



**Barker Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Library Media Center**

Present	R. B. Atwater, R. Atwater, D. Carnes, C. Gancasz, S. Mason, J. Sweeney, Jr., V. Voss
Excused	None
Also Present	J. Reimer, C. Cornwell, J. Duerr, M. Eadie, M. Love, C. Miner Public – 22
Call to Order	Mr. Atwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge to the flag was done.
Oath of Office	District Clerk Eadie gave the Oath of Office to Board Member, Stephanie Mason.
Agenda	Motion by John Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the agenda of the August 10, 2026 Regular meeting as presented. Yes: 7, No: 0 Motion carried.
Minutes	Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by John Sweeney, Jr., to approve the minutes from the July 1, 2026 Audit Committee, Reorganization Meeting, and Regular Board meetings and the July 22, 2026 Special Meeting as presented. Yes: 7, No: 0 Motion carried.
Public Forum	Mr. Atwater read the expectations of the Public Forum which is to provide an opportunity for District residents to address the Board. Comments should be limited to less than three minutes and be confined to subjects normally addressed at the Board level. He noted the Board of Education does not intend for the public meeting to be a dialogue. This is a meeting held in public, but it is not a public meeting. The Board of Education offers a public forum as part of the regular agenda as an opportunity for the public to address the Board. Adler Detschner, Barker resident and alumni, spoke on behalf of the musical. He noted his disappointment that Mrs. Fisk was not approved as the musical director for the new school year. He noted how the music



group is a family thing, and they are a family where you come to meet people, do things with, and he felt that some things reflected by the decision did not reflect positively on Administration by the community. He noted he is speaking on behalf of Connor Dwyer and stated that the musical teaches the students to get out of their comfort zone, it benefits many that are not in sports, and the musical becomes a family and home to many. He hoped the appointment would go through tonight and explained his concerns as to if people will still be willing to help and/or participate given the decision with Mrs. Fisk and negative views.

Lauren Wedekind, Barker resident and musical volunteer spoke next. She noted that the individuals in the audience today are here to show support for a thriving musical program which she felt time and time again has been treated as an afterthought. She commented that not hiring Mrs. Fisk is the most recent event, in years of events, that show that the musical is a second class below sports. She stated Mrs. Fisk was a smoke alarm sounding on all the unfairness and inequality in the school between sports and the musical. She stated that by not hiring Mrs. Fisk the District did not put out fires and fixed the issues, it only shut off the current alarm. She commented that scheduling issues with sports and the musical will continue if changes are not made. She suggested forming a committee that would include the current director and musical staff, along with sports coaches, and Administration to create a schedule all parties could agree on to allow the most students to participate in sports and the musical as possible. She said that the scheduling should be done to create a fair amount of both sports practice and musical rehearsal time. She noted that both parties need to share time. To date, she felt sports has not had to compromise, it has only been the musical that comprises on time. She noted that a musical can't be learned in the last two to three weeks of rehearsal, and that this time issue is not right and needs to change. She commented that sports coaches can be coaches until they decide not to be but because the musical is a club, the director position is up in the air year after year. She would like to see the appointment treated like sports appointments. She noted that when the leader changes year after year, and continuity is not kept and the program struggles. She would like the musical changed from a club to something on the same line as sports so that the director can remain the same, like a coach can. She stated that the musical program will never blossom and will never be given the opportunity to compete until the director remains the same, and it was not fair to the program or the children to not have continuity in directing. She noted that many issues would be fixed if the musical was seen and presented on equal ground as sports, instead of seen as "just a club".

Susan Curry, resident, Class of 1972, spoke with regard to the musical. She noted that 38 students participated this past year in the Wizard of Oz which represented 13% of the Jr./Sr. High school body. She questioned why so much emphasis on a sport when less students participate? She



stated that every year there are Barker musical students that further their education in the field because of this program. She asked how many go on to play professional sports. She also noted that with the large number of students participating there are issues due to lack of space. She noted that students are changing in the hallways under cameras. She also stated that the new rigging installed in such a way that it takes up twice the space in the small wing of the stage and interferes with opening of doors. She asked if the Board/ Administration was aware of that. She also asked if they knew there were safety pins, the musical purchased, holding up the hems of the new stage curtains as they are too long. She said that volunteer time is not valued or understood by everyone. This year alone, over twelve adults spent over five hours, 60 man hours, cleaning out the room behind the sound area, the room across the hall from the auditorium, and the wings of the auditorium. She noted that Lauren Wedekind and Mrs. Mussel spent two 8-hour days cleaning the costume room again. They did not put a dent in the destruction left by others not associated with the Jr./Sr. High musical program. She stated that this year's costumes were cleaned by Amanda Deschner like she does every year, cleaned, returned, and hung on the costume racks. When she and others returned one month later, the costumes were thrown on the dirty floor and the racks were missing. She said all this happens year after year. She noted that the makeup and paint cabinet was trashed by others as well. After the Shrek musical, Sandra Lewis cleaned the cabinet, bought makeup and supplies to last the musical program several years as she knew the price was going to increase, and when they returned, the brand-new makeup was broken, left open, destroyed, and missing. She said the musical group asked that people respect their time and money, and the room behind the lights, costume area, makeup cabinet, and asked for a cabinet be locked and designated as only for the Jr./Sr. High school musical only as these items are paid for and sourced by the program and also with volunteers' time and money. She discussed lack of tools and supplies, and the use of stool vs. appropriate ladders or supplies, dangers, and the ability to store equipment so it is protected and not stolen like the four 30-foot yellow heavy duty extension cords that were purchased along with 4 cord boxes, of which only one could be found this season. If the musical group was provided secured storage, they could collect and maintain needed supplies purchased and/or donated. She ended by saying no more standing on chairs.

Holly Carges, Barker resident, musical volunteer, and parent spoke. She thanked the Board for allowing her to speak this evening. She commented that what began as a campaign to support Mrs. Fisk in her role as Music Director has now evolved into a much larger and more important question: How do we support our Music Theater Department as a whole?

She stated it has become very clear that Barker is moving in another direction for the director position. She said that while that decision



appears to be made, the responsibility shared does not end there. She noted that the issue before us now is not simply who will hold the title, but what kind of program we intend to build, sustain, and protect for our students. She stated, first, the musical program needs adequate space for its theater department to thrive. Right now, she said the musical group is working out of a tiny, overstuffed room that is far removed from both the students and the stage. She said it is not a functional workspace for a program of this size, and it certainly does not reflect the value this district claims to place on the arts.

She commented that during the summer programs, the musical room has become a free-for-all, used by anyone and everyone, and it is the Jr./Sr. High musical theater program that is left cleaning up the mess. She also commented that the parents and staff of the musical theater program must be consulted in a timely and meaningful manner regarding who will be running this program. She noted that when Mrs. Fisk was originally hired, the District invited one of our parents to sit on the hiring panel. She felt that was fantastic, and the group were genuinely excited to have a voice in the process and to contribute to choosing the right leader for our children. She said that however, when it came time to consider rehiring Mrs. Fisk, the musical group was not contacted, and were not included. She said they were not given any opportunity to advocate for her, despite the fact that she has consistently advocated for our children. She said, instead, negative comments from certain BCS staff members appear to have influenced the decision, while the people who worked with Mrs. Fisk every single day, the parents, the volunteers, the students, and the program staff, were never given the chance to speak. She said this cannot be how the musical moves forward. She asked that in the future, to allow the musical group to present the facts and information in a professional manner. She asked to allow the group to respond, offer a rebuttal when decisions are being shaped by incomplete or one-sided perspectives. She said the musical group is not asking for control, rather asking for fairness, transparency, and the opportunity to speak for the program they support, build, and sustain.

She continued and discussed her third concern that all parties need to meet together in one group setting to coordinate schedules for the children's sports and musical activities. This is not complicated. It can be done calmly, professionally, and with the shared goal of creating the best possible outcome for our students.

When students are able to participate in both athletics and musical theater, Barker wins. The students win. Their school careers become richer, more balanced, and more successful. These programs should complement each other, not compete. In the past, however, she said that only one side has provided a schedule, and the musical theater



program has been expected to simply abide by it. She said that should not happen, and it is not collaborative. She also noted the process is not equitable, and it does not reflect the District's stated commitment to supporting the whole child.

Alexis Carges, student and resident spoke next about the musical program. She said that the musical theater group is asking for a simple, reasonable change, to bring everyone to the same table. Let coaches, directors, parents, and staff discuss schedules together, plan in a way that respects both programs and the students who love them.

She then commented if it is possible for the Board of Education and Administrative Staff to operate more proactively when it comes to supporting the musical theater program. She noted that over the past year, the entire program has missed opportunities simply because there is not a full understanding of what it does, what the timelines look like, and what is required for participants and volunteers to succeed. She noted that there are strict deadlines that must be met to be eligible for the Wonder Awards. There are 10+ months of preparation, planning, rehearsals, coordination, and fundraising that go into producing a single show. She said there are countless moving parts with costumes, sets, choreography, music, student schedules, volunteer coordination, all of which require long-term planning and timely administrative support. She said that everyone enjoys the talents of the students. She said people are quick to compliment them, to celebrate their performances, and to take pride in their accomplishments, but that pride must be matched with action. She said they need the Board and Administration to listen to what the musical theater group are saying, to understand the goals it is trying to accomplish, and to support the program in a way that reflects its value to the District.

She noted that proactive communication, timely decisions, and a willingness to understand the scope of musical theater work will make all the difference. She also noted that the students deserve a program that is not constantly fighting for space, clarity, or recognition, but one that is empowered to thrive. She stated that this is how we build a school culture where every child feels supported, not forced to choose. She noted in closing, the original goal was to ask you to reconsider rehiring Mrs. Fisk. However, the group understand that the decision has been made to move in another direction, and they respect that. We look forward to working with whoever is selected to lead the musical theater program. She stated what the group asks is simple, to not mistake strong advocacy for being difficult, as their passion is not opposition, it is commitment. She asked that the Board support them, listen to them, and recognize the many parents, volunteers, and students who stand behind them. She commented that if the Board does, the next director will not be standing alone. They will be stepping into a program with a community



ready to help them succeed, and a District that understands the value of what the musical program is building.

Sandra Lewis, Barker resident, volunteer spoke about the musical program noting she has been involved with musicals with Mrs. Johnson and that they worked together and was ready to not do it going forward. She said that Mrs. Fisk asked her to do another year to help with the transition and noted that that Mrs. Fisk was a blessing, understood the program, worked to make the musical needs work with needs of the sports. She discussed how, as a result of that dedication by Mrs. Fisk, she was able to make it work for the musical and sports students. Mrs. Lewis noted, due to the flexibility provided to athletic students, she often had to reteach students pulled out from the musical during sports. She said that Mrs. Fisk and the group never put the students in the middle but rather made it work. She said sports is a team effort. She said the musical starts, they become a team. The kids were blessed to have Mrs. Fisk as she loved the kids and the kids loved her. Mrs. Lewis stated that she too loved working with Mrs. Fisk. The District needs to find a way to make it work with sports she noted. She said the musical gives the students an identity and color.

Presentations

Principal – Dr. Love

Dr. Love distributed a report and discussed the summer school program that recently concluded, which was coordinated by Mr. Carson who developed a wonderful program this year. The program helped bridge the gap for many students over the summer. The in-house summer school program was only for grades PK-6. Grades 7-12 attended the regional BOCES summer school program. Parents provided transportation and snacks for their children this year. There was time allocated for recess and art education, as well as STEAM in the daily instruction. She thanked the staff and families for making the time for their children to participate in the program. She noted that there was a total of 52 students in the PK-6 grade summer program, which was an increase of 15 from the prior year. She discussed student attendance, at 87%, slightly up from the prior year, as well as the focus of the instruction. The special field trip at the end of the program was cancelled due to air quality and rain, so the students participated in a fun day of activities in the gym for the close of the program, as well as a swim day in the pool, and a cookout. She noted that the school also ran two fire drills during the program. Overall, it was an excellent program for the students.

Dr. Love stated that everyone is very busy planning for the start of the school year, and it is very busy preparing for opening day.

She talked about enrollment to date, and noted that the elementary and Jr./Sr. High numbers are the same currently at 295 students. She noted that this will change as families move in and out of the District.



Dr. Love noted that the Codes of Conduct and Safety Plans are being presented for approval this evening following their first review, public forum, and open comment time period.

Welcome Back Night and Open House are scheduled for September 2nd, and the PK will have a session the same day from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., which is new this year. The Support Staff is working on having food trucks for staff and families with the proceeds to go towards scholarships, which she noted was exciting. September 8th will be the first day of school for the students.

Coor. Of Curriculum & Professional Learning/AP – Mr. Cornwell

Mr. Cornwell discussed the hiring process for all the current positions being completed and new teacher orientation being held on August 17 – 18 for our new hires. Items on the orientation agenda include: an overview of technology at Barker, curriculum work time, information from the business office, time to work with their mentors, and a guided bus tour of the community.

The Board was presented for review and approval the Professional Development Plan for the 2026-2027 school year. He noted that the document is a continuation of the previous Professional Development Plan as the District is looking to advance the goals further prior to the development of a new strategic plan under a new superintendent. The goals and activities on the Professional Development Plan are directly linked and should align to the goals of the current Strategic Plan - literacy, student engagement, and student achievement.

Mr. Cornwell noted that plans are being finalized for the opening days with faculty and staff in early September. Faculty will have time to prepare their classrooms for students and sessions involving updates to NY Inspires, the RTI process at Barker, executive functioning issues in students, technology updates and more. Faculty will also have time to meet and plan by departments.

Mr. Cornwell provided a handout and an update with regard to NYS/NY Inspires. At the June 2026 NYS Board of Regents (BOR) meeting, the BOR issued an update on NY Inspires. He discussed the insights of the meeting. The BOR indicated that much of the upcoming work on NY Inspires will involve regional implementation hubs that are focused on the different BOCES across the state. Work in these “hubs” will include designing core experiences that all students at every grade level will experience. The state believes this approach will reduce fragmentation of efforts, leverage collective expertise, and support locally adapted implementation of the work that can be properly scaled. He noted that he felt it was interesting that this will result in moving away from the Carnegie units that have been used for approximately 100 years of



learning where learning is constant and competency based. He noted it will be also interesting to see what they are proposing – looking at readiness vs. seat time is the emphasis currently. He noted that this is a plan currently and not a regulation. More details will continue to emerge during the fall.

Mr. Cornwell continues with a technology update. Over the past month or so, the District has received new I-pads for its youngest learners. They will replace the outdated models that have been used for many years. The District also ordered a half-dozen new Clear Touch screens for classrooms. In addition, it has placed an order for 100 student Chromebooks. The money for these purchases came from last year's budget (I-pads and some Clear Touch) and this year's budget (student Chromebooks and some Clear Touch).

Mr. Cornwell has reviewed nearly all of the data reports that need to be verified and certified by the end of August for the 2025-2026 school year. He noted he would do one more review before passing them along to Dr. Reimer for his review and ultimate certification to NYS. Once completed, the District will then start the process again for the 2026-2027 school year.

Director of Instructional Services/Special Education - Ms. Duerr

Ms. Duerr discussed how the District met the requirements through IDEA, however it was cited through the EOTI (Educational Organization Tiered Intervention) process. The District will remain in the ELA Targeted Skills Group. The Pathway for Change has been completed, as well as work continues in the SPP 8 Parent Voice Targeted Skills Group as the District is short 9 surveys from parents that are needed to meet the requirement of State Ed. She noted that she and Mrs. Wozniak are making calls to the families to have the required numbers submitted. She noted that there are currently ten students slotted for the new 15:1 class, and 8 students in the 12:1:1. She is also completing the management sheets on all the special education students.

Financial Update - Ms. Miner

Ms. Minter reported that the Business Office has remained very busy since the end of the school year as it continues to work on closing the financials on the 2025-2026 fiscal year. On July 30th, the District closed on a \$4.7 million Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) at a favorable rate. Academy Securities provided the winning bid with a 4.00% interest rate and a premium of \$45,120, resulting in an effective interest rate of 3.0373%.

She noted that in addition to completing year-end rollovers and implementing payroll and Human Resources updates, the Business Office has been focused on reconciling ExtraClassroom Activity Accounts and preparing for the annual audit. The external auditors are onsite this week,



and the Business Office has already provided hundreds of requested documents to support the audit process.

Looking ahead, she noted that she has identified several opportunities for process improvements, including form revisions and updates to internal procedures. While she is eager to continue enhancing the District's operations, the pace of these initiatives will depend on the time and resources available to the team as they balance ongoing responsibilities with its staffing capacity. She said that overall, the Department continues to make strong progress while managing a demanding workload and supporting the District's financial and operational needs.

She said that within the Board packets are the Revenue and Appropriation Status Reports for the June 30, 2026 and for the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. She said she will continue to provide both until 2025-2026 is closed out. She noted there is also a list of budget transfers which require Board approval and these budget transfers are done once at the end of the year. She said the list of budget transfers of \$10,000 or more are required by Board policy for approval.

Lastly, she noted that the Board received the tax warrant report she prepared for approval in order for the school property tax bills to be prepared. The tax bills will be mailed in the beginning of September. There were no questions brought forward regarding the information provided.

Mrs. Voss wanted the individuals present at the meeting to know her personal thoughts with regard to the comments during the Public Forum session this evening. She noted she appreciated the passion they have for the musical and the arts, and that the individuals being there for the students. She noted that she was a parent volunteer for 8 musical shows and cooked for the play group, worked backstage, and did what ever she could to help support the program and the students. One of her children is now teaching drama in NYC as a result of their participation in the musical program. She noted that she also had children involved in sports. She noted that her vote was based on the entire Barker community, and though some may feel it is the athletics vs. musical, she noted it is not. She also noted that she has never voted against sports, musical, arts-related items until the vote for the musical director, noting that she has voted in favor of adding positions, and support for the programs. She also understood their request for space for use during performance rehearsals and performances. She noted her appreciation for where many of the comments were coming from. She commented on continuity, noting that there was some for many years with Ms. Johnson as Director, but changes occur. Her decision was what was best for the community and she wants a musical for the students.

Mr. Atwater noted that this is the last Board of Education meeting for Dr. Reimer and commented that he and the Board appreciated all the work he has done, the hours he has given to the District/community and noted the outstanding job Dr. Reimer has done for Barker the last eight years. He commented that the District was fortunate to have him.



Superintendent's Information

Dr. Reimer provided his report. He noted that the capital work continues and the 1911 building is close to completion but is not quite there yet for the start of the school year as anticipated. He stated the focus is to get the chorus area ready first. Receipt of flooring was delayed but not on site and being installed. The north wing of the elementary block demolition will start next week. Dr. Reimer discussed the bond rate and aidability relative to the project. He then discussed the timeline for the next pieces of the project, and noted that some have been pushed further out. He reviewed the MCA – maximum cost allowance for projects, noting there are two buckets of funds, the construction piece, and the incidentals which are items such as fees, furniture, etc. The high school has 8-12 months for aidability to be received at the full rate so the project stays as was presented and approved by the voters. Dr. Reimer noted that Mr. Cornwell might be able to provide an update in September on the projects and the status of the aid to be received with how that will impact moving dates for finishing components of the project which he anticipates being sooner than projected.

With regard to the Tax Warrant, Dr. Reimer discussed the various ways the valuation of the plant could potentially impact the school district, and residents as far as how people/businesses will be taxed. He said the valuation of a town as a portion of the entire District can have a negative or positive impact over the next few years and, which with so many variables, is hard to predict how it will impact the District residents and school. The state reports towns and tax growth factors which will determine how it impacts the tax rate over the next few years. Somerset could increase and then decrease, then stabilize, this depends on if a PILOT is put in place, how the plant is valued, and the value on the warrant. He noted that it depends how it plays out and there could be volatility here. He noted that a letter is being drafted which once finalized, will be put in with the tax bills to residents to explain the situation as best possible and the potential impact on them and the District. He noted that the District wants to be fully transparent and provide as much information to District residents as possible. He noted that Barker is the only local school district that he is aware of that does this. He noted that the tax bills will be printed by the county, mailed out through the District, and processed at the school. This saves the District money and residents can either mail the payment in or utilized the drop box which is checked several times daily.

Dr. Reimer then thanked everyone for the last eight years, noted his appreciation and stated he has loved it and will miss it. He commented that he will miss the “munchkins” the most as that is why he came here, it is about the students, and loves everyone.



Policies/Plans

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the 2026-2027 District-Wide School Safety Plan.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the 2026-2027 Building Level Emergency Response Plan (Confidential Safety Plan).

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the 2026-2027 Pratt Elementary Grades PK-6 Code of Conduct.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the 2026-2027 Junior/Senior School Grades 7-12 Code of Conduct.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the Barker Central School District Organizational Professional Development Plan dated 2026-2027.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Education

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the creation of a full-time Special Education Teacher position for the purpose of teaching a 15:1 classroom.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the Course Catalog Addition for the 2026-2027 School Year for Weightlifting.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the accepting of J.F. as a non-resident tuition paying student for the 2026-2027 school year, with fees being determined based upon Board Policy #7132, Non-Resident Students.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the overnight Boys and Girls Cross-country trip to Queensbury, NY from September 24 – September 25, 2026, as outlined.



Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Personnel Items

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the resolution that the Board of Education hereby: (1) appoints Christian Cornwell as Interim Superintendent, effective September 4, 2026, upon the terms and conditions of employment as set forth in the negotiated interim superintendent employment agreement; and (2) approves the Interim Superintendent Employment Agreement negotiated by the parties; and (3) authorizes the Board President to execute such Interim Superintendent Employment Agreement.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the resolution conferring tenure of Christian Cornwell in the area of Coordinator of Curriculum, Professional Learning/Assistant Principal effective September 3, 2026, subject to that the employee must meet all requirements of the educational law and corresponding regulations:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure upon Christian Cornwell in the area of Coordinator of Curriculum, Professional Learning/Assistant Principal effective September 3, 2026, subject to that the employee must meet all requirements of the educational law and corresponding regulations.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Barker Central School District and Micaela Love for the 2026-2027 school year.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Kira Hanson as a 10-month Clerical Typist with a probationary period from August 11, 2026 - August 10, 2027 at a rate of \$16.00 per hour effective August 11, 2026.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Emily Lunde as a full-time Teacher Aide with a probationary period from September 1, 2026 - August 31, 2027, at a rate of \$16.00 per hour as per the Barker Support Staff Agreement effective September 1, 2026.



Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Emily Lunde as a Substitute Teacher, Substitute Teaching Assistant, and Substitute Teacher Aide effective August 31, 2026.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the leave of absence for Emily Smith, Special Education Teacher, through or on about September 1, 2027.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Sherrie Wozniak, 12-month Clerical, with commendation and regret for the purpose of retirement effective September 27, 2026.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Annabelle Guercio for the full-time probationary Special Education Teacher effective September 1, 2026. Her probationary period would be effective September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2030, and in the tenure area of Special Education. The expiration date is tentative and conditional only. In order to be eligible for and considered for tenure, she must meet all requirements of the Educational Law and corresponding regulations. Her annual salary rate at MA, Step 8, per the effective Barker Teachers Union collective bargaining agreement salary schedule, is \$60,288.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Madison Andrews as a full-time probationary Spanish Teacher effective September 1, 2026. Her probationary period would be effective September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2030, and in the tenure area of Spanish. The expiration date is tentative and conditional only. In order to be eligible for and considered for tenure, she must meet all requirements of the Educational Law and corresponding regulations. Her annual salary rate at BA, Step 1, per the effective Barker Teachers Union collective bargaining agreement salary schedule, is \$45,456.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Margaret DeMare for the full-time long-term substitute Special Education Teacher effective September 1, 2026. Her annual salary rate at BA, Step 1, per the effective Barker Teachers Union collective bargaining agreement salary schedule, is \$45,456.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Approve the appointment of Gabrielle Montgomery as Musical Director for the 2026-2027 school year per the BTU Agreement at Category A, Step 1, \$3,663.75.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the following individuals as District-wide lifeguards inclusive of Community Ed for the 2026-2027 school year subject to verification of certifications at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

David Carson
Ashley Cieslewicz
Evan Cornwell
Lori Costello
Heidi Dergel
Oscar Dergel
Paul DerSarkissian
Demerise Eadie
Krista Beth Feltz
Gwendolyn Johnson
Colin Knight
Sharon Lamb
Emily Lunde
Lucy Lunde*
Karin Menz
Darian Papia
Madelina Pavlock
Madison Stephan
Mirabelle Strong
Nathan Sutch
Beth VeRost
Jesse Watts
Bill Wilson

*Effective February 28, 2027

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Mary Eadie as the Community Ed Director for the 2026-2027 school year with a stipend of \$8,500.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the following Community Adult Education appointments for the Fall 2026 school year from September 14 - November 24, 2026, with make-up classes, online, and some running through December 2026.

Crochet for Everyone	Eadie, Demerise	\$16.00/hour
Body Sculpting	Hook, Trisha	\$16.00/hour
Ceramics for Beginners	Feltz, Krista Beth	\$16.00/hour
Greeting Card Class	Kersch, Mary	\$16.00/hour
Greeting Card Class (Substitute)	Martell, Loriann	\$16.00/hour
Lap Swimming/Family Swim/Lifeguard	VeRost, Beth	\$18.00/hour
Lap Swimming/Family Swim Substitute/ Lifeguard	Dergel, Heidi	\$18.00/hour
Quilting	Stoll, Janice	\$16.00/hour
Daily Livings	Lewis, Sandra	\$16.00/hour
Circuit Training for Older Active Adults	Lewis, Sandra	\$16.00/hour
Stained Glass	Leggett, Linda	\$50.00/participant
Stretch & Tone	Hook, Trisha	\$16.00/hour
Supervision Substitute	Atwater, Ashely	\$16.00/hour
Supervision Substitute	Costello, Jeffrey	\$16.00/hour
Supervision Substitute	Costello, Lori	\$16.00/hour
Supervision Substitute	Menz, Karin	\$16.00/hour
Water Aerobics Instructor	VeRost, Beth	\$18.00/hour
Water Aerobics Instructor (Substitute)	Dergel, Heidi	\$18.00/hour
Volleyball	Harris, James	\$16.00/hour
Volleyball (Substitute)	Morgan, Jared	\$16.00/hour
Glass Painting	Feltz, Krista Beth	\$16.00/hour
Yoga	Burke, Molly	\$16.00/hour
Online Cooking	Georgakopoulos, Tess	\$25.00-\$110.00/ enrollment depending on class
Online Health/Well-being	Novak, Janice	\$20.00/enrollment
Online Health/Well-being	Wicher, Jesse	\$35-
149.00/enrollment		
Online Piano or Guitar Lessons	Coffman, Craig	\$49.00/enrollment
AARP SMART Driver	AARP Representative	Not paid as Teacher
Community Band	Frost, Marcia	Volunteer
Medicare 101 & Annuities Classes	Myers, Jason	Volunteer
RAD Defense	Somerset Police	Volunteer

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Joy Dabill as a Retired Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate as well as a Substitute Teaching Assistant at a rate of \$16.00 per hour for the District effective July 30, 2026.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Wendy Pellow as a Retired Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate as well as a Substitute Teaching Assistant at a rate of \$16.00 per hour for the District effective July 2, 2026

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Amy Tierney-Luthart as a Retired Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate as well as a Substitute Teaching Assistant at a rate of \$16.00 per hour for the District effective July 2, 2026.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of William Bruning as a Retired Substitute Teacher for the District at the per diem rate effective July 2, 2026.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Molly Handrich as Production Assistant for the HS Musical for the 2026-2027 school year at Step 1, Category E, with a stipend of \$667.29 as per the BTU Agreement.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointments of unpaid adult volunteers for the 2026-2027 school year
Fall sports season:

Jessica Carpenter

Carson Schwab

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Helene Klos as a parent/community volunteer.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



**Business & Financial
Items**

The Board reviewed the Revenue and Appropriations Reports dated Year-end 2025-2026; the Revenue and Appropriations Reports dated June 30, 2026; as well as the Audit Claims Report dated July 31, 2026.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to accept the Treasurer's Report dated June 30, 2026.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to accept the Warrant Report dated July 31, 2026.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the budget transfers for year-end 2025-2026.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the adoption of the resolutions pertaining to the Tax Warrant for collection of property taxes and for the property tax rates for 2026-2027:

WHEREAS: Chapter 73 of the Laws of 1977, amended Section 1318, subdivision 1 of the Real Property Tax Law; and

WHEREAS: the unencumbered, unreserved fund balance at the close of the last fiscal year must be applied in determining the amount of the school tax levy except for an amount not to exceed 4% of the current year budget; and

WHEREAS: this latter amount may be held as surplus funds during the current school year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education retain as surplus funds \$493,543 from the estimated fund balance of 8,316,900 there by applying \$950,307 to the reduction of the tax levy.

BE IT ADDITIONALLY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

To the collector of Barker School District Town(s) of Somerset, Hartland, Newfane, Ridgeway and Yates of Counties of Niagara and Orleans of New York State. You are hereby commanded: To give notice and start tax collection on September 1, 2026, in accordance with the provision of Section 1322 of the Real Property Tax Law. To give notice that the collection will end on October 30, 2026. To collect taxes in the sum of \$5,434,764 to meet the estimated expenses of the school district plus \$108,717.40 for



library purposes in the same manner that collectors are authorized to collect town and county taxes in accordance with the provisions of Section 1318 of the Real Property Tax Law. To make no changes or alterations in this tax warrant or the attached tax rolls but shall return the same to the Board of Education. The Board may recall its warrant and tax roll for correction of errors or omissions in accordance with the provisions of Section 1316 of the Real Property Tax Law. To forward by mail to each owner of real property listed on the tax rolls within ten days after the start of collection a statement of taxes due on the property on press-numbered tax bill forms provided by the school district in accordance with the provisions of Section 922 of the Real Property Tax Law. To forward by mail, without interest penalties, to the office of the county treasurer a detailed tax bill of all state land parcels liable for taxes on the school tax rolls in accordance with provisions of Section 540 and 544 of the Real Property Tax Law.

To receive from each of the taxable corporations and natural persons the sums listed on the attached tax rolls without interest penalties to all taxes collected during the first month of the tax collection period from September 1 to September 30, 2026. To add two percent interest penalties to all taxes collected during the second month of the tax collection between October 1 and October 30, 2026, and to add an additional three percent interest penalties to all taxes collected during any part of the third month which is after October 30, 2026, and to account for such sums as income due the school district. To issue press-numbered receipts as requested by the tax payer only on forms provided by the school district in acknowledgment of receipt of payments of taxes and to retain, preserve, and file exact copies of all such receipts issued as required by Section 986 of the Real Property Tax Law. To promptly return this warrant at the expiration and if any taxes on the attached tax rolls shall be unpaid at that time, deliver an accounting thereof on forms showing by town the total assessed valuation, tax rate, the total tax levy, the total amounts collected, and the total amounts remaining uncollected as required by Section 1330 of the Real Property Tax Law. This warrant is issued pursuant to Sections 910, 912, and 914 of the Real Property Tax Law and is delivered in accordance with Sections 1306 and 1318 of this law. It is effective immediately after it is properly signed by a majority of the members of the Board of Education. This warrant shall expire on the date stated above unless a renewal of extension has been endorsed on the fact of the warrant in writing in accordance with Section 1318, subdivision 2 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the agreement between Barker Central School District and Thomas Wenhold PT PC for Physical Therapy Services for the 2026-2027 school year agreement.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the agreement between Barker Central School District and Lisa Dolan as Certified Occupational Therapist for the 2026-2027 school year.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the agreement between the Barker Central School District and the Town of Somerset for services for a full-time School Resource Officer for the 2026-2027 school year.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

End of Public Session

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to end the Public Session at 7:56 p.m. and moved to Executive Session for the purpose of discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Executive Session

Motion by Mrs. Carnes, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 8:15 p.m., and return to Public Session.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Public Session/ Adjournment

A motion was then made by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to end the Public Session and adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk