



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Board Room
Monday, February 11, 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
Public: 0

**CALL TO
ORDER**

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

**APPROVE
AGENDA**

Mr. Atwater discussed a change in meeting procedure which would provide the Board the opportunity to make any changes to the agenda since its release. The Board concurred with this idea. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**ACCEPT
MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to accept the minutes from the January 14, 2019 Regular meeting.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**PUBLIC
FORUM**

No items were brought forward.

PRESENTATIONS

Elementary Update

Mr. Hoar discussed the increase in student absences due to illness/flu, a reminder letter sent home to parents/guardians from Ms. McKee, School Nurse, about how to assist in minimizing the spread of illnesses, and noted that Facilities continues to be diligent with the cleaning of classrooms and public areas. He noted various



events including 100 Days of School, faculty team bonding breakfasts, and Pick a Reading Partner.

Jr./Sr. High School Update

Mr. Carter discussed a Buffalo News article published February 3, 2019 regarding the graduation rates as reported from NYSED which listed Barker with the second highest graduation rate at 98%, after City Honors with 99%. He then discussed the benefits of providing the opportunity for students to take the English Regents exam in January, in addition to June, noting the positive results with 54 of 59 students passing of which 29 obtaining the masterly level. He also discussed the ongoing phasing in of the community service requirements for graduation. Based on limitations of families which causes difficulties for students to be able to attend certain meetings, he suggested an adjustment to the town and village meeting requirements which would be implemented in the next school year. After discussion and receipt of recommendations from the Board, they concurred that the change was appropriate and should be made. Mr. Carter provided an overview of a project he put forth to the Tech classes with regard to designing a different Distinguished Alumni display. He showed examples of suggested plans to date developed by Messrs. Mallon and Nash's students. He discussed the usage of a CAD machine by the students, as well as a laser printer on loan to District. He commented that the usage of these tools has taught the students different skills and applications, as well as shown them different career opportunities. He responded to questions from the Board on the laser printer.

Curriculum Update

Mrs. Farese highlighted activities of the students including the newly created Spark Club, and Cornell's Food, Farms and You. She noted the receipt of the ENL Professional Development Waiver for the 2018 - 2019 school year from the State; the final Title I allocation was provided and decreased by about \$151; and the Grade 3 – 8 Assessment results and graduation rates for 2017 - 2018 have been made available on the NYSED Report Card website. She discussed upcoming meetings, including one with Sue Capell from Youth Mentoring Services of WNY to address social and emotional program opportunities, as well as participation in STEM programs for elementary and middle students. She will be meeting with Steve Metzger, from O/N BOCES' Center for Professional Development and School Improvement regarding ELA, Reading and Writing curriculum mapping. She also shared a "draft" math mapping example with the Board, and provided BCS student enrollment.

Financial Update

Ms. Heilenthaler distributed and discussed a summary of Barker's fiscal and environmental stress designations based off the 2017 – 2018 year-end school year. She reviewed the various components and calculations used in formulating a designation, and what the end result score means. Mr. Reimer noted that this report came out about seven years ago (Mr. Cuomo & Office of the Comptroller) to show how many districts have adequate/good reserves and those determined to be in some level of fiscal stress. At present, Barker qualifies for "No Designation" in both areas. Mrs. Heilenthaler noted the fiscal stress designation is on the edge of



moving to the next level, Susceptible Fiscal Stress designation. This negative upward trend indicates continued/greater fiscal stress on the District. Reasons for this were discussed and would also indicate that the District would need to utilize unrestricted cash. Once a district reaches a particular percentage of total points, they are listed on the Comptroller website based on the level of fiscal stress calculated. The negative impact the higher ratings and being on the list as it correlates to future credit ratings and ability to borrow were discussed. Mr. Reimer noted that where the District is now and will be in three-years will be very different if no changes are made.

Ms. Heilighenthaler then walked the Board through a detailed line by line of the accounts and components with that make up the General Support, Community Service, and Undistributed areas of the budget. She reviewed the reports, compared the 2018 – 2019 budget to projected year-end and the projected dollar and percentage change in budget for 2019 – 2020. She discussed contributing factors to larger changes/fluctuations. She also discussed that this was a fluid document which will be updated continuously as more information is received and numbers finalized. She responded to various questions throughout the presentation.

With regard to the Community Service budget, which is the Summer recreation program, the Board and Administration discussed the cost of the program vs. what is being charged. Both parties provided and discussed feedback received from the community on the program and agreed, that it needs to become a self-supporting program.

Ms. Heilighenthaler then reviewed the zero-based budget master worksheet which was updated since the review at the January meeting. To date, the 2019 – 2020 shortfall (deficit) between budgeted expenses and new revenues is currently projected to be approximately \$3.09 million without the application of a reserve. Ms. Heilighenthaler reiterated what she stated in January, that the only three ways to close the budget gap/shortfall would be to find more revenue, decrease budgeted and actual expenses, or use fund balance. The Board discussed the impact of depleting the future tax proceeding reserve, and Mr. Reimer reminded them that once this reserve fund is exhausted, the District would need to utilize restricted funds which would require taxpayer permission, and that the District's goal is to get to a balanced budget in three (3) years.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S

INFORMATION Mr. Reimer presented the draft Vision, Mission and Values for the Board to discuss and finalize. After a lengthy discussion and agreement on the changes, a motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to approve the new Vision, Mission, and Foundational Values for Barker Central School District as follows:

**Vision**

To be a leader in bringing out the best in each individual in our community.

Mission

We will provide a school environment that fosters respect, compassion, tolerance, and nurtures life-long learners who make meaningful contributions to society.

Foundational Values

1. **FAMILY** - A belief that the health, fulfillment and kinship of family members is essential to sustenance, satisfaction, stability, and/or legacy.
2. **INTEGRITY** - A sincere commitment to truth, trust and reliability.
3. **KINDNESS** - A commitment to a disposition for pleasantness, tenderness and consideration towards others.
4. **HONESTY**- A commitment to factual and objective straightforwardness.
5. **LOVE** - Having a deep affection for another (or for others) that causes one to put their needs ahead of one's own.
6. **COMPASSION** - Taking into account the feelings and needs of others.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Reimer continued with a discussion regarding the District's goals and development of a structure to communicate them. He distributed three different examples, noting that there are a number of different formats the Board could adopt and reviewed the differences between the ones provided. The Board discussed the options and agreed that to list the overarching goals, then actions steps to achieve the goals, and the measurement of success would be most beneficial. Mr. Reimer then solicited feedback on the Board's opinion on how to move forward with the process, providing examples of different methods. The goals would cover a five-year plan period, would be fluid and dynamic, and adjusted annually if necessary. Upon conclusion of the discussion, they concurred that the Board would provide the overarching goals, and the Administration and staff would develop the action steps and measurements to monitor achievement of the goals. Mr. Reimer noted research on the number of goals one should strive to achieve at a given time. The Board discussed and agreed that given the large tasks at hand, 3-4 goals were appropriate. Mr. Reimer noting that smaller impact items could be put within a goal objective action steps. The Board discussed various goals and upon conclusion, agreed to the following:

- 1.) Improve/Increase the well-being of the school community;
- 2.) Increase student engagement and learning;
- 3.) Increase student investment in the community; and
- 4.) Reach a balanced budget that is sustainable for the future.

Correlation and application of the goals with the Vision, Mission and Foundation Values were also discussed, and examples provided. Mr. Reimer stated that work on the plans with the staff to identify what needs we have, options available, and provide measures to monitor improvement towards the achievement of the goals will take the next few months to have finalized for the beginning of the 2019 – 2020



school year. These goals need to be in the forefront of all decision making and what the District does.

A motion to endorse the four overarching goals as outlined above as intended as a basis for the five-year strategic plan of the District was moved by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Voss and approved.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Motion carried.

The Board received as summary of the discussion, comments, questions and answers from the February 5, 2019 Public Forum held to solicit feedback on the potential change to an aligned Pre-K – 12 start time. The Board members that were in attendance, along with Administration, provided their views of the community's perspective, agreeing that the overall consensus of those in attendance was favorable for the change. Mr. Reimer provided subsequent feedback from faculty, as well as students on the proposal, again favorable.

The group also discussed bussing concerns relating to the aligned start/end times, and Mr. Reimer and Ms. Heiligenthaler reviewed transportation options they are looking into to contain costs and meet the District's needs. Mr. Atwater commended and thanked Mr. Reimer and his staff for work they have done to date to thoroughly research numerous options to help the District overall and its financial position, especially the projects regarding the alignment of start times and transportation and the patience to address all those concerned.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, with all questions responded to, a motion to endorse and approve the alignment of the start times for the 2019 – 2020 school year and granting authority to the Superintendent to implement and approve start time alignment plan components was moved by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Reimer reviewed a draft school calendar including the required number of staff and student days, as well as acknowledging that students in other programs would need to be considered. The Board provided feedback and asked that a proposed calendar be presented at the March meeting.

Based upon last month's discussion, Mr. Reimer informed that Board that members of the joint committee of the town and school will be held February 27 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room to discuss the idea of shared services possibilities.

Mr. Reimer has met with town library officials and has another meeting set for this Friday afternoon to continue discussions regarding options available to the Library from the District. He discussed that the library board has asked to be placed on the



budget/election ballot for the May 21, 2019 to request vote for an increase to their annual levy by 2% which represents an overall increase of \$1,500.00.

With regard to the ballot, Mr. Reimer discussed the views on having a referendum on the ballot for a capital project. He told of work to date and pending the outcome of certain initiatives which would make a project feasible. He noted potential projects and funding sources, which would assist and enable possible capital projects to be done if they were to come to fruition. He responded to various questions from the Board and noted that the item could be taken off the ballot if it is determined it is not feasible at this time. The Board agreed that it would be beneficial to continue to move forward in order to be ready to implement if in the best interest of the District in the long-term to create efficiencies, revenue and cost-savings.

Mr. Reimer noted that one retirement notice was received to date from an individual and that there may be potentially one more. He will keep the Board updated.

Mr. Reimer discussed the SRO contract being brought forward for approval with changes made since the action in January, noted that the start date of the Officer is pending the receipt of the Certificate of Insurance and the salary will be prorated based upon that official start date.

Mr. Reimer noted a change in the election process this year which the District will utilize only one machine for voting vs. two, which subsequently equates to the reduction in the number of election inspectors needed from six to three. The decision was based upon past usage trends, feedback received from past workers, and trying to manage expenses. The election inspectors, custodian and chairperson will be presented for approval at the March meeting.

POLICIES

Upon motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Mead, the Board agreed to move the second reading and approve the following policies:

1. 3140 Flag Display;
2. 3150 School Volunteers;
3. 3210 Visitors to the School;
4. 3220 Recognition for Accomplishment;
5. 3230 Public Complaints;
6. 3240 Student Participation;
7. 3250 Parent-Teacher-Student Association;
8. 3260 Use of Service Animals; and
9. 3271 Solicitation of Charitable Donations.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

The Board then reviewed the first reading of 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.

EDUCATION None.

PERSONNEL

ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the Susan Lanighan as a Parent/Community Volunteer.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the appointment of Kristen Noltee as a Substitute Teacher for Grades Pre-K - 12 effective January 22, 2019 at a per diem rate.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the Interscholastic Athletic appointments for the 2018 - 2019 School Year for Spring Sports:

Spring Sport	Coach	Step	Salary
Varsity Baseball	Rob Mucha	Step 4	\$5,326
JV Baseball	Tyler Evans	Step 1	\$4,013
Varsity Softball	Aileen Hinton	Step 2	\$5,104
JV Softball	Ryan Carberry	Step 2	\$4,062
Tennis	Jeff Pyskaty	Step 4	\$4,655
Varsity Track & Field Head Coach	Sharon Lamb	Step 2	\$5,104
Varsity Track & Field Assistant	Karen Menz	Step 1	\$3,791
Varsity Track & Field Assistant	Heather McIntyre	Step 1	\$3,791
Modified Track & Field	Paul DerSarkissian	Step 4	\$2,382
Varsity Baseball Assistant	Jim Harris	Unpaid	
Track Assistant	Bill Wilson	Unpaid	

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL

ITEMS

The Board discussed the request for a special Board Meeting for the purpose of voting on the Orleans/Niagara BOCES administrative budget and the election of members to the BOCES Board of Education and agreed that 7:30 AM on April 23, 2019 would allow for a quorum.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker to accept the Treasurer's Report for November 2018.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to accept the Warrant Report dated February 11, 2019.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the addition of a Special Meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 7:30 AM for the purpose of voting on the Orleans/Niagara BOCES administrative budget and the election of members to the BOCES Board of Education.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the resolution pertaining to the Agreement between Barker Central School District and the Town of Somerset for which the District will obtain the services of a Full-Time School Resource Officer.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to accept the donation, with appreciation and gratitude, a donation from Reid Stores, Inc. in the amount of \$500.00.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

END OF PUBLIC

SESSION Motion by Mrs. Ecker, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to end the Public Session and enter into Executive Session at 9:09 PM for the purpose of (a.) review of a legal matter, (b.) discuss matters of a particular personnel, and (c.) negotiations.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE

SESSION Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 9:50 PM and return to Public Session.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the adjournment of the meeting at 9:51 PM.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk