



**Barker Central School District  
Board of Education Meeting  
Monday, February 9, 2026, 7:00 p.m.  
Board Room**

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<b>Present</b>	R. Atwater, D. Carnes, C. Gancasz, J. Sweeney, Jr., V. Voss
<b>Excused</b>	E. Gow, S. Mason, K. Stoll
<b>Also Present</b>	J. Reimer, C. Cornwell, J. Duerr, M. Eadie, M. Love, C. Miner  Public – 1
<b>Call to Order</b>	Mr. Atwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge to the flag was done.
<b>Agenda</b>	Motion by Mr. Sweeney Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the agenda of the Regular meeting dated February 9, 2026, as presented. Yes: 5, No: 0 Motion carried.
<b>Minutes</b>	Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting dated January 12, 2026, as presented. Yes: 5, No: 0 Motion carried.
<b>Public Forum</b>	None.
<b>Presentations</b>	<u>Principal's Update - Dr. Love</u> Dr. Love provided an update on attendance data covering the start of the school year through the end of January for the 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 school years. She noted that the green bar represents students with 4% absences, the yellow bar is students with 5-9% absences, and the red equates to 10% or more absences which is 18+ days. District attendance overall in these categories has decreased in all three categories from 2023-2024 to 2024-2025 which is a positive trend and shows the impact of the initiative pertaining to attendance, engagement, and learning as outlined in the District's goals. The Jr./Sr. High attendance data shows a decrease of 4% in the category and the other two remaining levels for that year period remain consistent. She noted that when reviewing the first 90 days of the current school year, one will see very good decreases. Elementary data shows a decrease in all areas, and even larger decreases when adding the 90 days of this current school year. Dr. Love noted



the importance of this in learning long-term, especially the decrease in the chronic absence category. She commented that the statistics are moving in the right direction and gave a shout out to the Department Teams for the work they continue to do to get students engaged and attending. She noted incentives and other ideas they have developed to assist with the goal. She then reviewed the absences broken down by category and months each year for the Jr./Sr. High and Elementary which shows continued progress. She noted the work being done to bring focus to this initiative including letters being sent when the student hits different attendance thresholds; educating families on the rates and if absenteeism continues and the student hits chronic absences by year-end to make families aware and understand the repercussions. The District believes the more information given, the better chances of curbing absenteeism. Dr. Love commented that this is a small school and it provides the ability to drill down the information to the individual students which is important to provide an understanding of the issues that may cause the absenteeism and provide support to the student and/or family to assist. She noted reasons that could impact the student's attendance, as well as communication done whether via a letter, call to parent/guardian, attendance calls, home visits, and if need be, community support for the family. Dr. Love commented that the continued decline in absenteeism shows the hard work being put into the initiative is making a dent in the strategic goal and having a positive impact. She stated that the Board will continue to receive information on this as well as other data trends throughout the year.

Dr. Love then discussed the recent faculty meeting held on February 4, 2026, which the faculty reviewed the next phase of the ACES Training which focused on trauma and the District's students. She noted that it dealt with the types of traumas experienced, impact and how a student may be observed or behave, how to talk about trauma and build a relationship, and other related factors.

She then reviewed discipline data information which is done at each faculty meeting. She commented that insubordination, disorderly conduct, and cell phone violations are the three top issues and result in detention or out-of-school suspension as the consequence in most cases by grade. Overall incidents she noted at down 12% which continues to be in the right direction.

Dr. Love noted that the teams are already looking to and considering next year, commenting that the Logistics Team is looking at the schedule already.

Dr. Love said she had a conversation with the Student Council regarding graduation and what could be worn. She noted she wants to ensure the students know their voice is being heard. She ran through the various cords, meanings, as well as medals students could receive and what the Board would like to have in place and communicated relative to this subject. National Honor Society was okay with the wearing of the NHS sash, and the top ten gold cord. They felt if in grades 9-12 that a student participated in an extracurricular activity such as sports and/or clubs, they should receive a blue cord if they participated in at least one "extra" each year of their High School experience, and did not feel grades 7-8 activities



should count towards it. With regard to the BOCES purple National Technical Honor Society recognition, they felt this too was acceptable it is a school associated program. Students at BOCES also receive a striped cord for participation in the National Technical Honor Society and students felt they should be able to wear that cord instead of the purple if they choose since students received it from BOCES to wear at Graduation. The students felt that the BOCES tassel that students receive at the BOCES Completion Ceremony, should be acceptable to wear with their Barker tassel, because they do not get to wear it at the BOCES Completion Ceremony.

Dr. Love reviewed the various medals that could be earned and potentially worn, including the valedictorian and salutatorian, as well as the seals for biliteracy and civic readiness, noting more could be received if more qualify for new seals being offered. The students felt the "LYNC" (Leadership for the Youth of Niagara Communities) cord should also be an option to wear, since the students also receive it upon the completion of that school sponsored program. The students felt Military recognition was okay to wear if the student is enlisted to join the Military directly following graduation. She also asked the Board's opinion of cultural items which students suggested should be approved by Advisory and Administration on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Atwater stated as the entire Board was not present this evening to continue the discussion and make a decision at the March meeting. He asked if representatives could be asked to attend to hear the discussion. He also asked for a summary of information to be put in with the Friday letter. Mr. Sweeney, Jr. asked if the Senior Class advisory could also attend the next meeting. When asked, Dr. Love noted that all students in the Senior Class were told of the expectations for graduation, but some still did not follow the expectations over the last several school years.

There were no additional questions for Dr. Love and Mr. Atwater thanked her for the attendance data reviewed and the positive trend the District is seeing.

#### Coor. of Curriculum & Prof. Learning/AP Update's - Mr. Cornwell

Mr. Cornwell provided an update on the January Regents Exams Data. The Juniors took the ELA Regents exam a couple of weeks ago, and the Proficiency (passing) rate of 96%, which is the second highest Proficiency rate over the past 7 years. The Mastery rate of 28% is comparable to years past. He congratulated the students and the secondary ELA teachers for a job well done.

The District's recent grade 3-8 CBT simulation testing took place for ELA, Math, and Science and it went smoothly. From a technology standpoint, Barker should be ready to implement operational testing during the 6-week window in April and May.

Mr. Cornwell discussed Individual Arts Assessment Pathway ("IAAP") which is another opportunity for Barker students as they move through grades towards graduation. The District is looking to apply this spring for possible offerings in the 2026-2027 school year for the areas of dance and visual arts. The application



window just opened, and it closes by mid-summer. IAAP is a 4+1 graduation pathway option in which students complete a locally determined three-unit sequence in the arts and demonstrate, through a collection of creative works, growth over time that meets the High School II Accomplished Performance Indicators in the New York State Learning Standards for the Arts. The artistic method(s), media, or form(s) students use to meet the appropriate State developed IAAP criteria are based on student artistic and research interests in consultation with their arts teachers. The IAAP offers arts students a graduation pathway that prepares them for future professional and educational experiences and opportunities in the arts. It is another avenue for the students to make a choice and hear their voice about their future.

Mr. Cornwell and other Barker officials attended a Technology Service Meeting on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, and met with representatives from Erie 1 BOCES for the District's annual review of the technology services that it contracts with Erie 1 BOCES for. This meeting helps with the District's budget development, as well as making sure that it has the support it needs without any duplicative layers or services.

With regard to NYS Updates, Mr. Cornwell and elementary school members of the Instructional Cabinet attended a statewide interactive webinar in the middle of January. This webinar was focused on how the new NY Inspires/Portrait of a Graduate will impact elementary school teachers and students. During the session, the state emphasized how instruction and learning at the elementary level should be more experiential and inquiry-based for students in all content areas. He commented that this instructional shift is readily adaptable to science and social studies but may be a bit harder to incorporate into literacy and math instruction. He also noted it definitely involves a shift in mindset for both students and teachers, as well as parents. Questions were raised about how to balance this approach with explicit direct instruction, especially at the early grade levels, and how this might change the nature of the grade 3-8 assessments in literacy and math. Mr. Cornwell felt there needed to be a balance of both approaches, and that a strong core foundation is needed to implement the inquiry-based learning approach. Mr. Atwater asked if other states were implementing this approach. Mr. Cornwell noted that most have the Portrait of a Graduate and collection of options to demonstrate the students are ready to graduate in approximately 40–43 states. Mr. Cornwell felt the NYS Inspires processes are going to dominate and be at the forefront the next 2-3 years.

Director of Instructional Services/Special Education Update - Ms. Duerr

Ms. Duerr discussed the State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicator #8 for Special Education which pertains to parent involvement. Its focus is on the percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities. She noted that at all CSE and CPSE meetings the parents/guardians are provided a survey to voluntarily submit to the state anonymously which asks them how their child's school partners with them to help



their child. The purpose is to assist NYS in planning improvements for special education system to the benefit of schools, students, and parents.

The ELA Targeted Skills Group (TSG) has met two times. TSGs are designed to facilitate innovation and the implementation of new organizational practices with focus on the use of data to guide improvements. The members of the team include Ms. Duerr, Mrs. Lingle, Mr. Cornwell, Mr. Norris, Ms. Tabone, Mrs. Atwater, Ms. DeMarco, and Mrs. Zablocki. One of the initiatives they are working on currently is completing an initiative inventory identifying practices the District currently has in place. They have completed a reading tiered fidelity inventory analysis, and started a needs assessment process to identify gaps. The group will meet with the West Regional Partnership Center from Erie 1 BOCES to create smart goals for the Targeted Skills Group.

Ms. Duerr distributed a handout that will be going home to all grades 3–8 students in the middle of the week after break to explain the importance of having every student participate in assessments. It provides an overview of how the assessments provide benefits to students, teachers, schools, and families by helping NYS identify achievement gaps among different student groups. This data supports decisions about resource allocation and programs that directly affect Barker students to ensure all students have access to high-quality education. The handout also addresses various misconceptions about assessment tests and the associated reality to that misconception. The hope is that it will provide accurate information to families and increase participation rates.

The AFS Fair is taking place Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> in the HS gym and Ms. Duerr noted that she is working on coordinating a book collection to get books into the hands of students and their families.

Ms. Duerr also gave a shout out to the bus garage and how they are working with the District to meet the needs of our students. She noted that to date it has been a nice process and the bus garage employees have gone above and beyond for issues and needs, and worked with the District to come up with solutions together.

Ms. Duerr concluded her report noting that the District is having a lot of conversations it needs to have regarding taking assessments.

#### Financial Update/Preliminary Budget Needs & Initial Rollover Budget - J. Reimer/ C. Miner

Dr. Reimer noted that he and Ms. Miner would walk the Board thru the process and line up of budget projections since the last meeting. He noted that the first document provides a three-year look back. He commented on the color coding used as he is going through the proposed budget differently this year with the Board and Budget Advisory Committee. The green highlighted items have not really changed from prior rollovers of this year from last month. He said that as the expense item is reviewed, it is analyzed to see if it will occur again to make the



line as accurate as possible. He stated that they would go through all non-personnel lines projections.

Dr. Reimer commented that under General Support, the Board of Education expense changes were from an increase in Materials and Supplies due to the supplies used during the budget/election, and the other increase was for BOCES Policy Services. District Clerk reflects an increase of \$236 or 3.35%. District Meeting has an increase projected of \$1,000 due to usage of machines for the budget/election vote. Central Administration increased under 1% overall. Business Administration has an increase of 15.78% due in part of BOCES Business Services. Dr. Reimer noted that this figure will adjust as it is based on the participation of other districts to determine the cost. Last year it was projected at \$150,000 and is projected to end the year at \$179,879 with \$180,000 projected for 2026-2027 currently. With regard to Auditing, Ms. Miner noted that it is projected to increase approximately 19% as next year an RFP is needed. She noted that pending the outcome, an April/May approval for services may be brought forward to the Board. Dr. Reimer noted that the audit agreement is at the end of its 5-year cycle and the increase also addresses projected expense for additional services that are anticipated. District Treasurer had no real change from prior years. Tax Collector did not have significant real changes from the prior year. Purchasing increased slightly by 2%. Legal remained flat. Personnel for Third Party and BOCES increased 1%. Operation of Plant is up 5.12% due in part to part-time Cleaners and an increase in the Equipment line. Maintenance of Plant is up almost 2% due mostly to contractual salary increases. BOCES Printing/Mailing remains flat. This line covers The Banner and other mailings and print jobs. BOCES Data Processing is up 2%. Special Items, Insurance, is up 2.78% currently and Ms. Miner noted that more information should be provided for the March projection. School Association Dues remains flat as does Judgements & Claims. The Water/Sewer Assessment is up 8.70% due to the higher usage with being the home school and hosting other events. Refund Property Tax remains flat. This line remains each year in case an appeal is done for an incorrect tax bill. The District has not used it last year but maintains the amount each year. BOCES Admin Costs decreased from last year and is down 6.22%. Overall General Support is projected to increase 4.22% currently.

District Transportation remains steady with only a 0.81% increase which is primarily due to an increase in liability insurance. Contract Transportation is still being worked on as Transportation Contract Pupils and Transportation Contract Fuel is still being looked at. Dr. Reimer noted that the one-year renewal with STA was done this year. Ms. Miner is looking at being able to break up the cost of fuel and electrical usage on the busses to get a better idea of expenses when negotiating going forward. Overall, the current projection is a 6.87% increase.

Community Services was reviewed next. Dr. Reimer noted that Youth Program's name is being changed to Summer School as that is what it is.



Undistributed was reviewed next. Employee benefits are tied to contracts and what the District also based projections on its FICA, TRS, ERS, etc. Health Insurance and Dental Insurance are the primary drivers of the increase of 6.15% in this category. This will be reviewed at the March Budget Advisory meeting. Ms. Miner is tracking premium increases for all plans. Dr. Reimer noted that last year the health care premium was only 1%, which was very low, and he has heard of 25% increases in premium by some locations are projected but the figures for the District will depending on the consortium estimates to be received in March.

Debt Service is still being worked on but is currently at projected with a 4.95% increase. Dr. Reimer noted that based on discussions with Municipal Solutions, Debt Service will increase based on interest rates. He said that this projection may be off due to not having the necessary information prior to the vote. There are three Bond Anticipated Notes (BANS) coming due in June and the bonds are higher than projected which will impact it but he does feel the current projected numbers are close.

Interfund Transfers has a projected increase of 3.70%. The Capital Outlay projects will be discussed at the March meeting and usage could be pending the outcome of the \$14 million capital improvement project. Dr. Reimer noted that the fall sports season resulted in a lot more usage of the facilities than in the past and as a result the holding tanks outside needed to be consistently pumped as Barker was the host school and the usage increased. One option to address this is to put a septic system in and do a leach field. The cost of the sewer tie in would be very expensive. He also noted that if septic is the route chosen, it would have to be done in a way that would not have an impact on the drainage of the turf. He is continuing to review options for review at the March meeting. Total Undistributed currently reflects at 5.70% increase.

Dr. Reimer noted that at the March meeting he is hoping to have 80% of the Instructional side of the budget projection done.

Dr. Reimer and Ms. Miner then reviewed the summary Master Budget Plan report. Dr. Reimer noted that the figures have a 1.31% state aid projection in it and the reduction of the energy cessation program with a projected ending Total Revenue of a negative 0.53%. He noted more information will be available during the March meeting and that the District may need to use EBLAR reserve depending on revenue, similar to last year when the District utilized \$180,000. Dr. Reimer stated he is meeting with Senator Ortt at his office in Lockport on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> and has met with Assemblyman Bologna two weeks ago to discuss accessing funding to sustain the budget. Dr. Reimer noted that the District's financial position is sustainable this year and the next, and his lobbying is to get ahead of the financial issues the District could be facing in the future. He noted he is also working on the education benefit agreement with attorneys, and continues discussion with AES. This information is not incorporated into the spreadsheet to date due to the unknowns. Dr. Reimer said he would add in estimates as more definitive information is received. Currently the proposed budget is \$21,191,612.



Expenditures year over year has an increase projected of 1.61%. Fund Balance is projected to go from \$7,742,560 to \$6,858,217.

### **Superintendent's Information**

Dr. Reimer provided an update on the projects. He commented that the District is literally at the end of the punch lists and purchasing of equipment for the 2022 \$25 million Capital Improvement Project. He noted that it all needs to be in and paid for by February to submit final cost reports to NYSED by the first week in March. If this timeline is met, it will increase the District's aid for next year in line with what is already budgeted.

The 2025 \$14 million Capital Improvement Project information was sent to NYSED for approval last week. Dr. Reimer noted there are 130-140 projects ahead of Barker's. He estimated it would take 5-6 weeks to turnaround once it is picked up for review. If that is completed by the middle of March, bids will be sent out which will take about 4 weeks. The bids could then be presented at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting when the Board meets to do the annual Board BOCES meeting. The goal would be to commence work before school ends, but Dr. Reimer noted that it is all dependent on timing, the contractors and their workers.

The Library Media Center is getting frosted glass put in to provide additional privacy for the various sections. Dr. Reimer asked if the Board would like to try to hold the Board Meeting in the high school side of the center in March to see how they like it. He noted that after holding the meeting, the Board could decide where they would prefer to meet.

Dr. Reimer then commented on having a grand opening for the new spaces, and asked the Board to provide feedback to him on the concepts and ideas they would have with regard to this.

Dr. Reimer continued and discussed the internal claims auditor, and that she asked to meet with the Audit Committee/Board. He suggested that they meet at the spring meeting to have a conversation and answer questions the Board may have, and to provide the Board the opportunity to discuss their expectations, what they want, and how things are going. Thereafter, the meeting with the auditor would be done again annually at year-end. The Board concurred with this concept.

Dr. Reimer discussed having a Board Retreat and he is waiting to receive dates from the attorneys based on their availability which he would then provide to the Board to finalize a date. He suggested to have it during an evening at 7:00 p.m. and if possible, during the month of March.

Dr. Reimer noted that he felt NY Inspires is a pretty substantial shift to performance-based learning, and to assist with that Administration is looking at PILOT Program to plan the transition over a three-year process, potentially using an outside party to assist. The group assists the districts vs. forcing districts to



change. He noted that this is not cheap though. The assistance would be BOCES aidable. Dr. Reimer and Ms. Miner are looking at ways to fund this up front if this is something desirable to do.

**Education**

Mr. Atwater discussed the time to hold the April 21, 2026 Board Meeting. After discussion, the Board concurred that 7:30 a.m. would work for them. Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the Tuesday, April 21, 2026 Board Meeting be held at 7:30 a.m. for the purpose of voting on the Orleans/Niagara BOCES administrative budget and the election of members to the BOCES Board of Education

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Dr. Reimer discussed the development of the 2026-2027 school calendar, noting that input was received from the BTU which results in an additional conference day in September and the removal of the student/teacher day on December 23, 2026. Two of the three conference days at the start of the year count as student attendance dates per Dr. Reimer. After discussion, a motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr. was made to approve the proposed 2026-2027 school calendar as presented.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Atwater then noted that with regard to the BOCES Board, Mrs. Feltz informed him that she will not be returning after the end of her term on the BOCES Board this year. She recommended that a Barker Board member represent the District. He asked the Board members to think about if they would want to participate and commented that he will if no one else would want too. He commented that Mrs. Feltz has done a fantastic job through the years for the District. Dr. Reimer noted that having a board member on the BOCES Board is what the majority of districts do. With regard to commitment, he inquired and commented that BOCES has meetings one time per month at 6:00 p.m. at the South Main Street Market in Lockport primarily, with an occasional meeting in the Medina or Sanborn site. Mr. Atwater stated that the Board could make the recommendation and decision at the March meeting.

**Policies/Plans**

The Board reviewed the first reading of policies: 6160, 6161, 6170, 6180, 6190, 6210, 6211, 6212. There were no questions raised.

6160	Professional Growth/Staff Development
6161	Conference/Travel Expense Reimbursement
6170	Safety of Students (Fingerprinting Clearance of New Hires)
6180	Staff-Student Relations (Fraternization)
6190	Workplace Violence Prevention
6210	Certified Personnel
6211	Employment of Relatives of Board of Education Members
6212	Certification and Qualifications



The Board reviewed and motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr. to approve policies: 6110, 6111, 6120, 6121, 6122, 6130, 6140, 6150, 6151 as presented.

6110	Code of Ethics for Board Members and All District Personnel
6111	Testing Misconduct and Mandatory Reporting Requirements
6120	Equal Employment Opportunity
6121	Sexual Harassment of District Personnel
6122	Employee Grievances
6130	Evaluation of Personnel
6140	Employee Medical Examinations
6150	Alcohol, Drugs and Other Substances (School Personnel)
6151	Drug-Free Workplace

Yes: 5, No: 0  
Motion carried.

**Personnel Items**

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the appointment of Officers for the 2025-2026 school year:

Position	Name	Stipend
"AHERA" Asbestos Local Education Agency (LEA) Designee	Connie D. Miner	\$ -
	Carol Heiligenthaler - Backup	
Assistant Payroll Certification Officer	Connie D. Miner	\$ -
	Carol Heiligenthaler - Backup	
Assistant Purchasing Agent	Connie D. Miner	\$ -
	Carol Heiligenthaler - Backup	
District Clerk Pro-Temp	Connie D. Miner	\$ -
	Carol Heiligenthaler - Backup	
District Treasurer	Connie D. Miner	\$ -
	Carol Heiligenthaler - Backup	
Extra-Class Activity Treasurer	Connie D. Miner	\$ -
	Carol Heiligenthaler - Backup	
Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Official Compliance Officer	Connie D. Miner	\$ -
	Carol Heiligenthaler - Backup	
Records Access Officer	Connie D. Miner	\$ -
	Carol Heiligenthaler - Backup	
Records Management Officer	Connie D. Miner	\$ -
	Carol Heiligenthaler - Backup	
Tax Collector	Connie D. Miner	\$ -
	Carol Heiligenthaler - Backup	
Transportation Director	Connie D. Miner	\$ -
	Carol Heiligenthaler - Backup	

Yes: 5, No: 0  
Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the following 2025-2026 school year Spring sports appointments and stipends per the Barker Teachers' Union Agreement:

Aileen Gilbert (Co-Coach)	Varsity Softball	Step 4
Bill Moeller (Co-Coach)	Varsity Softball	Step 4
William Bruning	JV Softball	Step 4
Jesse Watts	Varsity Baseball	Step 3
Jim Harris	JV Baseball	Step 4
Christopher Post	Varsity Track	Step 1
Paul DerSarkissian	Assistant Varsity Track	Step 4
Karin Menz	Assistant Varsity Track	Step 4
Kyle Sosnowski	Assistant Varsity Track	Step 1
Colin Knight	Modified Track	Step 1
Jeffrey Pyskaty	Varsity Tennis	Step 4

The following appointments are to be an unpaid certified assistant coach during the 2026 spring season:

Rob Mucha	JV/Varsity Baseball
Todd Pryn	Varsity Baseball
Jeff Costello	JV/Varsity Baseball
Sharon Lamb	Varsity Track

The following are to be unpaid volunteers in our athletics programs for the 2026 spring season.

Logan Harris  
Preston Harris\*  
Austin Buckland  
Connor Dunn  
Dan Gould  
Kyle Flint  
Matt Snell

\*Subject to receipt of documentation/RAPTOR clearance

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the appointment of Andrew Hofer as a Part-time Cleaner at a rate of \$16.00 per hour effective February 10, 2026, subject to fingerprint and background clearances.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the appointment of Catherine Cornwell as a Part-time Cleaner at a rate of \$16.00 per hour effective February 10, 2026, subject to fingerprint and background clearances.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the appointment of Catherine Cornwell as a Part-time Food Service Helper at a rate of \$16.00 per hour effective February 10, 2026, subject to fingerprint and background clearances.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the appointment of Shawna Grabowski to student teacher at the first-grade level classroom with Mrs. Gilbert from approximately February 10 - May 8, 2026 for 50 hours as part of her post-secondary Childhood Inclusive Education program with SUNY Brockport.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the appointment of Morgan Greco as a student shadow/observer the secondary-grade level classroom with Ms. Dudek from approximately February 10 - May 8, 2026 for 50 hours as part of her post-secondary English Adolescence Inclusive Education program with SUNY Brockport.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the appointment of Liana Flugel as a student shadow/observer at the secondary-grade level classroom with Ms. Moffitt from approximately March 20, 2026 - May 8, 2026 for 50 hours as part of her post-secondary English Education program with SUNY Brockport.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the appointments as community/parent volunteers: Kyle Flint and Matthew Snell.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

## **Business & Financial Items**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Barker Teachers' Union and the Barker Central School District regarding extracurricular activities related to inter-scholastic athletic coaching positions, activities and salaries for the 2025-2026 school year.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the resolution authorizing the renovation and improvement of certain school district buildings and facilities by the Barker Central School District, Niagara and Orleans Counties, New



York, at a maximum estimated cost of \$14,000,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$11,300,000 serial bonds to pay the costs thereof. A roll call vote was taken.

### **BOND RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES BY THE BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, NIAGARA AND ORLEANS COUNTIES, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$14,000,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$11,300,000 SERIAL BONDS TO PAY THE COSTS THEREOF.

**WHEREAS**, at the special district meeting of the Barker Central School District, Niagara and Orleans Counties, New York (the "School District"), duly called, held and conducted on January 14, 2025, the duly qualified voters of the School District approved a proposition authorizing to undertake a capital improvement project consisting of the construction of alterations, renovations and improvements to the District's existing buildings and facilities, including, classroom renovation, site improvements (drainage, walkways, asphalt, play surfaces and bleachers), building envelope updates, emergency and communication system updates enhanced safety components, and the acquisition of certain original furnishings, equipment and apparatus and other incidental improvements required in connection thereto for such construction and school use (the "Project"), for a total aggregate maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$14,000,000; to withdraw \$2,700,000 from the District's existing Capital Improvement Reserve Fund to pay a portion of said costs; and to raise \$11,300,000 by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District to be collected in annual installments in the years and in the amounts as the Board shall determine in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law, which tax may be offset by New York State aid available therefore; and

**WHEREAS**, all conditions precedent to the financing of the capital project described above, including compliance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, have been performed; and

**WHEREAS**, it is now desired to provide for the financing of such capital project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District, Niagara and Orleans Counties, New York, as follows:

Section 1. The construction of alterations, renovations and improvements to the District's existing buildings and facilities, including, classroom renovation, site improvements (drainage, walkways, asphalt, play surfaces and bleachers), building envelope updates, emergency and communication system updates enhanced safety components, and the acquisition of certain original furnishings, equipment



and apparatus and other incidental improvements required in connection thereto for such construction and school use, is hereby authorized at a total maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$14,000,000.

Section 2. The plan for the financing of such maximum estimated cost shall consist of the following:

- (a) the issuance of up to \$11,300,000 serial bonds of the School District, which is hereby authorized, pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law;
- (b) the appropriation and expenditure of up to \$2,700,000 from the District's existing Capital Improvement Reserve Fund, which is hereby authorized.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid objects or purposes is thirty (30) years pursuant to subdivision 97 of paragraph (a) of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law. The proposed maturity of the Bonds shall be in excess of five years.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and of the Local Finance Law, and pursuant to the provisions of Sections 21.00, 30.00, 50.00 and 56.00 to 63.00, inclusive, of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized (the "Bonds"), including renewals of such notes, and the power to prescribe the terms, form and contents of the Bonds, and any bond anticipation notes, and the power to sell and deliver the Bonds and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the Bonds, and the power to issue Bonds providing for substantially level or declining annual debt service, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the School District.

Section 5. The temporary use of available funds of the School District, not immediately required for the purpose or purposes for which the same were borrowed, raised or otherwise created, is hereby authorized pursuant to Section 165.10 of the Local Finance Law, for the capital purposes described in Section 1 of this resolution.

Section 6. The reasonably expected source of funds to be used to initially pay for the expenditures authorized by Section 1 of this resolution shall be from the School District's General Fund. It is intended that the School District shall then reimburse expenditures from the General Fund with the proceeds of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized by this resolution and that the interest payable on the Bonds and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the Bonds shall be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes. This resolution is intended to constitute the declaration of the School District's "official intent" within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 to reimburse the expenditures authorized by this resolution with the proceeds of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized herein. Other than as specified in this resolution, no



monies are reasonably expected to be received, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the objects or purposes described herein.

Section 7. The faith and credit of the School District are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the Bonds, and provision shall be made annually in the budget of the School District by appropriation for (a) the amortization and redemption of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes to mature in such year, and (b) the payment of interest to be due and payable in such year.

Section 8. The Bonds, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the Bonds, shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and the Bonds, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the Bonds, shall be general obligations of the School District, payable as to both principal and interest by a general tax upon all the real property within the School District without legal or constitutional limit as to rate or amount.

Section 9. The Bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized to be issued by this Bond Resolution are hereby authorized to be consolidated, at the option of the President of the Board of Education, the Chief Fiscal Officer, with the Bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized by other Bond Resolutions previously or hereafter adopted by the Board of Education for purposes of sale in one or more bond or note issues aggregating an amount not to exceed the amount authorized in such Bond Resolutions. All matters regarding the sale of the Bonds, including the date of the Bonds, the use of electronic bidding, the consolidation of the Bonds and the bond anticipation notes with other issues of the School District and the serial maturities of the Bonds are hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the School District.

Section 10. In the absence of the President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education is hereby specifically authorized to exercise the powers delegated to the President of the Board of Education in this Resolution.

Section 11. The validity of the Bonds or any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds may be contested only if:

(a) such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the School District is not authorized to expend money; or

(b) the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of this resolution or a summary hereof are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days (20) days after such publication; or



(c) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 12. The President of the Board of Education, as chief fiscal officer of the School District, is hereby authorized to enter into an undertaking for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds from time to time, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds, requiring the School District to provide secondary market disclosure as required by United States Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12.

Section 13. This resolution, or a summary hereof, shall be published in the official newspapers of the School District, together with a notice of the School District Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 14. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK )

) SS.:

COUNTY OF NIAGARA )

I, the undersigned, District Clerk of the Barker Central School District, Niagara and Orleans Counties, New York (the "School District"), DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

That I have compared the annexed abstract of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education of the School District, held on the 9th day of February, 2026, including the resolution contained therein, with the original thereof on file in my office, and the same is a true and correct copy of said original and of the whole of said original so far as the same relates to the subject matters therein referred to.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that the full Board of Education of the School District consists of seven (7) members; that five (5) members of the Board of Education were present at such meeting; and, that five (5) of such members voted in favor of the above resolution.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that (i) all members of the Board of Education had due notice of the meeting, (ii) pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (Open Meetings Law), such meeting was open to the general public, and due notice of the time and place of such meeting was duly given in accordance with Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, and (iii) the meeting was in all respects duly held.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that the Bond Resolution is in full force and effect on the date hereof and has not been amended, modified or repealed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the School District this 9 day of February, 2026.



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Mary H. Eadie, District Clerk  
Barker Central School District, Niagara and Orleans Counties, New York

(SEAL)

Vote Results:

Mr. Atwater – yes  
Mrs. Carnes – yes  
Mrs. Gancasz – yes  
Mr. Sweeney, Jr. – yes  
Mrs. Voss - yes  
Excused: Mrs. Gow and Mrs. Mason  
Yes: 5, No: 0  
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to accept the Treasurer's Report dated January 2026.  
Yes: 5, No: 0  
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to accept the Extraclassroom Report dated January 2026.  
Yes: 5, No: 0  
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to accept the Warrant Reports dated January 2026.  
Yes: 5, No: 0  
Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Revenue Status and Appropriation Reports and the Claims Audit Report dated January 31, 2026.  
Yes: 5, No: 0  
Motion carried.

**End of Public Session**

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the adjournment of the public session at 8:17 p.m., and move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective negotiations with the Barker Teachers Union.  
Yes: 5, No: 0  
Motion carried.

**Executive Session**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 9:11 p.m., and return to Public Session.  
Yes: 5, No: 0  
Motion carried.



**Public Session/  
Adjournment**

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the end the Public Session and adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie  
District Clerk