



**Barker Central School District  
Board of Education  
April 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.  
Barker Library Media Center**

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<b>Present</b>	R. Atwater, D. Carnes, C. Gancasz, S. Mason, V. Voss, J. Sweeney, Jr.
<b>Excused</b>	E. Gow, K. Stoll,
<b>Also Present</b>	J. Reimer, M. Eadie, C. Cornwell, J. Duerr, D. Lingle, M. Love, C. Miner Public: 4
<b>Call to Order</b>	President Atwater welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge to the Flag was given.
<b>Approve Agenda</b>	Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the agenda dated April 13, 2026 as presented. Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion carried.
<b>Approve Minutes</b>	A motion was made by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the March 9, 2026 minutes as presented. Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion carried
<b>Public Forum</b>	None.
<b>Presentation</b>	<u>Seal of Civic Readiness Presentation: Club Fair Proposal - Miss Lloyd, Miss Thering</u> The students presented their idea for the Seal of Civic Readiness for graduation. Their goal was to hold an extracurricular/club fair for grades 6 – 11 to inform and educate the students of the opportunities available to them at school, and to increase the participation of these activities to help ensure that these groups have enough participants to continue on in the following years. They provided data on the rate of Jr./Sr. High students as well as 9-12 graders participating in clubs which is 55.9% and 50.5% of the population respectively. They reviewed the clubs that would be invited to participate in the fair. They then discussed the breakout of participants in the various clubs and sports by total count and grade. They talked about



what has been done, and would need to be completed based on their timeline to prepare and hold the fair by May 8. They stated how they would like this to continue every year and that they would like this to be turned over to National Honor Society to coordinate and run in future years. They felt the NHS members are responsible and dedicated enough to carry this on for the benefit of the school and students in future years.

Mr. Atwater commended the students on their work, and felt it was a great concept and they did a great job presenting and bringing exposure to the idea.

#### Principal's Update - Dr. Love

Dr. Love complimented and congratulated the students for their hard work and presenting in front of people. She said they did a wonderful job and noted that a lot of time went into the sustainable legacy piece. She then distributed some student data on clubs and extracurriculars. She noted that the students broke similar data out but in greater detail for the Jr./Sr. High students who total 286. Dr. Love's data also included the Elementary students which total 341 students. She provided a breakout of the 29 clubs and extracurriculars available to students, noting that some are geared for Elementary students such as M&M's, School Store, Safety Patrol, etc., while others are geared for the upper grades. She noted that 153 students out of 341 in Elementary participate in an activity which represents 44.9% of the population. For Jr./Sr. High, there are 160 students out of 286 participating in clubs and extracurricular which does not include sports. Districtwide there are 313 out of 627 students participating in clubs and activities which represents almost 50%. She said these are wonderful results, but noted more connection points would be even better. She reviewed the numbers of students participating by grade, and noted that 164 students participate in multiple clubs and activities. She commented that this is a gift to be able to do that in a small district and provided a shout out to the families for getting their students to all the extra activities. Dr. Love then reviewed the benefits of participating in clubs and extracurriculars some of which included improved academic performance, increased school engagement, development of social and leadership skills, enhanced emotional well-being, reduced engagement in problem behaviors, and students gain transferable skills valued by colleges and employers. She also reviewed the connection to the Strategic Plan goals of increased student engagement, supporting literacy development, and improved instructional outcomes.

Dr. Love discussed the 2026-2027 Course Catalog being presented for approval and noted there is not much change from the present school year, but Administration and School Counselors are looking to potentially add more college course options by reviewing SUNY curriculum to see how it aligns with the school's to give the students more opportunities through a CoSer if possible pending review.



Next year's scheduling continues to progress. Dr. Love noted the School Counselors are gathering data from students and pulling numbers together for courses to develop the schedule. She commented she was proud of their efforts working ahead of the schedule.

The Prom has been scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>. The Juniors inquired about doing an After-Prom party. Dr. Love said they are working on doing this for the students to give them a more structured and safe place to be with friends after the Prom.

Mrs. Lingle provided an updated discipline report. She noted that March is longer month so incidents were up by approximately 20 but this she said was on par with the 3.7 incidents per day ratio. She noted that most continue to be relative to insubordination, phone violations, and school avoidance. She stated that there is plan in place for the outliers of the phone violations. Based on a question posed, she noted that school avoidance covers students skipping class (AWOL), leaving classes to be in another class without permission, being in other classrooms or areas to skip class, Seniors leaving without permission, etc. She noted that this is typical this time of year for number of occurrences to be elevated.

Mrs. Lingle talked about how the District was approached by Cornell Cooperative to have a mobile food pantry, the Veggie Van, on campus, and to fill it with locally grown produce, dairy, meats, etc. for the community. She noted that this is not a need-based food opportunity, rather an outreach. The Veggie Van program mission has been to increase food security and healthy food access and to promote Niagara County and the Greater WNY regional farmers and producers. She noted it is currently in Niagara Falls and Lockport, and she was excited to have the opportunity here. The dates the van will be on campus are April 16<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>. She stated that this is funded through a grant and backed by the county and she is hopeful it will run through the summer.

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

Mr. Cornwell congratulated the two students for their work and excellent presentation. He also congratulated the four student who presented at the Somerset Town Board for their Seal of Civic Readiness proposal. Their proposal focused on two goals at Somerset Town Park of improving safety with the addition of crosswalks and providing a "lending shed" where community members can donate and receive gently used sports equipment. This presentation was positively received and given the green light to pursue. Mr. Cornwell also provided an update on a presentation to the Town Board last year in that the town basketball courts are getting their makeovers this Spring. He noted he is proud to see the students having a voice and advocating for what they feel is important.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, the District held its final Staff Development Day of the year. Besides working with their departments, teachers in both the elementary



and secondary levels attended a half-day presentation on Explicit Instruction. This presentation was led by a facilitator who is working with the District on its ELA targeted support group. Explicit Instruction is a research-based, best practice that emphasizes segmenting complex skills, promoting successful student engagement, focusing student attention on critical pieces of content, providing opportunities to receive feedback, and giving students purposeful practice of a skill. It is a re-emphasis on the aforementioned while the students are doing their work. He noted that the Instructional Cabinet is meeting this Thursday to talk about professional development opportunities for the next year.

Mr. Cornwell discussed the upcoming exam schedule. This week starts 3-8 NYS Testing with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science test being administered on Wednesday. ELA, in all grade levels, is on deck for next week, with Math scheduled for early May, along with 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science. To curb opt-outs, the District plans to administer a local assessment to those students to obtain a relevant data point for comparison. Parents have been informed of the testing, as well as encouraging them, as well as all students, for the students to take the assessments given the impact the data has on the District. Mr. Cornwell noted he will be tracking opt-out and present information at the May Board of Education meeting. If this communication plan does not result in higher participation, the District will try to develop something different for next year.

Mr. Cornwell noted that the Barker Technology Committee has completed its initial work on the 2026-2029 Technology Plan. The District has received feedback from BOCES, and others and the Committee will reconvene to make the proper adjustments prior to sending along to NYSED for final approval. The Plan that is being submitted to NYSED will be shared with the Board of Education as well after approval.

Mr. Cornwell reported that at the March meeting of the Board of Regents, the proposals regarding personal finance education and climate change education were approved and formally adopted. Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, students in the grade bands of 5-8 and 9-12 should receive personal finance education in the following 5 topic areas: Budgeting & Money Management, Credit & Debt Management, Earning Income, Risk Management, and Saving & Investing. Mr. Cornwell noted that options to provide this instruction can be through embedded instruction into already required courses, a stand-alone course that focuses on these topics, or through career and technical education programming. All schools in NYS must verify that this instruction occurred over the next 3 years, including how schools are providing embedded instruction if that option is chosen. NYS has provided some guidance and resources to help with this new mandate. He noted that the District has the ability to decide what and how it embeds this required instruction.



Mrs. Voss inquired about the number of students who will receive a Seal this year and was informed that there are about 10 students or approximately 25% of the Seniors that worked towards this honor. Mr. Cornwell commented that he really likes the Capstone pieces and noted that many districts do not do this with their students, and he viewed it as a positive opportunity and next step forward for them.

On Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> the New York State Department of Education is hosting a hybrid webinar with in-person discussions and presentations, that will provide NYS school leaders with an opportunity to engage in regional discussions about approaches to Performance-Based Learning and Assessment (PBLA) that support local implementation of NY Inspires and NY's Educational Assessment Strategy in middle and high school. He noted that a secondary teacher or two and an administrator will be attending.

Director of Instructional Services/Special Education - Ms. Duerr

Ms. Duerr commented that the two students did an impressive job presenting.

She discussed State Performance Indicator #8 (SPP Indicator 8) which focuses on parent involvement in special education services. It measures the percentage of parents with children receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated their involvement to improve services and results for children with disabilities. The school needs at least 28 more of the parents/guardians to report. Ms. Duerr noted the District is participating in a career exploration program through ACCES-VR (Adult Career Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation) which will be two days per week that will work with outside agency to help students with disabilities reach their career goals, providing career exploration, soft-skill development and resume building. She discussed SPP Indicator 13, which addresses secondary transition for students with individualized education programs (IEP) aged 15 and above with an IEP that includes appropriate measurable postsecondary goals that are annually updated and based upon an age-appropriate transition assessment, transition services, including courses of study, that will reasonably enable the student to meet those postsecondary goals, and annual IEP goals related to the student's transition services needs. This includes student involvement in the process. She noted that Special Education teachers will begin training next year to be ready to report on in 2026-2027.

**2026-2027 Budget**

Dr. Reimer and Ms. Miner discussed the final 2026-2027 budget proposal being put forth. Dr. Reimer commented that he felt it was a very reasonable budget overall, and the Budget Advisory Committee concurred with his view given a few unknown factors with state aid, where revenue will need to be made up, and the usage of reserves to address the revenue shortfall. The Committee felt it was well designed and is an appropriate way to spend the District resident's monies. Based on what is known, Dr. Reimer noted that it is projected that the District will allocate \$950,307 of appropriated



fund balance to balance the budget. He noted that part of the EBLAR Reserve, projected to total \$2,207,486, will be for the retirement payout needs. He commented that the District does not have the state numbers/budget to date so it estimated as best possible. He did project the state aid may be an approximate 2% increase. He noted it is important that the District continues to look at long-term views for the financial stability of the District, which includes the usage of reserves. Total state aid is currently projected to increase 1.92% to \$14,523,372.

Dr. Reimer noted that in August the external auditor will come in and look at the numbers in the reserve plans and adjustments will be made as appropriate based on what the District knows at that time.

Dr. Reimer commented that the expenditure budget for next year is proposed to be \$22,916,892, as compared to the current budget of \$22,475,712, which represents a 1.96% increase. This will allow all current programs to be funded for another year. He noted that this is below the current CPI. He felt that the proposed budget reflects responsible and realistic figures.

Dr. Reimer reviewed the Tri-component Budget Report which is in line with state guidance. He talked about the three main components, with Administrative representing 10.16% of the budget, Program Component being 75.03%, and the remaining 14.81% being the Capital component of the budget.

Dr. Reimer asked if Mr. Atwater, Mr. Sweeney, Jr., or Mrs. Carnes, who were on the Budget Advisory Committee, had any comments for the remaining Board Members. Mr. Atwater said the Committee went through quite a bit of detail to come to where the proposed budget is today. The other members concurred.

The property tax report card, with the projected budgeted revenue amount of \$22,916,892, results in a proposed tax levy is \$5,434,764 resulting in a 2.85% tax levy.

Dr. Reimer commented that assuming all the items are approved this evening, the information will be finalized for The Banner and budget flyer, and will be reviewed by the Budget Advisory Committee to provide the pertinent information to the community ahead of the vote on May 19, 2026.

Ms. Miner noted that she has been working closely on a monthly basis with the District's financial advisors, NYCLASS and 3+1 Cash Vest with regard to debt payments for investments and will keep the Board apprised.

Ms. Miner noted that the District received the Platinum award from Utica Safety and a \$500 donation to be used to address potential safety threats before they could occur at the District. This award represents the continued



work by the District to keep students, staff, and the community safe. 157 districts received an award this year.

Mr. Sweeney, Jr. inquired about NYCLASS' competitiveness. Ms. Miner stated they were still competitive but she still compares to other financial institutions to get the best possible return for the District. Dr. Reimer noted that this is looked at carefully and noted that borrowings for the \$14 million capital project are being reviewed tomorrow and Wednesday. He also noted that it may be more advantageous to keep funds and maximize interest earned for the project.

### **Superintendent's Information**

Dr. Reimer noted that the bids for the \$14 million 2025 CIP project are out. The information was released a few days later given the date of the NYSED approval and therefore, the District will not meet the bid approval projected date planned of April 21<sup>st</sup>. The new bid opening will be on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Board would then need to meet to approve the bids. Dr. Reimer noted that the once the bids are in and approved, the kickoff meeting will be held. He stated that twelve contractors participated in the walk through on May 7<sup>th</sup> which was more than participated with the \$25 million CIP.

With regard to the \$25 million CIP, the final cost reports have been submitted. There are a few minor punch list items, once done, checks will be released to the contractors. It will also allow the District to receive the aid for this year. He noted that when the District does its \$25 million bonding, it will need to look closely at the interest rates.

With regard to this new capital project, Dr. Reimer stated that Dr. Love and her team are working on logistics and the moves needed with staff, along with the construction managers, to have everything set for the commencement of construction. The work will first start in the 1911 building on the second floor to be set for the start of the school year if all goes according to the projected timeline. Dr. Reimer commented that things do not always go as planned, so everyone will need to be flexible. He commented that everyone was incredible in that regard with the first project.

Dr. Reimer discussed the Somerset plant and that he continues to look at everything and discuss with the attorneys. He is hoping to have more information at the end of the year. He noted it is difficult to know what is happening completely with the PILOT as to what is taking place as the school does not have a seat at the table with the NCIDA. He had a meeting with Senator Ortt on March 27<sup>th</sup> about options for the energy mitigation program extension. He noted that he is doing a lot in the background to help offset the loss of revenue from the Energy Cessation Mitigation Fund.

Dr. Reimer noted that bids are going out soon for the Yorker House demolition. Pending receipt of bids, approval could take place in May, with



a demolition in June. The lot would then be filled in and a commemorative sign regarding its historic significance will be put up.

**Board Retreat/2025**

**CIP Board Date**

Dr. Reimer noted that the Board meeting for the approval of the bids for the 2025 \$12 million CIP project needs to be scheduled. He recommended Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 if a quorum could be present. The Board discussed. Mrs. Voss and Miss Mason said they had a conflict. Mr. Atwater, Mrs. Gancasz, and Mrs. Carnes were available. Mr. Sweeney, Jr. said he would make himself available.

Mr. Atwater discussed the Board Retreat which needed to be postponed. He suggested that it might be more beneficial to wait until after the Reorganization Meeting and doing after the summer when the new Board is in place. The Board agreed. Dates in July will be circulated.

**Policies/Plans**

The Board reviewed the First Reading of policies.

- 6420 - Employee Personnel Records and Release of Information
- 6430 - Employee Activities
- 6450 - Theft of Services or Property
- 6460 - Jury Duty
- 6510 - Health Insurance
- 6520 - Workers' Compensation
- 6540 - Defense and Indemnification of Board Members and Employees
- 6550 - Leaves of Absence
- 6551- Family and Medical Leave Act Policy
- 6552 - Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)/Military Leaves of Absence
- 6560 - Determination of Employment Status: Employee or Independent Contractor

There were no questions or comments made on policies: 6420, 6430, 6450, 6460, 6510, 6520, 6540, 6550, 6551, 6552, 6560.

The Board reviewed the second reading of the following policies:

- 6214 - Incidental Teaching
- 6215 - Probation and Tenure
- 6216 - Disciplining of a Tenured Teacher or Certified Personnel
- 6217 - Professional Staff: Separation
- 6220 - Temporary Personnel
- 6230 - Selection of Athletic Coaches
- 6310 - Appointment - Support Staff
- 6410 - Staff Use of Computerized Information Resources

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the policies as presented.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.



**Education**

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, Seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the following items from the library collection be declared excess property and that the Superintendent, or his designee, be authorized to dispose of said items.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, Seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the 2026-2027 Course Catalog for the Barker Jr./Sr. High School.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, Seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the revised 2026-2027 School Calendar from the February 9, 2026 Board approval.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

**Personnel Items**

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, Seconded by Miss Mason, to approve Jacob Reimer, Micaela Love, Christian Cornwell, Julia Duerr and Deb Lingle as an APPR Teacher Evaluator for the 2025-2026 school year.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, Seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the acceptance the resignation of Catherine Cornwell as a Part-time Food Service Helper effective April 3, 2026.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, Seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the appointment of Shawna Grabowski as a Student Teacher under Deanna Nestoros, Grade 2, as part of her post-secondary requirements for Childhood Inclusive Education Certification at SUNY Brockport from approximately September 1, 2026 through December 18, 2026.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, Seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the resolution regarding authority of the District Clerk regarding the notice of annual meeting and election without reconvening a Board meeting or Board approval.



**Resolved**, that the Barker Central School District Board of Education hereby authorizes the District Clerk to amend and publish a revised Notice of Annual School District Meeting and Vote as may be necessary to comply with any requirements set forth in the Executive Order of the Governor of New York State, other federal or state legislation, or as may be necessary in conjunction with the various district-wide projects.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, Seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the appointment of Election Inspectors, and Election Inspector Alternates for the May 19, 2026 Annual Meeting at a rate of \$16.00 per hour, and designate the District Clerk to name another Election Inspector if absence should the need arise.

Krista Ann Atwater

Cheryl Blacklock

Susan Curry

Amy Dewart

James Preston

Karen Demorest

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, Seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the appointment of Cliff Johnston as Election Custodian with a stipend of \$120.00 for the May 19, 2026 Annual Meeting, and designate the District Clerk to name another Election Custodian in his absence should the need arise.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, Seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the appointment of Amy Dewart as Election Chairman/Chief Inspector for the May 19, 2026 Annual Meeting, and designate the District Clerk to name another Election Inspector in her absence should the need arise.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, Seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the appointment of Sandra Williams as a parent/community volunteer.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.



**Business & Financial**

**Items**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to accept the Warrant Report dated March 2026.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to accept the Extraclassroom Report dated March 2026.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to accept the Treasurer's Report dated March 2026.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the proposed budget of expenditures of the Barker Central School District for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$22,916,892 and direct that such proposed budget of expenditures be submitted at the Annual Meeting of the qualified voters of the Barker Central School District, Niagara and Orleans Counties, State of New York, as Proposition #1 scheduled on May 19, 2026 from Noon to 8:00 p.m. in the Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall, subject to further federal or state directives.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the 2026-2027 Tri-Component Budget Statement and Budget Notice.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the Property Tax Report Card upon approval of the 2026-2027 Barker Central School Budget.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.



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

Yes: 6

No: 0

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Claims Audit Report dated March 2026.

The Board reviewed the Revenue Status and Appropriation Reports.

### **Adjournment of Public**

#### **Session**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes, that the Board approve the end of the Public Session and moved to Executive session for the purpose reviewing the employment history of particular persons and collective negotiations with the Barker Teachers Union at 8:10 p.m.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

### **Executive**

#### **Session**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 10:14 p.m., and return to Public Session.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

### **Public Session/ Adjournment**

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the end the Public Session and adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie  
District Clerk