



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Board Room
Monday, January 14, 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: 4

CALL TO ORDER

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

ACCEPT MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, to accept the minutes from the December 10, 2018 Regular meeting.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

No items were brought forward.

PRESENTATIONS

Elementary Update

Mr. Hoar provided an update on the work of the Pratt Building Leadership Team, and the development of an elementary level Student Council. Mr. Hoar noted his appreciation of the expeditious and professional manner in which the Facilities Department addressed and resolved a significant burst water pipe issue affecting his office and the two outer offices.

Jr./Sr. High School Update

In addition to the honor and merit rolls already established, Mr. Carter noted the development of a high honor roll commencing with the 2019 – 2020 school year for which students must achieve a 95% or higher average to be acknowledged.

Curriculum Update

Mrs. Farese noted the development of a seventh grade club as a result of the Cornell Cooperative grant received, and discussed technology programs Mr. Luckman is



providing to students in various grades. She highlighted the progress of digital assessment tools being developed by Messrs. Norris and Luckman for testing. She then discussed enrollment.

Financial Update

Ms. Heilenthaler provided a detailed financial overview of the initial rollover budget projections covering a four-year period. Based on the Board's discussion in December, a 4% tax levy was used in the projections. The information reflects the BOCES-related costs and contractual obligations. She discussed components and factors influencing the revenues and expenses, resultant fund balance and options to consider which would have an impact on the long-range figures.

For 2018 – 2019, anticipated revenues total \$14.548 million with expenditures projected at year-end to be \$16.478 million resulting in an approximate \$1.9 million gap and will necessitate the use of fund balance.

Potential adjustments to revenue were reviewed and included local sources such as the tax levy, pilot payments, late tax payment fees, State sources from transportation and building aids, as well as the BOCES, State and Legislative budgets which are pending.

With regard to 2019 – 2020 budget, the rollover budget reflects required contractual Step increases and not retirements or salaries covered by grants. Ms. Heilenthaler noted that budgeted transportation costs were increased as the District will need to send out for bid, and the increase was based off the trends seen in other districts. Mr. Reimer discussed different options being considered with regard to managing transportation costs. Ms. Heilenthaler also discussed the projections of the Undistributed expenses and areas of potential adjustments, all of which will reviewed in greater detail at the February Board Meeting. Based upon the information currently in hand, the 2019 – 2020 shortfall between budgeted expenses and new revenues is currently projected to be approximately \$3.09 million.

Ms. Heilenthaler stated that there are three ways to close the budget gap/shortfall: find more revenue, decrease budgeted and actual expenses, or use fund balance. Mr. Reimer outlined the components resulting in actual projected expense increases of \$600,000 - \$700,000 on the 2019 – 2020 rollover budget, which is primarily comprised salaries, transportation and health insurance, commenting that there is not a lot of “room” to cut the budget more as an option to reduce the gap. Finding more revenue is ongoing. He then discussed the impact of depleting the future tax proceeding reserve, and again reminded the Board that once this reserve fund is exhausted, the District would need to utilize restricted funds which would require taxpayer permission.

Mr. Reimer reiterated that at the February meeting a more detailed line item for Undistributed and General Support categories of the budget will be reviewed. He responded to Mr. Atwater's question regarding retirements, commenting that no retirement notices have come in and they are not due quite yet but that we would



have an understanding of those changes by the February Board meeting. No additional questions were raised.

AGENDA CHANGE

Given the length of time projected to cover items by Mr. Reimer for his Superintendent's report, a motion to move the Personnel Items before the Superintendent's Report was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris and carried.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the appointment of Stephanie Gooding as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher Aide effective January 14, 2019 at a rate of \$12.15/hour.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the appointment of Ashley Atwater, Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Elementary Education effective September 24, 2018 until TBD. Initial certification in Childhood Education and Special Education Grades 1 - 6. Annual salary at BA, Step 2 of \$40,376.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the probationary appointment of Adrienne Clark as a Teaching Assistant effective January 14, 2019. Her Teaching Assistant certification is pending. Annual salary at BA, Step 4 of \$21,499.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the permanent appointment of Kirsty Pagan Wakefield as a 10-month Typist effective January 11, 2019.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve Megan Ciotuszynski as a Student Teacher from Tuesday, January 22, 2019 – Monday, March 11, 2019 with Sara Thibault, Grade 3.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the following Parent/Community Volunteers: Charity Ciavatta, Shirley Plummer, and Ashley Tom.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the abolishment of the Account Clerk position effective November 1, 2018.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Mrs. Atwater and Miss Clark were introduced to the Board with both providing a brief background summary.

SUPERINTENDENT'S

INFORMATION Mr. Reimer discussed various items being reviewed which could have a positive impact the budget moving forward. One item being evaluated is a Grade K - 12 single bell schedule. Mr. Reimer provided an overview of the work to date which included approximately eight meetings just with the Committee, along with meetings with the Building Leadership Teams, Guidance, BTU, and other Districts, as well as reviewing studies on the same and impact of start times on children. The potential challenges of making the change continue to be reviewed. Transportation needs, the timing and number of runs, and ridership have been reviewed. The Committee will also perform another analysis of occupancy of the various runs to compare to the report from October 2018. Mr. Reimer noted other transportation options being reviewed with a transportation consultant, Mark Walsh of Transportation Advisory Services, as well as discussion with other districts on the same given Ridge Road would not rollover the District's contract even though discussion were had about its inability to absorb a transportation increase. Mr. Carter discussed the review of the cafeteria and lunch schedules and how this would streamline the lunch process, as well as possibly provide opportunities for high school students for an opt out program or add an additional course. The Committee has also looked into KidWatch and child care needs. Mr. Reimer noted that extracurricular activities would be impacted minimally by this change. He also commented that the amount of instructional time of the students would not change, and AIS and tutoring timeframe would be available at the end of the schedule. There are also efficiencies to be had for the staff such as being able to coordinate professional development and faculty meetings as a District at the same time within a workday. Mr. Reimer commented that the pros outway the cons at this point in time and it would be delivering the same level of services to the students and District, just in a different manner. He then reviewed next steps, including a public forum for community feedback and a meeting with all staff should the Board concur with the study. Administrative Team responded to various questions from the Board. Upon conclusion of the discussion, the Board endorsed the decision for the Administrative Team to move forward with the study and bring back a formal proposal at the February meeting.

Mr. Reimer discussed the BCS Alumni letters previously received and discussed with the Board regarding the naming of the school gym. Mr. Reimer noted that a response needs to be provided to the BCS Alumni and suggested if the Board agreed, he could initiate contact with the group and ask that they resubmit the recommendation in accordance with the new process. The Board agreed with the recommendation.

Mr. Reimer stated he has been looking at ways the District could possible share services and partner with the Town of Somerset which led to a discussion with Mr. Engert about a joint meeting with a committee of Board. The Board agreed that it would be worthwhile to get individuals together who know the inner-workings of both groups to discuss this subject. Mmes. Ecker and Voss, and Mr. Atwater noted their interest.



Upon motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, the Board agreed to create an ad-hoc committee to discuss joint opportunities with the Town of Somerset.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

With regarding to disbanding Board committees, Mr. Reimer wanted to clarify the Board's understanding of Policy 2210: Committees of the Board, and if they concurred that no formal action is needed to discharge a committee upon the completion of their assignment, with the understanding that if subsequent work is needed, a new committee would be formed. The Board concurred with this interpretation.

Mr. Reimer discussed a change for how previously the Board approved the receipt of donations for scholarships. He explained why scholarship funds do not require Board approval as they are applied to a trusted agency account vs. funds and applied directly as revenue into the District. An example provided was a donation being presented for approval for the benefit of the Music Department at this meeting.

In connection with ongoing advocacy discussions with the Board, Mr. Reimer reviewed an advocacy opportunity in conjunction with his attendance at The Council of School Superintendents/LEAF, Inc. Winter Institute and Lobby Day being held March 2 – 5, 2019 in Albany NY. There is a State Education Department Leadership Forum with MaryEllen Elia - Commissioner of Education, New York State Education Department, as well as the opportunity to connect with top leaders of the Department of Education and discuss the major issues confronting public education in our state and opportunities to meet with our legislators to discuss Barker's financial information. He inquired as to being able to have Mr. Carter attend as it aligns with multiple things he is working on, noting the only additional cost being the registration fee. The Board concurred that this would be a very good opportunity for both to attend.

Upon motion by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, the Board approved the attendance of both Messrs. Carter and Reimer at the above referenced conference.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Reimer reviewed the progress to date in the steps which will result in the development of the District's long-term strategic plan. The results of this work were presented to the Board. A lengthy discussion was had about the input received from staff, students and the community with regard to the development of the District's new Mission, Vision and Values Statement which resulted in a draft of the following which will be revisited and voted on at the February meeting:

Vision

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

**Mission**

We will develop life-long learners by promoting a positive school environment that fosters respect, compassion and tolerance.

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

Core Values

Our foundational values are:

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.

Mr. Reimer noted that goals, which will be approved at the February meeting, will be based off the Mission, Vision, and Core Values.

POLICIES The Board was presented the first reading of 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.

Mr. Atwater noted that the policies' information provided for consideration was very detailed and wanted to confirm everyone was in agreement and understanding with the suggestions presented. All agreed there were no concerns or questions about the policies contained for first and second reading.

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

1. 1650 - Submission of Questions and Propositions at Annual Elections and Special District Meetings;
2. 2110 - Orienting and Training New Board Members;



3. 2210 Committees of the Board;
4. 2310 Membership in Associations;
5. 2320 Attendance by Board members at Conferences, Conventions and Workshops;
6. 2330 Compensation and Expenses;
7. 3110 Media/Municipal Governments/Senior Citizens;
8. 3120 School District Standards and Guidelines for Web Page Publishing; and
9. 3130 Website Accessibility.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

EDUCATION None.

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL

ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Mead to accept the Warrant Report dated January 14, 2019.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Mead to accept the Extraclassroom Report for October 2018.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Mead to accept the donation with appreciation and gratitude from Renee A. Knight in memory of Gretchen Ormond Czerniak for the Barker Central School Music Department in the amount of \$20.00.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

The Board discussed the SRO agreement. Mr. Reimer responded to Mr. Sweeney's question.

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Mead 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.

END OF PUBLIC

SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Clemens-Harris, seconded by Mr. Mead, to end the Public Session and enter into Executive Session at 9:13 PM for the purpose of reviewing a legal matter, discuss a personnel matter, and 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 9:45 PM and return to Public Session.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Mead, seconded by Mrs. Ecker, to approve the adjournment of the meeting at 9:46 PM.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk