



**Barker Central School District
Board of Education
October 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Barker Library Media Center**

Present R. Atwater, R. B. Atwater, C. Gancasz, J. Maines, S. Mason, J. Sweeney, Jr., V. Voss

Excused None

Also Present C. Cornwell, M. Eadie, D. Lingle, M. Love, C. Miner
Public – 5

Call to Order Mr. Atwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting agenda dated September 14, 2026 as presented.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Resignation of Board Member Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Miss Mason to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Deanna Weeks Carnes, with commendation and regret, as a Board of Education Member, with commendation and regret, whose term ends June 30, 2028 effective as of September 20, 2026. Mr. Atwater thanked Mrs. Carnes for her service.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Miss Mason to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Deanna Weeks Carnes as a Board Member on the Board of Education of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the Supervisory District of Orleans and Niagara Counties effective as of September 21, 2026
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Mr. Atwater then discussed the filling of the seat on the O/N BOCES Board and noted the duties and timing of meetings with the Board. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to appoint Mr. Atwater as the representative for the District to O/N BOCES, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz.



Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Minutes

Motion by Miss Mason, seconded by John Sweeney, Jr., to approve the Board of Education Special Meeting minutes dated September 10, 2026, and the Regular Meeting minutes for September 14, 2026.

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Public Forum

None

Presentations

Principal's Update - Dr. Love

Dr. Love discussed the past week and provided a Homecoming recap. She thanked the entire BCS team, families, Faith United, Somerset Police Department, the Barker Fire Department, the town and village, the PAC Team, Class Advisors, families, and community for their support to make it a memorable week for everyone. She commented that this is why she came to Barker. She noted that the Seniors were the overall Homecoming contest winners for the week.

Elementary students will have their fire safety day compliments of the Barker Fire Hall, who she thanked.

Dr. Love noted that the fire safety drills are going well. The planned Evacuation Drill is scheduled for at 1:35 p.m. on October 8, 2026. If the weather is not favorable, the evacuation portion of the drill to the fire hall and church will be delayed. She thanked the BCS Safety Team, Faith United, Barker Fire Department, and Somerset PD for their support.

October 30th will be the elementary area's Halloween Parade in the HS gym and there will be musical assemble performances too.

She said that teacher observations have begun today. She noted that she and Mrs. Lingle have split them and may pass some on to the new Dir. of Instructional Services/SPEC once he is settled in the new role. Mr. Cornwell will be doing the unannounced observations.

Mrs. Lingle discussed that she was excited for the recommendation of Mr. Langridge this evening, as she has been covering Special Education related items during the transition. She noted that Special Education is off to a smooth start, and she has been collaborating with the students and staff. She noted she is so grateful to the teachers asking for a less restrictive learning environment for students. Progress reviews and evaluation meetings have also started. The students not yet placed, continue to be worked on by the team. RTI/MTSS has changed to grade-level meetings based on feedback from staff which is allowing them to be more grade-level focused and data



orientated. The meetings are also being held weekly for new student referrals.

With regard to disciplinary referrals year to date, there have been 37 incidents, mostly of disorderly conduct in nature, followed by skipping classes, and two DASA-related incidents. She noted that 20 of the 37 incidents were addressed through administrative conversations and she felt it speaks to the discipline model put in place being effective.

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

Mr. Cornwell provided testing data information on the results of the students. Testing results at the 3-8 grade level are merely one set of data points. He noted that they are not indicative of the total educational experience that students receive at Barker. However, this data appears on districts' report card that are issued publicly by NYS. He noted another key consideration to keep in mind when looking at the exam data is that the state determined proficiency cut points change every year. Sometimes the changes are very noticeable.

The grades 3-8 ELA results across the grade levels were lower than the previous year, but in most cases the second highest since the pandemic. Grade 6 exceeded the state average for proficiency, while Grade 3 tied the state average, and Grade 5 was close as they were off by 1%. Grade 7 had a decent bump up. The 2025-2026 school year data could represent a reset of academic data in that all but a handful of students sat for these assessments, unlike in years past.

Overall, Grades 3-8 Math results continue to be very strong. Three grade levels saw their highest percentage of proficiency rates since before the pandemic (Grades 3, 4, and 5). Four grade levels exceeded the state average proficiency rate with most 10-20% above.

With regard to the 5 and 8 Grades Science results, Mr. Cornwell said the 5th Grade scores beat the NYS average for proficiency by 15 points, while the 8th Grade scores tied the NYS average for proficiency and were the highest since the change in format of the exams. He commented that the new teacher has done a great job diving into the data. He noted the 2025-2026 school year data could represent a reset of academic data in that all but a handful of students sat for these assessments, unlike in years past. He thanked and gave recognition to the staff for their work with the families and students to understand the importance of participation which resulted in the increased number of students partaking in the exams. Mr. Cornwell also discussed the Targeted Support Group work in ELA.

Mr. Cornwell then discussed the work on academic achievement which is tied directly to the District's current Strategic Plan. The data driven



instruction initiative that the school has worked on over the past 18 months is helping 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.

Mr. Atwater commented in the great results. Mr. Cornwell noted that there is still and always work to do but the results were pretty good.

At the Staff Development Day scheduled for October 9th, the elementary faculty's main focus is going to be training on the Science of Reading. This will be facilitated by a couple of trainers from BOCES. This ties into the targeted support group work that the District has to fulfill for NYS, as well as working towards improving Barker's literacy instruction as part of its Strategic Plan. The secondary faculty will be focusing on the NYS Inspires initiative and taking a deep dive into the school's overall assessment strategy at the secondary level, as well as how it can inject more project/performance-based assessment into measuring students' levels of knowledge within a given course or content area. Mr. Cornwell mentioned that starting in November different departments will begin presenting to the Board on their goals as a department that they are working on throughout the year.

Mr. Cornwell noted a memo came from NYSED on September 28th indicating that students graduating in January 2028 or later will no longer have to pass separate Regents exams to earn a diploma. There will be one NYS diploma at that time. However, no regulatory action has taken place yet to make this official. This is according to their timeline. Also in this memo, NYS outlined that NYSED will be developing high-school wide accountability assessments that provide comparable statewide evidence of student achievement and create opportunities to explore new approaches to measuring progress and achievement. He commented that once implemented, this will provide multiple ways to get seals upon graduation, endorsements, etc. The state has about 15 seals, on top of Regents, in the pipeline over the next three years. He discussed that the 22-credit requirement for graduation will remain in effect, at least until 2029-2030 (a move to more competency-based requirements at that point). He also noted that at the November Board of Regents, discussions may take place relative to NY Inspires, regulatory actions, and identification of priority standards. He also noted that regionalization information could also be discussed.

Financial Update - Ms. Miner

Ms. Miner reported that the District is at the final stretch of the tax collection process. Collections will continue until October 30th and after which time the unpaid taxes will be turned over to the respective county to have re-



levied onto the county bills. She then reviewed the Revenue Report and the changes from September to October. The budget approved by the voters was \$22.9 million for a 1.96% increase, and noted that a \$5.4 million increase is due to property tax collections. Interest and Earning, Excess Cost Aide changes were also reviewed. She is moving forward with discussions with NYCLASS regarding investment strategies to produce the best possible return to the District. She then reviewed the Appropriation Status reports noting the doubling of expenses being related to ordering, encumbrances, and salaries with teachers. She discussed the use of approximately \$150,000 of the reserve fund, and the impact of spending going forward, noting that spending must be closely monitored and determined to be necessary. She then ran through the business items being presented for review and consideration this evening, including but not limited to the contract agreement for transportation which is consistent with the prior year and based on current required mileage reimbursement guidance; and Gallagher cyber security renewal that was the middle option of three which was a bit more expensive but coverage is a safe approach. She noted the example of an email Mr. Cornwell receive just recently and the increased difficulties discerning real emails from cyber-attack issues. Upon completion of her report, there were no additional questions raised.

Student Representative - Miss Maines

Miss Maines asked the Board about reporting to them, their expectations, and they discussed.

Interim Superintendent's Information

Mr. Cornwell discussed the social media litigation class action lawsuit that the District joined with North Tonawanda, Niagara Falls, and Niagara Wheatfield pertaining to META and Tic Toc. He noted that the case is being run by a firm out of Washington, D.C. There is a call scheduled for Wednesday to provide an update. O/N BOCES is coordinating it for the District. He noted he will provide timely information to the Board as more is known. He was told the case does have merit. As such, there is a chance the schools could potentially win and prevail, and receive monies. Most likely, if money were to be received, there would be guidance as to what could be done with it for the District such as for training. He noted that class action lawsuit started last Spring, went silent for months, and seems it have activity again. The districts and O/N BOCES continue to work through the pieces.

Mr. Cornwell noted that Dr. Farrar will be on campus October 6th to do focus group sessions relating to the Superintendent's search. The groups include, students – which had a large number sign-up to participate, support staff, teacher-related positions, and an evening session for parents and community members. He noted if the Board is interested in attending, to



let Mrs. Eadie know. He also reminded everyone to complete the survey on the website for input to be considered.

Mr. Cornwell then provided a Capital Project update. The 1911 building was moving along ahead of schedule until last week as the windows were delayed until November. It is anticipated that the completion deadline will still be on track. The doors should be in and hung next week. Mr. Cornwell noted that some staff may be moved up if the spaces are ready except for the windows, moved out for a couple days, then back in, such as the Music Department but timing will determine that. He noted that some Special Education Teachers and Teaching Assistants are doubled up, and moving them into spaces to spread them out for the remainder of the year is being reviewed, as well as where their permanent placements will be. He then discussed the normal boiler maintenance required for both the high school and elementary boilers which he recommended be put through as a capital outlay project to cover the expense vs. running through the general fund. He discussed the submission process to NYSED for the capital outlay and discussions with architects about this, as well as the camera systems which need some updating, and door hardening for upgraded security to address now vs. delaying for a larger capital project. DSS informed Mr. Cornwell that the District that some of the camera systems will not work in the long-term due to the new systems and to address some now, and to do by June 30, 2027 to take advantage of state aid. Mr. Cornwell noted that the boiler company is prepared to work now, and DSS could be ready quickly.

Mr. Cornwell then discussed a potential change order needed with regard to if the Board decides to continue with LeChase, the construction manager, as the \$25 million CIP took longer than expected and the last phase will run into 2027. If the Board would like to continue with the firm, a change order would be required, which would not be a cost to the taxpayers. He noted that the extension is due in part to Municipal Solutions coding part of the project incorrectly with the Central Office building resulting in the second phase of the \$14 million CIP for the first floor and wing of classrooms being unable to be performed until late 2028-2029. When the elementary is done, he noted, it may result in a delay of commencing the second phase for approximately one year. He discussed the use of contingency funds and extra funds relative to this. He noted the Board can utilize another company for Phase II, but there would be no guarantee it would cost less, and the company would know what the District does.

Mrs. Atwater asked if there was any cost to the District for the lawsuit and was informed there was not. The O/N BOCES expense would be covered and the law firm would take their portion of potential proceeds.



Policies/Plans

The Board reviewed the first reading of policies: 7222, 7230, 7240, 7241, 7242, 7243, 7250, 7260, 7311, and 7312. There were no comments or questions raised.

- 7222 Diploma and/or Credential Options for Students with Disabilities
- 7230 Dual Credit for College Courses
- 7240 Student Records: Access and Challenge
- 7241 Student Directory Information
- 7242 Military Recruiters' Access to Secondary School Students and Information on Students
- 7243 Student Data Breaches
- 7250 Student Privacy, Parental Access to Information, and Administration of Certain Physical Examinations to Minors
- 7260 Designation of Person in Parental Relation
- 7311 Loss or Destruction of District Property or Resources
- 7312 Student Dress Code

The Board reviewed the second reading of policies: 3260, 7122, 7130, 7131, 7132, 7122, 7140, 7210, 7211, 7212, and 7220.

- 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

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the above referenced policies as presented.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Education

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the transportation agreement between Barker Central School District and Whitney Wittcop and Thomas Fulcher II for the 2026-2027 school year. Miss Mason questioned the contract vs. bussing, and was explained the requirements and associated costs.



Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the revised Barker AFS Club exchange trip with Colegio San Viator High School in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain with new dates of March 16, 2027 and an approximate return date of March 25, 2027, with the school then hosting Colegio San Viator during the last week of April.

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Personnel Items

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Atwater to approve the appointment of Michael Langridge as a probationary Director of Instructional Services/Special Education effective on or about October 21, 2026, as per the Agreement between the Barker Central School District and the Director of Instructional Services/Special Education. His four-year probationary period is effective approximately October 21, 2026 - October 20, 2030, tenure area of Director of Instructional Services/Special Education. The expiration date is tentative and conditional only. In order to be eligible for and considered for tenure, the employee must meet all the requirements of Educational Law and corresponding regulations. His salary for 2026-2027 salary is \$112,500 prorated.

Mr. Cornwell noted the start date was confirmed today as October 22, 2026 and the Board will therefore need to approved the revised appointment next month. He discussed the lengthy hiring process from the screening, first interviews, and interviews with the Board and Administration to determine Mr. Langridge as the final candidate for the position and how well Mr. Langridge did in each phase of the process. He noted his years of experience of which some being a principal, building leader, running 6:1:1 and 8:1:1 programs, that he is coming from Summit Academy, has a strong administrative and special education background, and he was very excited to have him join the team. Mr. Atwater commented he will be a great addition to the staff, did a great job with his interview, welcomed him and congratulated him.

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the appointments for the individuals as noted for the 2026-2027 school year Winter Sports season with the paid coaches being paid per the Steps noted with stipend based on the Barker Teachers' Union Agreement.

Jeff Costello	Modified Girls Basketball	Step 4
Rachel Chunco	JV Girls Basketball	Step 1



Jim Harris	Varsity Girls Basketball	Step 3
Logan Harris	Modified Boys Basketball	Step 3
Colin Knight	JV Boys Basketball	Step 4
Jacob Haight	Varsity Boys Basketball	Step 4
Bethany Duchow	Basketball Cheerleading	Step 3
Nathan Sutch	Modified Wrestling	Step 4
Matthew Lakes	Varsity Girls Wrestling	Step 1
Krista Beth Feltz	Modified Swimming	Step 4
Bill Moeller	Basketball - unpaid certified coach	
Todd Prynne	Basketball - unpaid certified coach	

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the following club advisor appointments for the Jr./Sr. High Musical for the 2026-2027 school year being paid a stipend based on the Barker Teachers' Union Agreement.

1. Jadyen Wagner Technical Theatre/Lighting, Step 1, Category E, at a rate of \$677.29.
2. Antonio Faraci Production Assistant/Sound Board, Step 1, Category E, at a rate of \$677.29.
3. Michael Olsen Production Assistant/Set Construction, Step 1, Category E, at a rate of \$677.29.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Molly Handrich as a Director for the Elementary Musical for the 2026-2027 school year.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the following club advisor appointments for the Elementary Musical for the 2026-2027 school year being paid a split stipend based on the Barker Teachers' Union Agreement.

1. Lori Jenks Co-Director, Step 1, Category B, at a rate of \$1,059.13.
2. Emily Lunde Co-Director, Step 1, Category B, at a rate of \$1,059.13.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the appointment of Charles Henderson as a 10-month Clerical at a rate of \$17.36 per hour, effective October 6, 2026, with a probationary period of



October 6, 2026 to October 5, 2027, subject to fingerprint and background clearances.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the appointment of Alyssa Sciria as a 10-month Clerical at a rate of \$16.00 per hour, effective October 6, 2026, with a probationary period of October 6, 2026 to October 5, 2027, subject to fingerprint and background clearances.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Voss to approve the appointment of Shawna Grabowski as a non-certified Substitute Teacher at a rate of \$125.00 per day, as well as a Substitute Teaching Assistant and Substitute Teacher Aide, both at a rate of \$16.00 per hour effective October 6, 2026.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Miss Mason, that the Board to rescinds the following Board actions:

Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby rescinds effective immediately the May 12, 2025 resolution appointing Thomas Mallon as a Substitute Teacher, Substitute Teaching Assistant, and Substitute Teacher Aide, effective July 1, 2026;

Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby rescinds effective immediately the July 1, 2026 resolution appointing Bill Bruning as the Varsity Football Coach for the Fall Season of the 2026-2027 school year; and

Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby rescinds effective immediately, the August 10, 2026 resolutions appointing the following individuals:

- William Bruning as a Retired Substitute Teacher for the District at the per diem rate, effective July 2, 2026.
- 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.
- 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.



- 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: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Miss Mason, that the Board approve the appointments of William Bruning as a Retired Substitute Teacher for the District at the per diem rate effective September 8, 2026, for grades PreK-12, and appointment as a Fall 2026-2027 school year Varsity Head Football Coach at Step 4 of the BTU Agreement, effective August 17, 2026.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Miss Mason, that the Board approve the appointment of Thomas Mallon as a Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate and Substitute Teaching Assistant and Substitute Teacher Aide at the rate of \$16.00 per hour for the District, effective September 8, 2026, for grades PreK-12.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Miss Mason, that the Board 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 September 8, 2026, for grades PreK-12.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Miss Mason, that the Board 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 September 8, 2026, for grades PreK-12.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Miss Mason, that the Board 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 September 8, 2026, for grades PreK-12.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.



**Business & Financial
Items**

The Board reviewed the following items with no questions raised: (1.) the Audit Claims Report dated August 31, 2026 and September 30, 2026; (2.) the Revenue and Appropriations Reports dated Year-end 2025-2026; and (3.) the Revenue Status and Appropriation Reports as of October 2, 2026. Ms. Miner noted that the audit claims review current reporting process, which was asked for back in January, seems to be successfully decreasing the number of responses required.

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

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Voss, to accept the Warrant Reports for August 2026 and September 2026.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Voss, to accept the Extraclassroom Report for June 2026.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the draft year-end 2025-2026 Financial Audit performed by the external auditors, Lumsden McCormick.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the Corrective Action Plan letter in connection with the draft 2025-2026 Financial Audit performed by the external auditors, Lumsden McCormick.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Miss Mason, to approve the acceptance of the Proposal of Insurance form Gallagher Insurance in the amount of \$14,693.88 for coverage through October 9, 2027.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

**End of Public
Session**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to end the Public Session and move to Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. for the purpose to reviewing employment history of particular persons.



Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**End of Executive
Session**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Voss to end the Public Session and move to Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. for the purpose to reviewing employment history of particular persons.

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**Adjournment of the
Meeting**

Motion by Mrs. Atwater, seconded by Miss Mason to end the Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. and adjourn the meeting

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk