athletic students have an investment in what they are doing which requires discipline and organization skills. They need to have school work completed, grades maintained, and work with teachers and coaches to succeed individually and as a team and this directly correlates to the reduced number of referrals. He also noted an opportunity for homecoming 2019 being evaluated.



Junior/Senior High School Update

Mr. Carter than provided a detailed summary of the current status of the Senior Class in relation to the graduation rate. Factors influencing students' achievement of graduation are monitored continuously by multiple staff members in the High School. In December, meetings were held with 16 Seniors at risk of not graduating, programs were designed to help them meet the requirements by June, including the use of the APEX credit recovery program. One significant factor impacting some of the students is they are not passing their BOCES courses. Currently the 16 at risk students have been reduced to 7. Ongoing meetings with Mr. Scofill, Ms. Wing, Guidance and Mr. Carter continue to evaluate and assist the students. The graduation rate will also be impacted by two non-completers last year and one drop-out. The District is trying to have these individuals complete the new TASC™ High School Equivalency Program (former GED Program). He noted that another factor impacting the ability to graduate of some students is their attendance rate. Meetings were held with these individuals and their parents, and it has had a positive impact on some, but not all the students. He stated a letter was send to the homes to all Senior parents/guardians detailing the status of their child's graduation progress whether at risk or not.

Mr. Carter distributed a draft K-12 bell aligned schedule which is subject to change. He noted that the start time will be driven by the High School morning BOCES programs start time to ensure the busses will be able to have those students arrive at BOCES on time. He reviewed lunch schedule plans, the ability as a result of the alignment for Pre-K – 6 to have a 10th period class, and bus runs for the end of day. There were no questions raised on the proposed schedule.

Financial Update

Ms. Heiligenthaler provided a summary of the transportation bid process results. She noted the companies that responded to the bid opening on March 29th for the two bids, the first for the Barker bid and the second for the Lake County bid which included Barker, Lyndonville and Royalton-Hartland. STA of NY, Inc. had the lowest bid. Changes as a result of the bid process were noted, including that all buses will now have cameras and sound equipment required on them, routing software is included in the bid price which will be beneficial when planning routes, Checkmate software is included, as well as damage recovery. In addition, the pricing structure has been change from per day to hourly. Ms. Heiligenthaler noted that the base contract increased 32% with the Out-of-district and Special Education transportation needs increased 80%, resulting in a combined increase of 45%. Mr. Reimer noted that this increase is substantial but was in the range projected in the budget. Mr. Reimer noted that the actual costs may come in below budgeted projections and the savings, again, would go back in (rollover) to cover the 2020 – 2021 school year transportation needs. There were no questions in relation to the information provided.

Curriculum Update

Mrs. Farese acknowledged various staff members and the professional work they do with, and for students. She also noted a decrease in the ELA opt-out this year. Parent information about the State assessments has been posted on the District's website as suggested by Commissioner Elia. Some portions of the NYSED Report Card are now available with 2017 – 2018 data. She noted the 2017 - 2018 ELA proficiency rate for Barker, Grades 3 – 8 was 50%, which surpassed the State proficiency rate of 45%. Barker showed a 9% increase over the 2016 - 2017 school year. For Math, Grades 3 – 8, the proficiency was 58% as



compared to the State's average of 45%. This too showed an increase of 6% from the previous 2016 - 2017 school year. The Brockport Migrant Program came to look at available space within the District and to discuss the possible option of renting space to house their summer program for 2019. The tentative timeline for Computer Based testing in the area of science for Grades 4, 5 and 8 over the next three years was provided. Finally, Mrs. Farese noted that enrollment totaled 740 with only a one student decrease in grade 8 from last month.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION

Mr. Reimer distributed a handout which had a compilation of districts throughout the State with related factors/demographics similar to Barker based on information received on the Cornell Applied Demographics website. Mr. Reimer brought this forward to show the major disparity in the amount of Foundation Aid Barker receives compared to other districts. The spreadsheet detailed the amount of Foundation Aid received, pupil count which is based on need, resultant average aid per pupil count, and the combined wealth ratio (CWR). The first section compared Barker to schools in its immediate area. Barker receives the fourth least amount of foundation aid per pupil count at \$6,085 and has the second lowest CWR at 0.494 for schools in our immediate area. The second comparison was statewide and the districts with an average CWR of 0.495 received an average foundation aid of \$9,583 compared to Barker's \$6,085. If Barker were to receive the aid based on this average, it would be \$8,270,129 vs. \$5,251,334, or \$3,018,795 in additional revenue to the District. Mr. Reimer explained that the calculation is based off when the CWR was over 1 for Barker back in 2006 – 2007 when it benefited from the Somerset Plant. This CWR ratio has changed significantly in 12 years to reflect the current economic conditions of the area but the base foundation aid is still based on 2006 – 2007 numbers. He commented that this is the most significant factor that the District must focus on to have adjusted. As a result, development of a legislative toolkit is being finalized and will be made available to the community, staff and students in the upcoming months in order to start campaigning to bring awareness to the disparity and bring change to the amount of foundation aid and related financial factors to benefit the District in the next budget cycle. Changing the amount of revenue/aid received by the District has the greatest impact in reversing the current deficit in the near and long-term, as expenses can only be cut to a point before the District is not addressing the needs of the students, and cuts will be detrimental to the District's students.

Mr. Reimer then noted that interviews with the candidates for the Instructional Support Services for the high school and elementary areas will take place this week and next week respectively, and it is anticipated that a decision would be made before Spring Break. Once the selections are finalized, work will begin in order to be prepared for the beginning of the school year.

As discussed at last month's meeting, the Summer Recreation program is not self-sustaining. Last year the cost of the entire program was \$31,275 (net of Summer School, Music Program and Summer Rec fees) and generated \$2,024 in income. Mr. Reimer distributed a memo outlining the costs of the Summer Rec program and options to make it more viable. He noted that as this is taxpayer funded, it is a financial item that needs to be brought forward to the Board for determination. Ms. Heiligenthaler calculated to break-even of the program at \$132/student. The Board discussed the Summer School, Rec and music



components of the summer programs. Ms. Heiligenthaler noted that approximately 90 students received summer school but not all attend Summer Rec which averages 250 students per summer. Mr. Reimer noted that the Summer School figures are separate from the information provided and no changes were made to that area as it is critical for the students who need it. After responding to questions from the Board and receiving feedback, the Board discussed the options for consideration. They asked Mr. Reimer to see if the Town of Somerset would be able to offset some of the expense and to come back with a recommendation based on the discussion which occurred. They agreed that the out-of-district students should pay the full amount, that a gradual increase for residents needs to occur and communication to explain the rationale of the change would be beneficial. They also noted that consideration of the needs of the students on the free or reduced lunch program should be evaluated as part of the recommendation.

POLICIES

Upon motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, the Board agreed to move the second reading and approve the following policies:

1. 3420 Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the School District;
2. 3430 Uniform Violent and Disruptive Incident Reporting System (VADIR);
3. 3510 Emergency School Closings;
4. 4110 Administrative Personnel;
5. 4111 The Goal of School Administration;
6. 4210 Administrative Organization and Operation;
7. 4211 Organizational Chart;
8. 4220 Administrative Authority; and
9. 4230 District Committees.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

The Board then reviewed the first reading of the following policies noting no concerns with the recommended changes:

1. 4240 Evaluation of the Superintendent and Other Administrative Staff;
2. 4310 Superintendent of Schools;
3. 4320 Superintendent - Board of Education Relations;
4. 4410 Professional Development Opportunities;
5. 4420 Compensation and Related Benefits;
6. 5110 Budget Planning and Development;
7. 5120 School District Budget Hearing;
8. 5130 Budget Adoption; and
9. 5140 Administration of the Budget.

EDUCATION None.

**PERSONNEL
ITEMS**

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the resolution conferring tenure of Michelle Wing in the area of Social Studies 7-12 effective September 1, 2019 subject to that the employee must meet all requirements of the educational law and corresponding regulations.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.



The Board congratulated Ms. Wing on her achievement. Mr. Reimer explained to the students in the audience, what this achievement means for a teacher as well as the district s/he works for.

The students in the audience were excused at 8:13 PM.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve the appointment of Linda Schrader as a Substitute Teacher at a per diem rate, as well as a Substitute Teaching Assistant and Substitute Teacher Aide at a rate of \$11.10/hour for Grades 7 - 12 effective April 9, 2019.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve the appointment of Alexandra Lakeman as a Substitute Teacher at a per diem rate, as well as a Substitute Teaching Assistant and Substitute Teacher Aide at a rate of \$11.10/hour for Grades 7 - 12 effective April 9, 2019 subject to fingerprint clearance and background check.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve the appointment of Philip Russell as a Substitute Teacher at a per diem rate for Grades K - 12 effective April 9, 2019.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve the appointment of Kathleen Punch as a Substitute Teacher at a per diem rate for Grades 7 - 12 effective April 9, 2019 subject to fingerprint clearance and background check.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve the appointment of Emily Annable as a Substitute Teacher at a per diem rate for Grades Pre-K - 6 effective April 9, 2019 subject to fingerprint clearance and background check.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve the appointment of Maya Gooding as a Substitute Teacher at a per diem rate for Grades Pre-K - 6 effective April 9, 2019 subject to fingerprint clearance and background check.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve Deanna Catalano as a Student Teacher from Niagara University for the 2018 - 2019 school year from Monday, March 18, 2019 - Wednesday, May 9, 2019 with Deanna Nestoros in Grade 2.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve the appointment of Nicole Blasko as a Substitute Nurse effective April 9, 2019 at a rate of \$115.00/day subject to fingerprint clearance and background check.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve the appointment of Nancy Zimmerman as a Substitute Nurse effective April 9, 2019 at a rate of \$115.00/day subject to fingerprint clearance and background check.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve the appointment of Sherri Ober as Junior Class Adviser effective March 5, 2019, Category B, Step 2.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve Jacob L. Reimer and Deborah Farese as APPR Principal Evaluators.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve Rebecca Huenemoerder as a Substitute Cleaner effective April 9, 2019 at a rate of \$11.10/hour subject to fingerprint clearance and background check.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve the following individuals to present to or shadow classes as part of the post-secondary education requirements: Maya Gooding, Kyle Moeller.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve the following parent/community volunteer: Derek Carnes.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Mead, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Barker Central School District and Deborah Farese, the Director of Instructional Services, effective July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2019 as executed on April 5, 2019.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL

ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the Warrant Report dated April 8, 2019.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the Extraclassroom Report through March 31, 2019.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the Treasurer's Report dated January and February 2019.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the School Safety Excellence Award at the Titanium with Honors level in the amount of \$500.00 from Utica National Insurance Group.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the budget transfer for the SRO services as per the agreement with the Town of Somerset.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve that the Superintendent of Schools has the authority to make the determination to dispose of surplus property that will result in the best financial gain to the Barker School District.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the resolution pertaining the District's Proposed Capital Outlay Project which is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act for the 2019 - 2020 school year.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District desires to embark upon the District Proposed Capital Outlay Project involving upgrades to hardware and electronic devices to increase the safety and security of the Central Building. In addition, mechanical components will be updated and several windows will be replaced, including related building components to make replacements; and

WHEREAS, said Project is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR); and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of SEQR; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District has examined all information related to the Project and has determined that the Project as a whole is classified a Type II action in accordance with 6 NYCRR Section 617.5 (c) (1) which constitutes the "maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility" and is therefore not subject to review under 6 NYCRR Part 617.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, approve a five-year contract for the school years 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021, 2021 - 2022, 2022 - 2023, and 2023 - 2024 which is subject to the passing of the 2019 - 2020 school budget on May 21, 2019, otherwise approve a one-year contract for school year 2019 - 2020, with STA of New York Inc./Ridge Road Express. STA of New York, Inc. has been determined to be the lowest responsible bidder per bid conditions and respondent bids received March 29, 2019 for Barker Transportation Services, as well as Lake Country Regional Transportation Services.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



The Board read the recommendation pertaining to the 2019 – 2020 budget. Ms. Heiligenthaler then presented the proposed budget for 2019 – 2020, which totaled \$17,242,346 representing an increase of \$214,807 or 1.26% from the prior year. She reviewed the history of the budget from 2013 to present, noting it represents an overall decrease of 9.18% from the 2013 – 2014 school year. She detailed the revenue components, up 1.26% or \$214,807 from the prior year (proposed budget for 2019 – 2020 to 2018 – 2019 actual). She commented that State Aid was the largest portion of the revenues comprising 47%, again as discussed, the Foundation Aid being the largest portion of that figure. Revenue from Local Share comprises 38.57%, with Fund Balance at 14.28% and Other at 0.14%. She broke out the areas which make up the State Aid portion of the budget. The Expense Based Aid was detailed and represent the reimbursements in the year following an expenditure, noting that the Capital Outlay is not in the figures and would result in an \$88,000 increase in aid if completed on time. Overall, Expense Based Aid has decreased 2.23% primarily due to a decrease in Building Aid. The Calculated Tax Levy which could have been collected by the District for the next school year was \$4,534,739 or 4.9%. Based on the discussion at prior meetings, the proposed budget used the 4.0% tax levy as determined by the Board which is not exceeding the calculated tax levy so a simple majority is required to pass the budget. PILOT/Other aid was reviewed with Mayer Brothers and Somerset Power Plan representing \$32,499 and \$1,777,500 respectively. Ms. Heiligenthaler also reviewed the Fund Balance for the proposed 2019 – 2020 budget which uses \$2,466,981 or \$46,979 less than the prior year.

Ms. Heiligenthaler then reviewed Expenditures in detail which totaled \$17,272,346 or an increase of 1.26% or \$214,807 for the proposed budget. Instructional is 76.12% of the budget expense and represents a \$122,218 increase from the prior year primarily due to agreed upon salary changes per contract. As reviewed by Ms. Heiligenthaler earlier in the meeting, as a result of the bid process, Pupil Transportation increased substantially by \$382,491 or 38.24%. She highlighted other areas of increases and reductions within the expenditure portion of the budget as detailed in the presentation.

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, approve the proposed budget of expenditures of the Barker Central School District for the 2019 - 2020 school year in the amount of \$17,272,346 and direct that such proposed budget of expenditures be submitted to the District voters on May 21, 2019 as Proposition 1.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, approve the Property Tax Report Card upon approval of the 2019 - 2020 Barker Central School Budget.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

END OF PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to end the Public Session and enter into Executive Session at 8:28 PM for the purpose of discussing negotiations and matters of a particular personnel.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 9:20 PM and return to Public Session.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the end of the Public Session and adjourn the meeting at 9:21 PM.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk