



**Barker Central School District
Board of Education
September 10, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Barker Library Media Center**

Present	R. Atwater, C. Gancasz, S. Mason, J. Sweeney, Jr., V. Voss
Excused	R. B. Atwater, D. Carnes, J. Maines
Also Present	C. Cornwell, M. Eadie, M. Love, C. Miner Public – 24
Call to Order	Mr. Sweeney, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Agenda	Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting agenda dated September 14, 2026 as presented. Yes: 5, No: 0 Motion carried.
Minutes	Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting minutes for August 10, 2026. Yes: 5, No: 0 Motion carried.
Public Forum	None
Presentations	<u>Year-end Sports Review - Mr. Mucha</u> Mr. Mucha provided a 2025-2026 Athletics review to the Board. With regard to general updates, he noted that for safety purposes, besides coaches, he continued to help coordinate to provide CPR/AED training and certification to a large number of staff, the highest number ever that he was aware of. He said the focus on grades and attendance with athletes continues. The Pass to Play (P2P) also continues to be successful with weekly failure lists being sent to coaches, which has helped to reduce the number of athletes on P2P. The coaches are receiving daily reports on attendance to be aware and discuss with athletes. He noted that Barker was a NYSPHSAA School of Excellence last year and over 75% of every non-combined sport being a scholar athlete team. He was proud of the accomplishment and noted the District is very close to being a School of Distinction with NYSPHSAA, a goal it is striving for



this year. He noted that the turf continues to be a benefit for the students and also for community for athletes. He commented that several organizations have inquired and utilized the field for baseball, soccer, softball, and football which is keeping him and others very busy coordinating.

In general, Mr. Mucha commented that morale of the coaches seems to be at an all-time high. He and the coaches continue to successfully managed the coaches in all sports where we are both the host and non-host school. He said he recognized the District's coaches during Coaches Appreciation Week and held an end-of-year social for them to show his appreciation. He felt that sportsmanship has improved immensely over the past 1.5 years, and it continues to be a point of emphasis in preseason parent meetings.

With regard to participation in sports, during the Fall season there were 132 athletes who competed in 12 Modified, JV, and Varsity sports. Of the six Varsity teams, he noted that all six teams were NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams with 68 athletes earning scholar-athlete honors. There were ten Senior athletes who earned All-WNY Scholar Athlete honors. Lucas Nestoros received a League Sportsmanship Award for golf. There were two league champions with Cross-Country with being a back-to-back undefeated team and Class D Runner-Ups; and Football being the Class C North Champs and Section 6 Semi-Finalist.

The Winter season had 127 athletes competed in 13 Modified, JV, and Varsity sports and out of six Varsity teams, there were four NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams with 20 athletes earning scholar-athlete honors. He noted that Senior, Luke Fay, received a 1st Team All-WNY Scholar Athlete, and eight Senior athletes earned All-WNY Scholar Athlete honors.

For the Spring season there were 127 athletes competing in 13 Modified, JV, and Varsity sports. He noted that out of the six Varsity teams, there were four teams named NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams with 20 athletes earning scholar-athlete honors. Senior, Luke Fay, was named to 1st Team All-WNY Scholar Athlete for this season too. There were also eight Senior athletes who earned All-WNY Scholar Athlete honors. Mr. Mucha commented that it was a very successful year for athletics.

Mr. Mucha also provided current numbers for the Fall 2026 season as he felt some would be interested in knowing given past discussions with regard to soccer and other sports. The numbers are as follows:



- Modified Football - 16
- Varsity Football - 17
- Cheerleading - 4
- Modified Girls XC - 2
- Varsity Girls XC - 5
- Modified Boys XC - 5
- Varsity Boys XC - 11
- Golf – 13
- Modified Field Hockey – 11
- Varsity Field Hockey – 14
- Modified Girls Soccer – 6
- JV Girls Soccer – 13
- Varsity Girls Soccer – 5
- Modified Boys Soccer – 11 (20 signed up in the Spring)
- JV Boys Soccer – 6 (10 signed up in the Spring)
- Varsity Boys Soccer – 4 (5 signed up in the Spring)

He discussed additional plans and developments for the 2026-2027 season that included the combined Modified, JV and Varsity boys soccer with Lyndonville; being the host school now for Varsity girls wrestling; potentially starting unified bowling to increase diversity and full inclusion for all students; and the potential of a second boys Modified team in basketball due to annual large number of athletes. He noted he will continue to also collect and analyze data with regard to the potential of having all three levels of softball and baseball.

Mrs. Voss inquired if any students are participating in two sports. Mr. Mucha noted the one student who is.

There were no additional questions for Mr. Mucha.

Principal's Update - Dr. Love

Dr. Love gave a summary of the first week of school and gave thanks to the families and team for getting the students ready for the first day. She felt it was a wonderful back to school week, and the start of the school year went really well overall. She noted, that as the Board could see by attendance this evening, the Seniors were rocking the start of the new year and it was wonderful to see and she stated that she knows they will be successful. Safety and Code of Conduct meetings were held with all the students. As it is important for the students to understand the focus and goals of the District, and the data taken, data on results were shared with students this year. In other exciting news, the District was ranked #5 in the Buffalo – NY Metro region for high schools by the U.S. News and World Report



Rankings. She gave a shout-out not only to staff in the High School, but everyone PreK-12 as it is a combined effort that results in the students' success.

Dr. Love noted that based on feedback received from (staff, parents, and students) there was a shift in the lunches resulting in a change to 40-minute lunches for all students, including time to eat and "recess" time. This eliminated the lunch study hall time in the high school. The lunches are also arranged on a grade-level basis with Grades 5 and 6 in the High School Cafeteria by themselves, with Grades 9 & 11 together, Grades 10 and 12 combined, and Grades 7 and 8 together. She noted that students have the opportunity, weather permitting, to get outside. The Jr./Sr. High students also can utilize this time to be in the courtyard, do activities and games available to them, or go to the Library Media Center. She said that the library utilization is for study and quiet time vs. socialization. This change provides the students an opportunity to be kids, relax, play, and/or have down time. Due to the 40-minute lunches and required minutes of academics during the day, in order to meet the requirements, Homeroom for 10 minutes was named a specific time which previously already existed.

Dr. Love then reviewed a report prepared by Mrs. Lingle. She stated that with this new year, the school has implemented several changes for the 7th and 8th grade students to help increase organization and improve transitions throughout the school day. She discussed the use of agendas and hallway passes to provide a consistent system for both the students and staff. She noted that lockers were relocated so the students are closer to the areas where they attend most of their classes. The goal in doing so is to reduce unnecessary hallway travel and make transitions between classes more efficient. For some older students, the lockers are a bit further away, but this was based on the fact that they should be more responsible and able to handle the responsibility of a longer distance to their lockers.

RTI/MTSS meetings have had some meeting structure changes based on feedback from staff last year. Meetings are now being organized by the individual grade level, allowing the team to spend more focused time reviewing the needs and progress of the students within each grade. She noted that each grade level will have an initial meeting at the beginning of the school year to review students currently receiving RTI/MTSS supports, discuss interventions, and establish goals for the year. The next step will be three days of meetings throughout the school year, where grade level teams will meet during planning time throughout the day, which are already scheduled, to review student progress, evaluate the effectiveness of interventions, and make adjustments to supports as needed.



Relative to behavior referrals for the beginning of the school year there were four incidents to date that have resulted in detention or a conversation with an Administrator.

Dr. Love discussed fire drills, what are required by New York State Law, and noted that on October 8th the school will hold an evacuation drill combined with an early release drill. Dr. Love noted that the full evacuation drill was not an annual requirement, but one the District is felt important to do for safety reasons.

Homecoming will be held September 28th – October 3rd this year and the theme is video games. A letter will be sent to families and information on the website regarding the sporting events, parade, and the various activities planned for students, staff, and the community.

There were no questions for Dr. Love.

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

Mr. Cornwell presented information on data collected on exam results. He stated that the Regents' exams are merely one set of data points, and not indicative of the total educational experience that students receive at Barker. However, Regent's data, attendance data, and graduation data, all appear on the Districts' report card that is issued publicly by New York State. He noted that another key consideration to keep in mind when looking at this exam data is that the conversion charts that determine the passing and mastery cut points change with every exam. Sometimes the changes are very noticeable. Overall, Barker's Regents exam data is very good. The school's goal is to continue to increase the mastery rates (85+) on these exams. He then continued with a review of the various exams. Algebra I showed continued strength of proficiency (98%). The focus now is to increase the mastery rate on this exam. Geometry's exam was the second year of administration of a new exam. A great rebound in proficiency rate back to the normal range (86%) for students. The mastery rate rose to near past levels as well. He also noted that almost all exams now have five levels, with level three being proficient, and level five being mastery. Algebra II's proficiency rate remains very high. Mastery rate, while down, is still very strong considering the difficulty of this exam. This was the first administration of a new exam with a new conversion chart. Overall, Math continues to be strong. Biology, while there was a drop in the proficiency rate, it was expected given that this was the first year the District administered the new version of this exam. Mr. Cornwell passed a copy of the exam around for the Board Members to see how long and the depth of the questions. Overall, a great proficiency rate to start from. Earth Science continued with a strong proficiency rate for what is often the hardest exam each June. It also had an increase in mastery rate again. Mr. Cornwell



commented, that in fact, this was the highest mastery rate that he was able to find in the District's data going back to almost 10 years. He said that starting this year (2026-2027) Barker will be administering the new version of this exam, which is similar in format to the Biology and Chemistry exams. This was the first year of administering the new version of the Chemistry exam and conversion chart. He handed out this exam also to the Board. He stated that it was the first time the students saw anything like this on a Regents exam in Science. The District has purchased some additional curriculum resources to help the teacher in Chemistry. Along with the resource comes professional development with other chemistry teachers throughout the area which will allow for shared ideas and ways to assist in preparation through the curriculum and learning process. He noted that multiple schools have purchased the same resources. With this support, it is anticipated that the proficiency number will increase this year. The ELA exam had the second highest proficiency rate since the pandemic (93%). Mastery rate dropped a bit as compared over the past five years. He explained that Barker has the students take this exam in January to lighten the June exam load for many students, but also gives them another opportunity to take it again if they are not satisfied with their score. Global History experienced another year of a very high proficiency rate at 90% on a typically very challenging exam. Mastery rate saw an increase closer to levels over the past five years. Finally, US History has its highest proficiency rate since COVID (94%). Mastery rate did see a decrease, which the District will look to reverse this year.

Mr. Cornwell then discussed attendance. He noted that overall, the District attendance rates have been similar over the past couple of years. Administration and staff continue to try various ways to reduce the chronic absentee rate, which usually results in an increase in the at-risk category before a student moves into the no-risk category. As a District, attendance rates are part of Barker's current strategic plan. Various interventions are implemented to help students and families recognize the value of good attendance. This includes parent meetings, home visits, information sharing, student support plans, etc.

He discussed graduation rate data which he noted remains strong. There continues to be strong percentages of students earning Regents diplomas with Advanced Designation (+ Honors). There are also a number of students who earn CTE endorsement through their work at BOCES. Another positive increase this past year. He commented that the District did have some students earn a local diploma this past year, along with a couple of students who dropped out. Given the smaller number of students, a couple students that drop will have an impact on the percentages.



He noted that work on academic achievement is tied directly to the current Strategic Plan. The data driven instruction initiative that the District has worked on over the past two years is ongoing to help Barker see improvements over various areas at differing grade levels. This initiative will continue to play a vital role in the ability of the faculty, staff, and eventually students to examine and analyze data, set goals and targets, and develop plans to reach these goals and measure their progress.

With regard to Opening Days with the teachers, which was held September 1–3, he provided a summary of the events which took place prior to students joining on the first day, September 8th. On Tuesday, September 1st, the time was mainly utilized to prepare for the orientations, welcome back night, and the first day of classes. Faculty participated in multiple workshops and sessions throughout September 2nd and 3rd on the following topics: new financial literacy standards and requirements; updates on NY Inspires; technology and the various software programs utilized at the District; executive functioning skills in students; RTI; and other topics. Staff also had the opportunity to be trained on AED/CPR/First Aid. As a result, the District has a very high number of staffed trained should there be an emergency. The departments/grade level bands had time to meet too.

Financial Update - Ms. Miner

Ms. Miner provided the financial report. The 2026-2027 budget reflects a well-controlled spending plan with modest revenue growth driven by State Aid, but it also shows continued reliance on fund balance. While there are no immediate signs of financial stress, maintaining long-term fiscal sustainability will require careful monitoring of reserves, fund balance consumption, and, watching state aid trends. She noted that the District continues to budget an operating deficit that is covered through appropriated fund balance and reserves. Right now, the District anticipates using about \$500,000 in fund balance to meet its spending requirements for the year. If correct in these projections, the District should have a remaining fund balance of \$7.4 million. She commented that continued reliance on fund balance should be monitored for long-term sustainability. She noted how unexpected variables could impact the fund balance, such as the unknowns relating to the plant. She also noted that she did not have any update relative to the plant.

Ms. Miner then noted the District has had a few unexpected repairs early on in the fiscal year. Although, it is planned for, the District continues to be mindful of its spending since it are only one third of the way through this fiscal year.



Ms. Miner stated that in the Board packets, the Board received the appropriation and revenue status reports for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. As she mentioned at the last Board Meeting, she would be continuing to provide 2025-2026 until the audit is completed in October. She commented that the audit is moving along and the Audit Committee meeting will take place on October 5th at preceding the regular Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

She continued her report and noted for 2025-2026, there is no change in the revenue status report since last month, and an increase of \$44,000 in expenses recognized primarily due to adjustments in how expenses are recognized and prior fiscal year billing, particularly for Special Education. For 2026-2027, the revenue status report shows an increase of \$21,500 in state aid and Medicare received. From an appropriation side, expenses increased by about \$900,000 which is consistent with the amount of purchasing done in the beginning of the school year.

Ms. Miner stated that the tax collection is moving along. Tax bills were mailed a week earlier than last year on August 25th to give tax payers as much time as possible to pay their bills. All school tax payments must be received by September 30th to avoid late fees. She noted that she has been spending a lot of time on the phone with residents who may not have received a bill or received a bill that should have been paid by an escrow account, and she has been working with the Niagara County on the errors on billing, and the respective assessors to resolve any issues as they are presented. She noted that the town assessors control the billing addresses and escrow account management. The county prints the bills and the District mails the bills, processes payments, and mail or email receipts. Emailing receipts is a new option this year. She noted that other districts outsource the tax billing process but she felt it was important to maintain it here at the District and provide residents with a local person to talk to.

Ms. Miner then provided an update on her departments. She talked about Mrs. Julie Fuerch, who put together a wonderful new interactive breakfast and lunch menu for the students. This is on the District's website and allows viewers to see nutrients and allergens in every menu item served. She commented that this is a wonderful feature especially for parents with children who have allergies or food sensitivities. She noted that PDF versions of the menu are available to be printed. Ms. Miner stated that this was a big lift to put in place and Mrs. Fuerch did a tremendous job. She continues to have weekly meetings with the Facilities personnel. She noted that the Buildings & Grounds and Custodial crews were busy all summer making the campus ready for the students and staff return. She and the group are focused, especially this year, on being student and staff focused. The area is a support department, but making repairs or responding to needs is essential for the students' success. She has weekly meetings with them,



where they review repairs and requests made in Qware and she commented that she thinks they are making strides in their response times. She stated that the group is doing a lot of work to prepare for Homecoming too. She then noted that unfortunately, one of the staff members had a non-work-related injury, so she wanted to thank Donnie McGee and Steve Donner for picking up the extra work in his absence, as well as Derek O'Dell for his flexibility in helping out when needed on the Buildings & Ground side.

She noted too that there are contracts further on the agenda for the Board's review. She asked if there were any questions, otherwise that would conclude her report.

Miss Mason asked about a payroll error having to do with retirees and staff for the first pay period. Ms. Miner noted that there were no errors with regard to retirees that she was aware of. When asked for more specific information, Miss Mason was unable to provide additional details. Ms. Miner did note that with regard to 26 and 21 pay periods for teachers and teaching assistant staff, there was one coding check mark that was missed in the system for 21 pays, which will be addressed in the next payroll. It did not result in any underpayment, but did create a slight overpayment for seven salaried employees in that pay profile for their overall pay. The remainder will be spread accordingly throughout the rest of the year. Ms. Miner explained the difference between the pay profiles and the number of checks received, with the 26 receiving multiple checks at year-end versus only 21 checks, with each check being a larger amount.

Mrs. Voss inquired if coaches have needs that they require assistance with, how or to whom do they reach out. Ms. Miner noted that the Qware is the system to address needs and if Mr. Mucha or the office is aware, it can be looked into, but she is the contact person. She noted that there are some items that are delayed due to the capital project.

Interim Superintendent's Information

Mr. Cornwell provided his Interim Superintendent's report. He gave a capital project update, and noted that the 1911 building floors are just about complete other than by the District Office entrance. That entrance will be completed once the new door/doorframe is installed which is scheduled to be done this week. Mill work continues. The acoustic tiles are being installed in the music area and the flooring on the second floor is almost complete. Windows need to be installed. He anticipates that mid-October the area will be done and could be turned over. He noted that as is practice, the space will not be turned over until all punch list items are completed. The north wing of the elementary area's demolition is 98% complete. Patching of walls and floors are being worked on.



Mr. Cornwell discussed the usage of allowance planned for each project. Currently, as a result of recent false fire alarms being triggered by construction work, Fire Safety was called in to inspect the sensor heads. Some of the sensor heads he noted are failing, and part of the issue is due to their age, as some are over ten years old. Failure is normal at that age. As such, quotes were asked for to address replacing the sensor heads on the first and second floors of the 1911 building. Based on a question of priority, Mr. Cornwell noted that it is estimated that the second floor would be approximately \$5,000, and the first floor would be approximately \$3,000. Therefore, if there is not enough allowance to cover both, his recommendation would be to do the second floor where students and faculty are as that would be the higher risk. His plan is to do both if possible and to address this prior to the rooms being turned over and occupied. He also noted that if the Board would like to do a tour of the new areas in October or November, to please let him know.

Policy review has commenced for the new year. He stated that there is not much change in the ones being presented, except policy 3260, which addresses service animals. This policy was updated to include therapy dogs now. Given the recommended changes, it was moved up in order to be reviewed.

Mr. Cornwell noted that the AFS Club is requesting permission to do their exchange trip with Colegio San Viator High School in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain during Spring Break with the school then hosting Colegio San Viator during the last week of April. He noted that this is a trip that has been done every two years and the school has developed a good relationship with the other school through the years.

Mr. Cornwell stated that Mrs. Lingle is being recommended to be appointed as the Interim Director of Instructional Services/SPED to help transition until the position is filled. He noted her prior experience with Special Education which will be very beneficial during the transition. He said that screening interviews took place today and will run through Wednesday. The second-round interviews will therefore be next week with staff and community members, followed by a third round with some Board Members and Administration. This timeline was developed to make it possible to potentially make a recommendation by the October 5th Board Meeting. Once approved, the individual would need to provide the anticipated 30-day notice resulting in a projected start date around Veterans Day.

Mr. Cornwell noted that he reached out to Dr. Farrar to inquire if there were an administrative retirees she would recommend to help transition the District through the hiring process, especially to assist as he and Mrs. Lingle are performing dual roles. She recommended Michael Bonnewell. He has



experience working all over the state with a background as a superintendent, principal, and other administrative capacities who could be boots on the ground for the District. He would also provide experience and support with mentoring and professional development. Mr. Bonnewell met with Mr. Cornwell and then the Administrative team about the opportunity which would begin immediately and tentatively through winter break. He noted if Mr. Bonnewell accepts, the expense of this would be aidable, especially with him doing mentoring and coaching. Mr. Cornwell noted the rate, how it was estimated, and said that rate is before the 80% aidability. Mr. Cornwell also noted that Dr. Reimer may be utilized for consulting during the transition, especially with regard to the plant. Ms. Mason asked about the rate and aidability for that.

Mr. Cornwell also commented that he is discussing the demolition of the Yorker House with the architects to have that finalized as noted in his Friday letter to the Board.

There were no additional questions brought forth with his report.

Policies/Plans

First Review of Policies: 3260, 7122, 7130, 7131, 7132, 7133, 7140, 7210, 7211, 7212, 7220 was presented.

3260 Use of Service Animals

7122 Transfer Students/Credit

7130 Entitlement to Attend -- Age and Residency

7131 Education of Homeless Children and Youth

7132 Non-Resident Students

7133 Education of Students in Foster Care

7140 School Census

7210 Student Evaluation

7211 Provision of Interpreter Services to Parents Who Are Hearing Impaired

7212 Response to Intervention (RTI) Process

7220 Graduation Requirements/Early Graduation/Accelerated Programs

There were no questions or comments regarding the above referenced.

Education

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the District Bus Routes for the 2026-2027 School Year (Confidential).

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the Barker AFS Club exchange trip with Colegio San Viator High School in Vitoria-



Gasteiz, Spain during Spring Break with the school then hosting Colegio San Viator during the last week of April 2027

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Personnel Items

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the resolution conferring tenure of Michelle Pask in the area of Teaching Assistant effective November 1, 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 Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure upon Michelle Pask in the area of Teaching Assistant effective November 1, 2026, subject to that the employee must meet all requirements of the educational law and corresponding regulations.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Cornwell spoke about Mrs. Pask and the wonderful job she does as Teaching Assistant, who is a true professional with a strong work ethic and very calm demeanor with the students and staff. She continues to be integral in the Tier 3 math interventions and is always open to looking at new learning techniques and opportunities. She has been involved in the PAC Committee for years and this year has moved up and taken on a leadership role with that group. We are very happy for her tenure and appreciate her family coming out for this milestone.

The students in attendance were excused at 8:00 p.m.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Julia Duerr, Director of Instructional Services/Special Education, with commendation and regret, effective August 19, 2026.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Kira Hanson as a 10-month Clerical Typist effective August 12, 2026.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointment of Christian Cornwell to the following positions as noted below:



Elected Position(s)

Chemical Hygiene Officer

Copyright Officer

Designated Education Officer "DEO" - SAVE

Designated Official to Receive Court Notification Regarding
Student's Sentence/Adjudication and Juvenile Delinquency
Proceedings

District Clerk Pro-Tem

Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)

Freedom of Information/Records Access Officer

Payroll Certification Officer

Privacy Officer

Purchasing Agent

Work Place Violence Prevention Coordinator

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the resolution that the Board of Education hereby: (1) appoints Deborah Lingle as Interim Director of Instructional Services/Special Education, effective September 1, 2026, upon the terms and conditions of employment as set forth in the negotiated Interim Employment Agreement; and (2) approves the Interim Employment Agreement negotiated by the parties; and (3) authorizes the Interim Superintendent of Schools to execute such Interim Employment Agreement.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointment of Deborah Lingle to the following positions as noted below:

Elected Position(s)

Interim Director of Instructional Services/Special Education

Foster Care Liaison

Liaison for Homeless Children & Youth

Mental Health Officer

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the change in appointment of Madison Andrews from a full-time probationary Spanish Teacher effective September 1, 2026 to a Long-term Substitute Spanish Teacher effective September 1, 2026, at BA, Step 1, per the effective Barker



Teachers Union collective bargaining agreement salary schedule at \$45,456.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointment of Joelle Dietz as a Full-time Teacher Aide, with a probationary period from September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027, effective September 1, 2026, at a rate of \$16.00 per hour, subject to background and fingerprint clearances.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Eve Moen as a full-time Cleaner effective September 7, 2026.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointment of Andrew Hofer as a full-time Cleaner, with a probationary period from September 8, 2026 through September 7, 2027, effective September 8, 2026, at a rate of \$16.00 per hour.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Andrew Hofer as a Part-time Cleaner effective September 8, 2026.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointment of Alexandria Belotti as a Substitute Cleaner, effective September 1, 2026, at a rate of \$16.00 per hour.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointment of Catherine Cornwell as a Substitute Cleaner, effective September 1, 2026, at a rate of \$16.00 per hour.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the following mentors for the 2026-2027 school year at a rate of \$1,250.00/year as per the BTU Agreement.

Mentee	Mentor
Annabelle Guercio	Ashley Cieslewicz
Madison Andrews	Erin Stockwell
Margaret DeMare	Ashley Atwater

Yes: 5, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the leave of absence for Shelby Watry, School Nurse, through or on about October 20, 2026.

Yes: 5, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointment of Kaitlyn Goodwin to shadow Jessica Bush in the Barker Library Media Center as part of her Masters in School Librarianship at the University of Buffalo from approximately September 8, 2026 through December 7, 2026.

Yes: 5, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointment of the following club/advisor positions for the 2026-2027 school year as per the BTU Agreement.

Yes: 5, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointment of Linda Ward as a Substitute Food Service Helper effective September 15, 2026 at a rate of \$16.00 per hour subject to background and fingerprint clearances.

Yes: 5, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointment of Maggie Marody as a District-wide Lifeguard, effective September 1, 2026, at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

Yes: 5, No: 0
Motion carried.



Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointment of Joshua Snyder to observe Dave Carson as part of his field candidate experience for his Elementary Physical Education program with SUNY College at Brockport.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointment of Aurora Schul Schunk as a Community Education Instructor at a rate of \$45.00 per enrollment for the How to Grow, Create, & Taste a Bouquet Class.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Atwater, to approve the appointments of the following as community/parent volunteers:

Kelli Gancasz

Ann Gooding

Hayden Gooding

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Business & Financial Items

The Board reviewed the Audit Claims Report dated August 31, 2026; the Revenue and Appropriations Reports dated Year-end 2025-2026; and Revenue and Appropriations Reports dated July 31, 2026. There were no questions brought forward.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to accept the Treasurer's Report for July & August 2026.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the AHERA Periodic Surveillance and Inspection Report as of August 28, 2026.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the Agreement between FSST Corp and Barker Central School District for athletic trainer services for the 2026-2027 school year.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the acceptance of the 2026-2027 ON/BOCES Electric Bid for the purchase of electricity to Energy Coop of America at the indexed adder rate of \$0.02513 per kwh used.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the extension of the transportation contract with Barker Central School and Student Transportation of America for one year at an annual approved NYSED transportation CPI posted at 5.1%.

Miss Mason brought forward her concerns about Student Transportation of America (STA) regarding errors occurring, not informing parents of bus routes prior to school beginning, being unable to answer bussing questions when called, lack of communication, not enough staff, and what the District is paying for the services provided and quality with regard to approving the contract extension. Dr. Love explained what the procedures should be for the start of school and noted that they have not been followed. The expectation was for students and families to know bus numbers, timing, ect. The information the bus garage needed to do this had been provided in advance, but the District is still waiting on routing information to put into PowerSchool to help the District with transportation needs and changes. She noted that Mr. Costello had been working around the clock to provide STA the information needed well in advance and the District is still waiting receipt. Ms. Miner noted that the amount of the extension was discussed and reviewed by her, Dr. Reimer, and Mr. Smith which was approximated to be the 6% included in the proposed budget, which was at a higher level than the 5.1% CPI index proposed this evening. She noted that the delay in bringing forward the extension was due to STA as was the District has been waiting since June for a formal extension request letter/form. She said finally took a past one and utilized it, and provided to STA with updated information in order to be presented at this meeting vs. waiting longer for STA. Ms. Miner noted that next year the bus transportation will be up for bid. She noted that some districts are experience at 20%+ increase. To do bussing in District would be a great expense and it would not address the staffing shortages as the drivers/monitors, etc. are all from the area. She noted that Mr. Jones often is out driving vs. being in the office due to lack of staff. Mr. Sweeney, Jr. asked if there was another company, and informed the options are very limited. Mrs. Atwater asked if there was any recourse for the lack of service and noted her multiple year history of asking about routing prior to the start of school year and it not being available. Dr. Love also noted another item that is to be considered is that STA does not have its own communication system so delays, bus combinations, and other notifications are sent by the District on behalf of the bus garage when



received, causing further delays. Everyone agreed the issues are not with the drivers and felt they do a very good job. Mrs. Atwater asked how to have them improve their level of service. The Board Members discussed this as they felt it has been not at the level it should be since pre-COVID in their opinion. They also discussed various options to make the concerns known to a broader community. They felt that the District is taking the hit for STA's lack of communication and timeliness, which was reflecting poorly on the District regardless. Mr. Cornwell suggested that at this point in time, it might be best for him and Ms. Miner to have another meeting with Mr. Smith to address the concerns and issues the District has. Ms. Miner noted that information could possibly be put in the RFP regarding the dissemination of information, requirements, expectations, and potential financial impact if not met. Miss Mason talked about a particular communication issue by STA and was informed the District did not breach any confidential information, rather STA did. Mr. Sweeney, Jr. asked that the District reach out to the school attorney and meet with them and the attorney regarding communications. The suggestion of starting the RFP process sooner was also noted. Dr. Love commented that the many of the concerns brought forward this evening have been addressed and discussed with STA by the District.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

**End of Public Session/
Adjournment**

The Board of Education concluded an Executive Session was not needed.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr. to end the Public Session and adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Yes: 5, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk