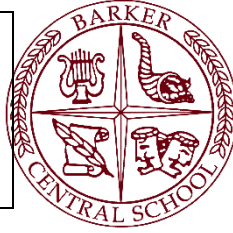


**NOTICE: THESE ARE DRAFT UNOFFICIAL
MINUTES AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL
FINAL APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION.**



**BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Board Room
Monday, March 11, 2019**

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

EXCUSED L. Mead

ALSO

PRESENT J. Reimer, M. Carter, M. Eadie, D. Farese, C. Heiligenthaler, J. Hoar
Public: 13

**CALL TO
ORDER**

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

**APPROVE
AGENDA**

Mr. Reimer noted a correction to Section 10, Business & Financial Items, Letter D for the budget transfer number which should have been \$101,200 vs. the \$2,192,932 figure noted that represented the entire budget for the year vs. the transfer amount. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clements-Harris.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**ACCEPT
MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to accept the minutes from the February 11, 2019 Regular meeting.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC
FORUM**

No items were brought forward.

PRESENTATIONS

Special Education Program Overview/Curriculum Update

Mrs. Farese provided a detailed report on the Special Education area focusing on costs and enrollment numbers for Barker. Since BEDS Day, in October 2018 to present, the students receiving special education services have increased by 13, 7 of which resulted in the need for Out-of-District placement at a prorated unbudgeted cost of \$120,000 for the remainder of this school year. This cost for



the 2019 – 2020 school year will be \$220,000 for the District. The current Out-of-District placements include: 20 students at BOCES, which includes special education students at the Academy, for an approximate cost of \$1,161,000. Five (5) student placements through a cross contract prorated, totaled \$86,869, which is projected to be \$125,000 for the next year. There are also six (6) students in private placement at a cost of \$234,666. Mrs. Farese noted that the Out-of-District costs for this year are projected to be \$1,482,000 at year-end, of which the District is projected to receive \$418,000 back in aid. She said the goal would be to keep each student in District, however, placement is based on the best match for the individual needs, thus resulting in some Out-of-District placement. With regard to in District special education placement, the salaries and benefits for the department (teachers, staff, clerical, outside support services) are approximately \$1.3 million this year with no aid in return. Combined In-District and Out-of-District expense this year are projected to be just under \$3 million at year-end for special education services provided to 114 students. This represents 15% of the student population. This percentage is higher than past years, but a trend being experienced regionally. Mrs. Farese noted that Mr. Reimer offered space within the District for placement purposes for O/N BOCES special education classes but BOCES opted for a site in Niagara Falls as the majority of the students were closer to that location.

Mrs. Farese then provided an enrollment update noting there are currently 741 students in Barker, 331 in the Jr./Sr. High and 410 in the Elementary, of which there are 37 in Pre-K.

Mrs. Farese noted that last week the Commissioner of Education released additional parent guides to help parents make informed educational decisions for their children regarding 3-8 assessments. Administration will be a meeting tomorrow to decide what pieces will be most beneficial to disseminate to parents with students in Grades 3-8.

Mrs. Farese provided an update on activities and programs she and Sue Capell of Youth Mentoring Services are working on for the students. She also noted that the Civil Rights data collection process, which takes place every two years, has begun.

Budget Discussion/Financial Update

Ms. Heilenthaler distributed and provided a detailed review of the revenues projected for 2019 – 2020 based on the State Executive Proposal, compared to projected totals for year-end 2018 – 2019, noting that the Legislative Proposal has not been released. She walked the Board through the various categories. Foundation Aid revenue is a formula-based aid. The other aids are expense-based aids. Items within this designation are purchased in one year and are offset by aid the following year, except building aid, which is received over a number of years. BOCES aid is projected to be \$564,334, and it is anticipated that it will increase approximately \$124,000 from the governor's projection as a result of incorrect reporting of a \$160,000 deduct from the prior year as non-aidable. High Cost Excess Aid represents monies that the District receives back for placement of students with special needs at BOCES and other public school districts. This is based on the 2018-19 actual enrollment and is projected at \$245,517, and is



relatively close to what the school would project. Private Excess Cost Aid (uses 2018-19 actual enrollment) is proposed to be \$124,267 compared to a District estimate of \$171,254. Hardware and Software/Library/Textbook revenue are based on the number of students and remain in line with year-end projections. Mrs. Heiligenthaler noted that the Executive Proposal for Transportation Aid is overstated at \$743,123 by roughly \$33,000 as the State uses a budget number in the calculation compared to the actual expenses. The Building Aid estimate at \$976,919 does not include the \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project which would result in additional aid of \$88,000. Overall, the Executive Proposal represents a 1.86% increase which is inclusive of approximately \$227,000 of potential additional increases, and the District needs to monitor what comes in to offset reserves when revenue is realized.

Mr. Reimer noted that last weekend at the NYSCOSS Conference addresses regarding legislative matters, as well as revenue and placement within the budget took place. An outside group provided feedback that in their view could be \$999 million more in revenue available to Districts than the Governor was projecting. The State Comptroller stated he could comfortably predict \$190 million. Mr. Reimer said that based on the District's size, he did not expect to receive much of the increase in revenue or a bump in the foundation aid allocation.

Ms. Heiligenthaler then reviewed the District and Contract Transportation expense lines in detail. She noted the Salaries – Transportation Clerical line does not have a figure in it yet for the upcoming year as the appropriate allocation from her salary needs to be determined given the change in this role from Mrs. Stoll to Ms. Heiligenthaler. She noted that this is not salary on top of her current salary that is expensed, rather a percentage of her salary is netted out to this expense line and will generate aid back to the District. She also stated that once the transportation bids are received, the Contract Transportation figures will be updated for a more accurate picture of the overall expense. With regard to the transportation bid process, Barker, Royalton-Hartland and Lyndonville are working with Transportation Advisory Services (“TAS”), Mark Walsh, on a combined cooperative bid for transportation runs, as well as separate district individual run bids. She reviewed the timeline of the bid process. The Board was informed that Barker's individual bid will reflect in a change from 9 to 11 runs, a two-tier release at the end of the day, with the bid language allowing for flexibility to increase and decrease the number of buses the District would need given the 2019 – 2020 school year would be the initial year of having a aligned start and end time for the school day.

Ms. Heiligenthaler then reviewed the BOCES budget components relating to current contracted services for instructional services. The comparison of the proposed budget for next year to current contract levels results in a \$23,500 projected increase. She reviewed the components representing the larger positive and negative changes. Some of the changes noted include: (a.) Teaching which represents the expense for students that attend general education programs at BOCES and also home, hospital, and out-of-school suspension tutoring; (b.) Occupational Education increased as a three-year average is used and the number



of students attending this program has increased each year; and (c.) Technology which has the printer discussed at the February meeting budgeted for.

Mr. Reimer noted that the majority of the budget to budget expense increase is related to transportation. He stated that he is hoping that this substantial portion of the expense increase will be reduced with the receipt of the transportation bids figures in a few weeks. He then reviewed the revenue projections, the increase in aid vs. expenses, and reiterated that the only solution to the resultant \$2.7± million deficit gap between budgeted expenses and revenues is to increase new revenue, and decrease year over year expenses, as one-time expense cuts help but will not have a long-term impact on the budget that is needed.

Given the uncertainty related to the timeframe to pass the State budget, Mr. Reimer proposed the need to have the second meeting later in April as discussed during the review and approval of the budget calendar at the November 19, 2018 Board of Education meeting. After discussion, the Board concurred to hold the meeting immediately following the BOCES board meeting which is scheduled for April 23 at 7:30 AM in order to review and make a determination on the adoption of the 2019 – 2020 budget.

Mr. Reimer and Ms. Heilighenthaler responded to questions throughout the presentation.

Elementary Update

Mr. Hoar provided an update on PARP activities coordinated by Mrs. Gallagher during the month of March, as well as the successful band Spectrum Concert held March 7.

Jr./Sr. High School Update

Mr. Carter thanked the Board for the support of the SRO initiative, stating having an SRO in District is very good for the students as well as everyone. He noted that the three SROs split the week, have very different personalities, and are already in the classrooms, getting to know students and staff. The presence has proven to be a great resource already, citing examples. He commented it also sets a great tone to the building and what is going on within the District. He then discussed one of the Building Leadership Team's activities of recent, which has been to take a look at the Student of the Month program. As a result, they determined the program's selection process needed to be changed to make it more meaningful and understandable to the students. This change builds off the new Mission and Vision of the District with the focus each month being on a particular character trait. March's character trait for the selection process is perseverance and explained how that trait would be applied. Mr. Carter then distributed information related to the commencement of the Remind application to provide individuals access to daily announcements and activities within District. He also noted all those supporting the 8th Grade to make their Washington DC trip as economically possible for the students as a result of successful fundraising activities.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
INFORMATION**

Mr. Reimer further discussed the revenue and State aid conversations he had last week at NYSCOSS, as well as connections made with other districts. He stated there will be more conversations with our local legislators to come. He also discussed that he and Ms. Heilenthaler looked at and broke down the foundation aid components for Barker, as well as for another very similar district that was almost identical to Barker. He noted that that district received almost \$8 million in aid, almost double what Barker receives. The analysis revealed that back in the 2006 – 2007 school year the State set the foundation aid formula, which was when the Somerset Power Plant had a positive impact on the overall economic state of the area, and the calculation has not changed since then, albeit it does not reflect the drastic changes since it was set. In order to change the foundation aid base, Barker would need to get a rewrite of legislation and limiting factors. Mr. Reimer noted that this had been done successfully in other districts. As such, Mr. Reimer plans to set up meeting with some districts in the similar situation to try to develop special legislation. He noted that demographics of these districts is different from rural Barker.

Mr. Reimer then discussed the development of an advocacy toolkit by the District for legislative purposes, noting that most communications would be directed to Governor Cuomo for impact and that this work should commence now even though it would not have an effect on this budget round. Once the documentation is finalized, the information would be put on the school website for parents, community members, staff and students to utilize. The goal is to advocate for Barker and formulate legislative changes to have a more appropriate allocation of aid flow to Barker.

Mr. Atwater inquired as to if a resolution of support for the legislative actions would be appropriate. Mr. Reimer stated that one will be developed for review by the Board at a future meeting.

With the approval of the Strategic Plan in February, Mr. Reimer stated he anticipates that the major components to support the plan will be done by May/June for the commencement of the new school year. Information on the Plan will be rolled out soon as appropriate.

Mr. Reimer informed the Board that a lead point attorney utilized at Harris Beach, LLP has left the firm for another firm. That firm does not currently have a specialized education area that the attorney worked in to assist the District. As such, he asked the Board to consider adding the attorney at that new firm as special counsel to close out issues in the interim given the attorney's complete history on the open matters. Another attorney from Harris Beach has been in contact with Mr. Reimer, who he is familiar with and worked with in the past. Mr. Reimer stated he is confident the attorney would be able to address the District's needs. He will arrange an introductory meeting with the Board in April if possible.



Mr. Reimer then brought forward for consideration an administrative change that could be combined with the alignment of a single-bell schedule in the upcoming school year which the District would utilize a single Pre-K – 12 Principal and implement two Instructional Support Staff members, one at the Jr./Sr. High level and one at the Elementary level. This idea resulted as part of the review of all processes to determine where money could be saved and efficiencies gained. This administrative adjustment would change the number of teachers directly in the classroom (but not overall) and the District would be able to absorb one administrative position. Therefore, if implemented successfully, results in an annual recurring cost savings vs. a one-time cost cutting item (which would not have a long-term positive impact on the budget deficit). The Instructional Support Specialists would be teachers who remain within the tenure area, but they support instructional initiatives for the teachers and students, work on instructional and professional development, assist with student behaviors, and a number of other areas. The Support Specialists would not do evaluations as it is not allowed by Education law. Suspensions would continue to be addressed through Mr. Carter. Mr. Reimer reviewed the discussions and work that led up to this idea. Initially, he discussed this idea with Mr. Carter in September/October, after several meetings and working through the idea, Mr. Carter was on board with it. He noted that he has met with the BTU and laid out the idea, and the Union has had subsequent meetings regarding it too. Mr. Reimer said it is imperative that the BTU supports the idea for this initiative to work. He noted that the BTU President, Mrs. Lakeman, followed up with him and said the Union will support the decision, and that while there are still issues to work through, they agreed to try for the upcoming school year. Mr. Reimer acknowledged that it is a change with risks, but believes the District needs to take this step at this time because of the sheer financial condition of the District. He commented that if this initiative does not work, the District can readjust, but if it does work, the continued savings would be used to the benefit of the students. Mr. Reimer asked if the Board had any major concerns with this initiative. He responded to Mrs. Gancasz regarding Mr. Carter's elementary experience which Mr. Reimer said is being addressed through a mentoring process, most likely with a retired elementary principal. He also commented that a centralized location for Mr. Carter is also being looked into. Based on a question from Mr. Sweeney, Mr. Reimer discussed the ideas to date regarding the selection process for the Instruction Support Specialists, and the preferred qualifications of the candidates. He noted that the positions would remain a 10-month position, duties would be very fluid, and noted there may be some items to work through with regard to the Union contract, but nothing significant. He also discussed ideas for training the staff. Mrs. Dabill commented that the Union had members that had pros, cons and some indecision with regard to the Instructional Support Specialist idea, but decided as a Union to support the decision as professionals. Mr. Reimer asked if the Board supported this concept, noting, if not, work to replace the elementary principal would need to begin quickly. Mr. Reimer responded to questions throughout the presentation and the Board agreed that this is an opportunity worth pursuing and which they support.

Mr. Reimer then discussed information developed to date with SEI, the District's architect, with regard to a possible Capital Project. The goal of the project was to



create efficiencies and cut costs within the District with minimal financial expense being expended. He walked the Board through one example which addressed duplicative services for areas of the cafeteria and library that could be reconfigured within the building. The plan would allow for common areas, and areas with retractable walls for greater usage opportunities to adjust to the District's future needs. He also discussed a solar project idea to leverage District space and create energy production which would cost the District very little to implement. He discussed the size systems that could be built and the differences, noting that the 24.9 megawatt producing system area would be the largest the District would want because of Article 10 legislation. He also noted the need to tie into a substation and work to be done to bring the energy to the school which could decrease expenses. The solar project could also provide revenue to the District through the sale of the extra energy generated. This revenue, along with the building aid received, would substantially offset most, if not all, of the project expense in the near term if done together, along with creating an ongoing revenue source for the District through the sale of the excess energy generated. Mr. Reimer outlined a timeline for the various steps with a Capital Project, and his views on having a Capital Project vote later in the year around the Fall season rather than May given the number of components to it, determination on the amount of aid available from the Governor's budget, development of grant submissions, and the timeline projected to commence work to address when the District would be in session. He noted that the timeline for approval of the various steps could be expedited if a third party review was performed but there would be a related expense to that process to consider. After a lengthy discussion, with questions from the Board responded to, the Board concurred that the Capital Project did make economic sense to move forward with.

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

1. 3272 Advertising in the Schools;
2. 3280 Use of School Facilities, Materials and Equipment;
3. 3281 Use of Facilities By The Boy Scouts of America and Patriotic Youth Groups;
4. 3290 Operation of Motor-Driven Vehicles on District Property;
5. 3310 Public Access to Records;
6. 3320 Confidentiality of Computerized Information;
7. 3410 Code of Conduct on School Property;
8. 3411 Prohibition of Weapons on School Grounds; and
9. 3412 Threats of Violence in School.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

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

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.

EDUCATION Mr. Reimer presented and discussed the proposed 2019 – 2020 school calendar. Mr. Reimer explained State law with regard to conference days and affect on the student/teacher day counts.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded Mrs. Voss to approve the calendar as presented.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to approve the appointment of Jamie Schwab as a Substitute Teacher at a per diem rate and as a Substitute Teacher Aide at a rate of \$11.10 per hour for Grades Pre-K - 12 effective March 12, 2019.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to approve the appointment of Monica LaRock as a Substitute Teacher Aide at a rate of \$11.10/hour for Grades Pre-K - 6 effective March 12, 2019.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to approve the appointment of Phyllis Harris as a Substitute Typist effective March 12, 2019 at a rate of \$11.10/hour.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to approve the non-paid coach appointments for the Spring season of the 2018 – 2019 school year: Bill Moeller for Varsity Softball and Jon Dewart for Track & Field.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to approve the appointment of Election Inspectors for the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2019:

Inspectors: \$80.00 for the day:

- 1.) Marcia Frost
- 2.) Janet Kerth
- 3.) Grace Bodine
- 4.) Fran Costello - Alternate - Paid only if called
- 5.) Karen DeMorest - Alternate - Paid only if called
- 6.) Cheryl Reed - Alternate - Paid only if called



Voting Machine Custodian: \$90.00 for the day

1.) Matthew Costello

Election Chairman

1.) Sue Benoit

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to accept the resignation, with commendation and regret, of Audrey Goodale as a Full-time Cleaner effective February 28, 2019 and approve her appointment as a Substitute Cleaner effective March 12, 2019 at a rate of \$11.10/hour.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to accept the resignation of Amy Dewart, Teacher, with commendation and regret for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2019.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Reimer noted the replacement for the Junior Class Advisor appointment will be brought forward in April. Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to accept the resignation of Jackie Moffitt as Junior Class Advisor effective March 4, 2019.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL

ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the Warrant Report dated March 11, 2019.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to accept the Treasurer's Report dated December 2018.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the Agreement Regarding A Cooperative Transportation Bid between Barker Central, Royalton-Hartland Central, and Lyndonville Central School Districts.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the budget transfers for the 2018 - 2019 school year totaling \$101,200.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the budget transfer for student tuition for mid-year special education placements in the amount of \$6,000 for two students to Roy-Hart and \$20,000 for one student to Hillside.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Royalton-Hartland Central School District and Barker Central School District for the sharing of opportunities and resources of Interscholastic Wrestling at the Varsity and Modified levels for the 2019 - 2020 school year.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Barker Central School and Medina Central School for the sharing of opportunities and resources of Interscholastic Football at the Varsity and Junior Varsity levels for the 2019 - 2020 school year.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

END OF PUBLIC

SESSION Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to end the Public Session and enter into Executive Session at 8:38 PM for the purpose of (a.) review of a legal matter, (b.) negotiations, and (c.) discuss matters of a particular personnel.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE

SESSION Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 9:30 PM and return to Public Session.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to approve the end of the Public Session and adjourn the meeting at 9:49 PM.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk