



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 12, 2024, 7:00 PM – Board Room

Present R. Atwater, C. Gancasz, E. Gow, J. Harris, J. Sweeney, Jr., V. Voss

Excused D. Carnes

Also Present J. Reimer, M. Carter, C. Cornwell, M. Eadie, M. Learo, M. Love
Public: 6

Call to Order Mr. Atwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge of to the flag was given.

**Approve
Agenda** The agenda was reviewed. Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the agenda as presented.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**Accept
Minutes** The Board reviewed the minutes. Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Harris, to accept the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting dated January 8, 2024, as presented.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

**Public
Forum** None

Presentations Technology Department – Mr. Mallon and Mr. Post
Mr. Mallon provided an update on what the Technology Area's focus for the year was and reviewed the new course offerings which included: (a.) Production Systems which has not been offered since the 1990s and is a prerequisite for Construction Systems; (b.) Product Research & Development which the students focus on metal working the first semester, and then design a project the second semester; (c.) Engineering Graphics & Technical Drafting which is a 3-hour credit through SUNY Oswego; and (d.) Robotics & Computer Integrated Manufacturing which replaced the Principles of Engineering class which will be offered next year and focuses on robot design and programming, as well as modern manufacturing methods.



He noted that a lot of work has been put into the design of the new Technology wing for the building project, and he thinks it will be fantastic.

Mr. Post discussed the direction of the department and how he and Mr. Mallon work together to provide opportunities to the students. His focus is more on the computer-based courses and Mr. Mallon on the production side. He outlined how students have the ability to have four years of computer-based courses, which includes two AP courses. He also reviewed two additional new courses for next year which include a class on designing video games from the start and creation through to the end product, and also a class on problem solving with computers which focuses on creating better work flows for computer programs. He noted that every middle schooler has a half-year class which is computer-based.

Students, Caleb Alexander and Alder Detschner discussed the architectural class they are taking which they are currently using a CAD program, Chief Architect, to design a 3-d model of a home, which they presented to the Board. They explained how the program operates to help them understand the various components from foundations, to roofing, to planning the overall design of a home. They stated how they work together with the program and design, how they enjoy the class, and how it will help them down the road and look at possible careers. Mr. Post noted that this course alternates with a CAD programming class every other year. Student, Lucas Stephan, then discussed how in his middle-school computer class they learn of the various components of a computer and coding, and how they design their own computer using a microprocessor, and the coding they developed. He then demonstrated how his worked. He stated he learned a lot about coding and enjoyed the class.

Mr. Reimer commented on the Technology wing project noting it is a large undertaking as the entire area will be gutted and redone, including re-machining. It has taken a lot of work by Mr. Mallon, Mr. Post, the architects, designers, and staff to create the vision for the new area which is to be a state-of-the-art facility to enable students the ability to do what they want to do with machining and computers. He noted that he has been in contact with a few people to work on grants and partnerships to provide even more for the students. He said it is a fantastic opportunity for the students and the District.

Mr. Atwater thanked everyone for the work on the project design, noting he was excited about it too.

Mr. Mallon, Mr. Post, the students and a parent were excused from the meeting.

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

Mr. Cornwell discussed the NYS P-20 Literacy Initiative. He noted that in the Fall of 2023, the Board of Regents met and reviewed the literacy briefs created by Dr. Nonie K. Leseaux, professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. These briefs focus on the research that is collectively known as The Science of Reading. There are 7 briefs in all, and he stated the link was provided to the Board via an email from Dr. Reimer. The link details this work. It should also be noted that Gov. Hochul has earmarked millions of dollars in her proposed budget for supporting this initiative and training teachers around



the Science of Reading. Mr. Cornwell attended an overview of this initiative, sponsored by NYSED on January 10, 2024. He reviewed some of the key points to keep in mind which included:

- A.) The Science of Reading refers to a body of research (50+ years) of interdisciplinary research that documents and describes how children develop reading and writing skills and competencies.
- B.) It is not a single approach or entity.
- C.) The Science of Reading informs instruction from early childhood through adolescence and across all populations. It emphasizes the importance of structured literacy instruction that develops the “Big 6” skills and competencies. (Oral Language, Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Comprehension, Fluency, and Vocabulary).
- D.) The Science of Reading also incorporates the reciprocal relationship between reading and writing.

He then reviewed the myths relative to what the Science of Reading does not include which were:

- A.) The myth that the Science of Reading refers to one instructional approach. i.e., It is a tangible program or curriculum.
- B.) The myth that the Science of Reading signals that reading instruction should focus on teaching skills in isolation.
- C.) The myth that the Science of Reading demonstrates that effective early literacy instruction is limited to promoting the acquisition of code-based skills, specifically phonics and decoding.

Mr. Cornwell noted that with regard to the District, this work directly relates to its goal within its current Strategic Plan that focuses on student literacy including reading, writing, comprehension, and communication in all forms. The next steps for the District include understanding the Science of Reading, cultivate the conditions for adult learning and collaborative planning and action, implementing assessment systems for identifying student progress and needs, as well as refine systems for effective assessment-instruction links to support educators and serve all learners (RTI process, MTSS process, etc.)

At the meeting he attended in January, he noted that it was also strongly recommended that districts should conduct an audit of existing literacy programs and instructional methods that are being utilized, with a direct correlation to student data sources, in order to inform a district as to the effectiveness of these programs and practices such as if it is working (replicate it) or not (change it or remove it), and how does a district know.

Mr. Cornwell then noted that over the past two months, the newly revised Instructional Cabinet has been working with an outside consultant, Christina Lesh, to help the District implement its Strategic Plan by analyzing data (academic, attendance, behavioral, etc.) and creating solutions for increasing student improvement.

Mr. Cornwell noted that this work relates directly to one of the District’s strategic goals which is the Improve Instructional Outcomes for all Students - To sustain and expand



student academic success by collaboratively reviewing data and developing data-driven processes which continuously foster improvements in instructional areas that impact student learning and achievement.

The work relating to this has largely taken place during half-day workshops that have focused on developing leadership skills amongst the teachers, broadening their knowledge, resources, and skills around leading highly effective teams, and examining data-driven processes that can foster improvement in student learning.

Mrs. Lesh and the Instructional Cabinet's next steps will be working with the entire faculty and staff on the March and April staff development days to move this goal forward.

Dr. Reimer noted that when you look at the District's Strategic Plan, a lot of thought went into it and the District knew these initiatives were more than likely coming, so it put pieces in place in advance with the approach and mindset that tying these pieces together even more will build out the program and continue to improve it.

Director of Instructional Services/AP's Update - Mr. Learo

Mr. Learo noted his first fifteen days have been very busy and noted some of the things he has been doing since his start date which include being in classrooms daily with staff and students, working on PreK-6 non-classified students with behavioral and discipline issues, getting to know parents and the community, working with Mrs. Wozniak on Special Education issues, and CSEs. He has taken over chairing CSE, CPSE, Annual Reviews, and Re-evaluation meetings which have totaled 22 to date. He is also working with Mrs. Godshall during the transition. He commented that it has been a very warm reception. He has also participated on a number of school teams, including the Administration Cabinet, Administration Team, Attendance Team, Student Support Team (SST), Guidance Logistics Team, RTI Meetings, and Special Education Consortium meetings. He commented that the District is pausing the creation of the new Special Education Classroom program to properly look at data, needs, sustainability, effectiveness, staffing, and taking a deeper dive into finding what is needed and what will work best to serve the most Barker students. Mr. Learo stated he is also reviewing trends with out-of-district placements with the various centers, listing the locations including BOCES, as well as the number of students at other locations which were noted as follows:

- N Tonawanda Learning Ctr: 4
- Niagara Academy: 2
- Orleans Learning Center: 5
- Godfrey Learning Ctr: 2
- Newfane Learning Ctr: 4
- Roy-Hart Learning Ctr: 2
- Buffalo Speech & Hearing Ctr: 4
- HG Lewis: 3
- Mary Cariola Ctr: 1
- Roy-Hart Central School: 1
- Summit Academy: 1



He is looking at if the District would be able to bring the student(s) back or if placements are needed. He is reviewing the academic, emotional, and behavior needs and why these are at the level they are to understand why, and to develop support for students.

Principal's Update - Mrs. Love

Mrs. Love thanked the Technology Department led by Mr. Post and Mr. Mallon, and the students, Caleb Alexander, Alder Detschner, and Lucas Stephan for highlighting the technology programming and opportunities for students at Barker stating it was a bright spot in her day to see.

She discussed the January Regents exams, commenting they were a huge success with 49 students taking the ELA regents exam with a 92% passing rate, and 59% achieving mastery level which is the highest in five years. This was a significant increase from the last two previous exam sessions with 87% passing June 2022, and 72% passing January 2023. She congratulated the students and teachers for all of their hard work. She also congratulated the math students and teachers for their proficiency successes in the 2023 math Regents exams. Per Syracuse.com, Barker ranked #27 in all of NYS for the Algebra 1 proficiency (98%), tied for #1 in the state for Algebra II proficiency (100%), and #22 in the state for the Geometry exam proficiency (96%). She commented that this was an exceptional rate and Administration is planning to do a deep dive on the mastery data to see if the District is able to get an even higher level of mastery.

Computer-based testing simulation was done on January 24th. This was an opportunity for students to practice logging into the system on their devices and getting used to the structures of the exam. The 3-8 exam dates were noted with the ELA assessment taking place for grades 3-8 on Tuesday, April 16th and Wednesday, April 17th; the math assessment for grades 3-8 will take place on Tuesday, April 30th and Wednesday, May 1st; and the 5th and 8th grade science assessment will take place on Thursday, May 9th. She noted there will be an opportunity for retakes as well.

Mrs. Love noted Assemblyman Michael Norris came to visit the students and collect Valentine cards for the elderly through his "Valentines for Seniors" campaign. It was wonderful to see him in the halls and in classrooms. Students of all ages helped to create the cards and spread some love this Valentine's season. She noted she received an email today that twelve sites received the cards from Barker's students. She thanked Adam Norris for organizing this District-wide volunteer opportunity for which the students participate in acts of kindness.

There were several field trip opportunities over the last several weeks. Mr. Gendrue took a few high school students to NCCC for a welding informational field trip at the end of January. The 3rd grade and 1st grade classes won a field trip from the December Holiday Follies competition. The 1st grade went to Explore & More Children's Museum in Buffalo and the 3rd grade went to Urban Air at the Galleria Mall. Students stated they had "the best day ever" and were complemented by staff members on their behavior on the trips. The 8-grade students went to the Challenger Learning Center and completed missions on Mars. In addition, some band and choral students went to Niagara Wheatfield High School last week to participate in the all-county music events.



Mrs. Love commented that Thursday, February 8th was already the 100th day of school. The students celebrated in Pratt Elementary by dressing as 100-year-olds, counting to 100 throughout the building, making 100-day crowns, and 100-year-old people crafts. They also made 100-day trail mix and cookies, a bucket list of things they wanted to do before they turn 100, as well as dobbed 100 bingo dots, and had a tootsie pop licking competition (100 or more licks to the center). She stated the first 100 days have flown by so quickly.

Mrs. Voss asked about attendance rates of some students based on the prior presentation and was informed that the Attendance Team meets every five weeks to develop plans with families, and review and develop focused data and strategies for each student, as well as looking at patterns if there is a different issue impacting attendance vs. just not showing up to school for the student(s). The team is also looking at why students are tardy besides absent and continue to review students close to being chronically absent as well as those who are chronically absent.

At the February Faculty Meeting the professional development topic focused on an article titled De-escalating the Hulk Brain, which provided teachers with strategies to help regulate student behaviors and proactively de-escalate stressful situations. Teachers worked in groups to collaborate and share their experiences and expertise in working with students who may need support in de-escalating a situation. They created a cumulative list of strategies that can be used as a resource in their toolboxes.

Financial Update and 2024-2025 Preliminary Executive Budget, Development of Department Budgets - Mr. Carter

Mr. Carter provided an update on NYCLASS since the approval in January 2024. He stated that he has been monitoring interest rates, and then discussed what could happen when interest rates drop and the impact on the District's liquidity and budget forecasting. If the District is less liquid, it might mean not being able to invest as much. \$4.5 million transferred in in January from an expired CD at Chase which Mr. Carter transferred \$1.5 million to NYCLASS. This transaction resulted in \$17,500 in interest in one month and as a result, Mr. Carter will update the revenue side of the budget to reflect an estimated increase of approximately \$160,000. Overall, he stated the District remains very liquid and there is a couple million still with Chase.

Workers Compensation Consortium, which is just school districts, voted to decrease contributions by 9% total. Barker's budget total for this decrease changes from \$73,929 this year to \$46,038 for 2024-2025. This reduction is reflected in the budget projection being reviewed this evening. Mr. Carter noted that consortium is very well managed and reserves are very healthy. Mr. Reimer noted that workers' compensation decrease is more than 9% for the District given its experience rate in it too.

Mr. Carter discussed budget transfers and the review he has done. To date, they have all been small amounts, but he may need the Board to approve some in coming meetings due to a total of more than \$10,000 going into specific lines for things such as related to the Bulldog-related changes, supplies, trainings, and substitute typist as he would prefer to not wait until year-end.



The asset and inventory management audit was done by AssetWorks last week which documented and labeled anything over \$1,000. Their report was received right before this evening's meeting which Administration will review and a follow-up meeting will be held in coming weeks. He noted the cost of this is aidable, and what is not covered the District's insurance agency, Evans Insurance noted they would pay the difference.

Mr. Carter noted that as a result of the review of potentially moving to one BEDS code, the Administration reviewed the services provided by all the BOCES and for next year it was determined to move payroll over to Erie 2 BOCES given the other services they already provide to the District as it will be more efficient and cohesive. He noted the history of payroll changes with the District the last several years which changed originally due to retirement of that position in District, and then a few years later the District moved to full Central Business Offices services due to another retirement. He stated that for logistical purposes, given minimal financial difference, it makes sense for all the services to be under one roof.

With regard to food service, Mr. Carter noted that as of January 1st, the District has an estimated profit of \$35,621 due to a few months of being in CEP for all grade levels. Food services, he noted is usually just profitable. The District is increasing its expenses in this area as prices are going up and it is expected that the District will serve different foods due to the influx of money but it is more expensive. The District expects revenue to more closely match expenses as it is further into the program. Revenue to date is \$211,000, with expense of \$175,000. As of December 31, 2022, the last year first quarter, food service revenue was \$141,617.56 with expenses of \$129,090.14 resulting in a profit of \$12,527.42.

Mr. Carter then reviewed the National Grid and solar impact comparison. January 2023, the District was billed \$7,961.34 on 107,127 billed usage kw/h which is 0.07 cents per kw/h. January 2024, the District was billed \$2,464.50 on 101,330 kw/h, that is 0.02 cents per kw/h. This is a \$5,496.84 difference. He noted that the District saved about \$10,000 from November through January, which were not sunny months. The budget projection this evening reflects this change in expenditures. Administration will continue to monitor, but will not be able to provide the projected total savings until the next budget cycle due to not having the coming spring and summer months data to work off of for this projection. Once more historical information is gathered, the District will eventually be able to remove this money from the budget.

Mr. Carter then provided a technology update and noted that many of the devices and hardware are reaching end of life, or already are there. He has been working with Erie 1 over the past few weeks to build a final list of what the District needs, some of which includes ClearTouch panels (some will be replaced, others will get new hardware), desktops for teachers, iPads for K-1, Chromebooks for others. In 18 months there is a Windows update and a number of the District's equipment will not be able to upgrade given their age. A meeting was held Friday with some staff about ClearTouch needs. He is reviewing the use federal COVID money to do this. The initial plan from a few years ago did have the District purchasing a lot of technology. Some amendments may be needed to the original plan and Mr. Carter has been working with the state to make sure the school



goes through the process correctly. Mr. Reimer noted that as the District has a number of needs, it may need to stagger over the years, and if the items are run through BOCES, they will be aidable. He noted that all funds are being reviewed and managed to spend the federal dollars but some areas, such as after school, the District may be unable to spend all the funds given the guidelines for usage.

Mr. Carter then continued with a detailed review of the projected General Support, Transportation, Community Services, and Undistributed sections of the 2024-2025 budget. Most categories experienced a small increase or did not change. Board of Education changed 1.51% and District Clerk and District Meeting remained flat. Central Administration with the Superintendent's area expenses increased 2.24% primarily from association dues and conferences. Business Administration, which includes the Business Official and related expenses increased 1.86%. Mr. Carter noted that this does not reflect the BOCES Business Services change from \$175,000 to \$169,000 but the projection will be updated for next month. Auditing reflects expense for the External Audit, Lumsden McCormick and reflects a 2.62% increase. District Treasurer remains flat as there is no salary as it is within Mr. Carter's job role. Tax Collector increased \$150 or 2.0%. BOCES Purchasing services increased 2.0% or \$60. Legal remained flat with an increase of 0.26%. Personnel with contractual third-party fees for BRI, Omni increased \$500 and BOCES Personnel increased \$305 for a combined increase of 1.51%. Operation of Plant decreased 4.43% with the decrease in utilities expenses even with a projected increase in the cleaner salary line due to the need to hire for additional support. Maintenance of Plant increased 1.65% with the salary line reflecting an increase to having a full year of a full-time employee and increased due to materials and supplies of \$4,000. BOCES Printing and Mailing remains stated and reflects the expenses related to The Banner and other mailings. BOCES Data Processing this current year increased substantially due to the expense of managed services with Erie 1 BOCES but will level out next year. Special Items will be updated once final estimates are received from Evans Insurance. School Association Dues, Judgements and Claims, Assessments School Property, Refund Property Tax all remained flat. BOCES Admin Costs increased \$2,805, an increase of 2.43% which reflects some of the costs and expenses the District pays for their services. Transportation overall increased 1.78%. Mr. Carter noted that the District is extending its contract with STA and once the electric busses are received the expenses relating to that would fall under this category. Based on a question from Mr. Atwater, the budget impact of the electric busses is not known at this point in time. Community services remains flat as Mr. Carter noted that the funding for summer school is covered with federal funds at this point in time but that will go away but the cost of the program is approximately \$50,000 vs. the \$33,000 currently allocated. Undistributed increased 4.97% or \$77,093 which \$63,750 is health insurance related. Mr. Carter reiterated the Healthcare Consortium voted to increase the health insurance by 3% based on current account of what employees do and is reflected. The health insurance is based on what the current staff uses, and if it is not used it will be reappropriated or put in a reserve. Total Debt Service decreased 0.64%. Mr. Reimer noted that the Serial Bond Principal will increase in 2025-2026, and the Transfer Capital Fund is the capital outlay for next year for the auditorium work. He noted there is no update on the Emergency Project funding but is hopeful to begin next month. Interfund Transfers overall remains flat. Total Undistributed increased 4.55% vs. 5.74% last month.



Mr. Carter then discussed the formalization of a reserve fund plan for the District that is being worked on and will be presented in the coming months to the Board. The District does have a policy outlining its reserve plan, and it is fulfilled but it is pieced together. As reserves are continually discussed, this formalization will result in a booklet/guide detailing it for the Board and Administration. He noted a sample version may be ready for the April meeting.

Superintendent's

Information

Dr. Reimer reviewed the Master Budget Plan noting not all the figures are incorporated into the projection yet with the determination of the levy and tie to the reserve plan to be completed. He noted that some districts are experiencing the State Comptroller audits reviewing and noting use of reserve funds, so the District wants to make sure it is very transparent, clear, and open with building reserves for the long-term and how the District is doing it. He stated this is another reason for the formalized reserve fund plan Mr. Carter mentioned. State Ed aid runs are expected next Thursday and the budget plan will be updated to reflect that. He noted the long-term projected staffing changes the next five years may result in a relatively high number of people retiring but that is not reflected in the long-term numbers as of now, but rather once confirmed in subsequent years. Dr. Reimer noted that he did not see many changes or anything substantial on Mr. Carter's four budget areas reviewed this evening.

Dr. Reimer then discussed the bid opening for the 2022 Capital Improvement Project which was held Tuesday, February 6 at 3:30 p.m. He noted overall, with regard to the winning bids, three bids came in under projections and one over, but combined were close to where the District wanted to be. He noted there is \$100,000 allowance per contract built in to not have to use change orders. Dr. Reimer noted it is estimated that to finish the tennis courts would be approximately \$170,000 if done when the project is ongoing vs. later it would be much more. Thus, a decision was made to use some of the funds to do that now rather than down the road when it would be more expensive. The electrical was much higher than expected based on estimates that were discussed with a local provider that had to pull out of the bid process for various reasons.

Dr. Reimer discussed stimulus funding and the projected amendments to best utilized the funds available within a June timeframe.

Dr. Reimer then discuss the pool boiler and auditorium projects. The last pieces of the boiler components were to be in last week to finish the project. The auditorium air conditioning is the last component that needs to be completed for the auditorium, not withstanding the capital outlay projects addressing, sound, lighting, and rigging. With regard to enhanced security, the District is adding 30 new cameras for enhanced security, and replace the cores for the external keys, along with some internal keys over the next few months. He commented that most of the core replacements will be done in-house. Final cost reports for these projects will be sent to the state by June to begin the aid process.

Dr. Reimer noted that as the concession stand is not an aidable project, therefore the renovation will be done by the District itself. To save on expenses, the project will utilize a



Business Office intern being presented for appointment this evening, who will work with Mr. Carter to coordinate that needs to be done as far as the new roof, inside bathrooms, concessions, the logo, and other items. Individual repair contracts, if needed, be will be done and align with the larger project too.

With regard to the electric buses, Dr. Reimer noted that the District's transportation contractor is still waiting on information pertaining to the charging stations before moving forward with receipt.

After receiving feedback from various people regarding the new logo, suggested edits were provided back to the marketing group and the subsequent revisions were received at 5:00 p.m. today. Dr. Reimer reviewed the proposed logos with the students, and the reason for the revisions were explained at a meeting the past Friday. As not all students were able to attend, Dr. Reimer reached out to those not in attendance to go through the information. The students liked the direction of how the logo was progressing forward, and understood the reason for the edits and changes per Dr. Reimer. He noted that a decision needs to be made in March with regard to the logo because of the capital projects and other related items. He commented that March 16th is the deadline for the multi-purpose field company to have sufficient time to incorporate it into the plans. Mrs. Gow asked if the students who provided the artwork were going to be recognized. Dr. Reimer stated they definitely would be and a branding book is being developed for the District to use in all things logo related.

Dr. Reimer then discussed options for signage for the District with the Board of Education. There were options of single-sided, double-sided, which way it could face, possibly two separate signs at a corner location angled, or one with two sides that would be single-sided at a corner. The Board discussed this as well as other potential locations besides the suggestions, and what if anything about the existing marquee. Dr. Reimer noted it would cost approximately \$30,000 to move the pillars with the existing marquee in front of the high school due to all the electrical connections to which after discussion the Board agreed to leave that marquee as is. After discussion of options by the gym, in front of the new entrance, corners, etc. and if double or single-sided, the Board agreed to have a single-sided, double corner sign in color which would show at Quaker and Haight Roads.

Dr. Reimer discuss the number of BEDS codes used by the school, which the District has been reviewing for a few years, and has discussed with the Board previously. The District had previously eliminated the middle school BEDS code when it reconfigured to an elementary PreK-6 and junior/senior high school for grades 7-12. As the District is a combined, one-location campus with a single principal, the discussion to move to single BEDS code would take the reporting function and how the state sees the school into one code making it more cost-effective and efficient with items such as software, the RAPTOR system, reporting, and food systems to name a few. A change of BEDS code would not have an impact on how the District operate in general. Dr. Reimer estimated that it could save the District approximately six figures a year by removing duplicative services and processes with a change one BEDS code. This would eliminate the need for a waiver for a single principal moving forward too, although, administratively down the road if there was a need, the school would still be able to make administrative structural changes if necessary.



Dr. Reimer noted that in his opinion, there is nothing negative about going to one BEDS code but it is more a political view. Dr. Reimer has talked to a couple schools who have done this and it has worked out. He reinforced that the school itself is not changing, and a school is not going away, just this is a reporting-related change that would be occurring. Mr. Atwater asked if the community would be aware of this and would the Board need to approve an action to make this occur. Dr. Reimer noted that since the way services are being provided will not change and everything from PreK-12 remains the same, and the Board could make an action to approve the at the March meeting and the community would be informed of the change and assured no changes to education or services will occur. After discussion, and with questions responded to, the Board concurred to move forward with a single BEDS code. Dr. Reimer will therefore work on the paperwork submission is due by March 1, 2024 to the state and commented the Board approval can be made at the March Board meeting eliminating both codes and reconfiguring as a single building. If approved by the state, it would not become affective until the 2024-2025 school year.

Education

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

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

The Board of Education discussed their availability to meet the morning of Tuesday, April 23, 2024 for the Board Meeting for the purpose of voting on the Orleans/Niagara BOCES administrative budget and the election of members to the BOCES Board of Education.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the time of 7:30 a.m. for the April 23, 2024 Board of Education Meeting. Mr. Sweeney, Jr. noted his conflict.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Reimer reviewed the 2024-2025 school calendar. He responded to questions about there being two weeks at Christmas which does not coincide with BOCES. He noted that the District has mirrored BOCES in the past and also varied from its schedule which both has its pros and cons.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the proposed 2024-2025 school calendar.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Policies/Plans

Mr. Atwater presented the first reading of policies:

8280: INSTRUCTION FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS
8310: PURPOSES OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
8320: SELECTION OF LIBRARY AND MULTIMEDIA MATERIALS
8330: OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
8331: CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES



8340: TEXTBOOKS/WORKBOOKS/CALCULATORS/INSTRUCTIONAL COMPUTER HARDWARE
8350: USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS
8360: RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION IN THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
8410: SCHOOL CALENDAR
8420: OPENING EXERCISES
8430: INDEPENDENT STUDY
8450: HOME TUTORING (HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION)
8460: FIELD TRIPS
8470: HOME INSTRUCTION (HOME SCHOOLING)

There were no questions or comments brought forward.

Mr. Atwater then presented the second reading of the following policies:

8110: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, RESOURCES AND EVALUATION
8130: EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
8242: CIVILITY, CITIZENSHIP AND CHARACTER EDUCATION/INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION
8243: CREDIT FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
8250: ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL (INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES)
8260: TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
8270: INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY
8271: INTERNET SAFETY/INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING POLICY
8272: SCHOOL DISTRICT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR WEB PAGE PUBLISHING
8273: WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Harris to approve the policies as presented.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Reimer reviewed and discussed the background and development of Policy 6190 - Workplace Violence Prevention Policy which is new.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Gow, to skip the first reading and move to approval of Policy 6190 as presented.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Personnel Items

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the acceptance of the resignation for the purpose of retirement, with commendation and regret, of Alicia Montesanti as a Special Education Teacher effective July 1, 2024.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the revised appointment of Mark Learo as a probationary Director of Instructional Services/Assistant Principal



effective of January 23, 2024, as per the Agreement between the Barker Central School District and Director of Instructional Services/Assistant Principal. Four-year probationary period effective January 23, 2024 - January 22, 2028, tenure area of Director of Instructional Services/Assistant Principal. 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 2023-2024 salary is \$104,500 prorated.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Loriann Martell as the Chemical Hygiene Officer.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointments of Officers and Committee memberships for the 2023-2024 school year as outlined below:

Officer Positions	Name	Stipend
Chemical Hygiene Officer	Jacob L. Reimer	\$0.00
Data Protection Officer	Mark Learo	\$0.00
Foster Care Liaison	Mark Learo	\$0.00
Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Official Compliance Officer	Mark Learo	\$0.00
Liaison for Homeless Children & Youth	Mark Learo	\$0.00
Mental Health Officer	Mark Learo	\$0.00

CSE & CPSE Committee Positions	Name
Committee on Special Education Chairperson	Mark Learo
Committee on Preschool CSE Chairperson	Mark Learo
Alternate CSE/CPSE Chairperson	Keri Pratt
School Psychologist	Keri Pratt

Positions	Name
Title I "No Child Left Behind":	Mark Learo
Title II Part A Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund	Mark Learo
Title IV Student Assistance	Mark Learo
Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer	Micaela Love Mark Learo
Federal Funding for the Education of Students with Disabilities Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	Mark Learo

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Tina Muff as a Part-time Cleaner at a rate of \$15.00 per hour effective January 23, 2024.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Molly Handrich as a Substitute Teacher for grades PreK-12 at the per diem rate, and as a Substitute Teaching Assistant and Substitute Teacher Aide both at a rate of \$15.00 per hour effective February 13, 2024, subject to background and credit check approval.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of Jared Taft as a Business Office Intern from February 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024, as part of his requirements with SUNY Cortland for his certification in School Business Leadership.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the following 2023-2024 School Year Spring Sports Appointments and Stipends per the Barker Teachers' Union Agreement.

Coach	Sport	Step	Rate
Aileen Gilbert (Co-Coach)	Varsity Softball	4	\$2,770.29
William Moeller (Co-Coach)	Varsity Softball	4	\$2,770.29
William Bruning	JV Softball	3	\$4,276.21
Jesse Watts	Varsity Baseball	1	\$5,267.55
James Harris	JV Baseball	4	\$4,431.63
Heather McIntyre	Varsity Track	4	\$5,541.59
Jacob Haight	Assistant Varsity Track	1	\$3,944.36
Christopher Post	Assistant Varsity Track	4	\$4,225.80
Paul DerSarkissian	JH/Modified Track	4	\$2,478.35
Kyle Sosnowski	JH/Modified Track	2	\$2,327.13
Jeffrey Pyskaty	Varsity Tennis	4	\$4,843.29

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointments of William Bruning and Paul DerSarkissian as Substitute Modified Boys Basketball Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year for the dates as outlined at a per diem rate of \$63.55.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the appointment of the following individuals as parent/community volunteers: Beatriz Cruz, Abrianna Schwab, Nicholas Watry subject to Raptor and clearances.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the leave of absence for Aileen Gilbert on or about May 25, 2024, through a date to be determined.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to accept the resignation of Gwen Hangartner, Cafeteria Cook, with commendation and regret, for the purpose of retirement effective March 5, 2024.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Business &

Financial Items Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gow to accept the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2024.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gow to accept the Extraclassroom Report dated January 2024.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the appointment of Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC as school attorneys for the 2023-2024 school year.

Yes: 6, No: 0

Motion carried.

Dr. Reimer noted the four winning bids received and the related coop bids as noted in the resolution be brought forward for approval as recommended by LeChase Construction Services, LLC, the District's 2022 Capital Improvement Construction Manager.

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve of the resolution as recommended from LeChase Construction Services, LLC for the four bids as outlined below and for authorization to execute related contract agreements. Further, consistent with Barker Central School District's adopted policy for Cooperative-Purchasing agreements, it is recommended that the following companies be approved for the stated cooperative purchasing contracts.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the bids from Parise Mechanical, Inc.; CIR Electrical Construction Corporation; DiFiore Construction, Inc.; and BRG Corporation; related to the 2022 Capital Improvement Project as recommended by the District's Construction Manager, LeChase Construction Services, LLC and authorizes the Superintendent of Barker Central School District to execute said contracts. A copy of such contracts shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the cooperative purchasing contacts recommended by LeChase Construction Services, LLC also be approved.

Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

End of Public Session

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Harris adjourn public session at 9:16 p.m., and move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective negotiations with the Support Staff.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 9:45 p.m., and return to Public Session.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Public Session/

Adjournment Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Harris, to approve the end of the Public Session and adjournment of the meeting at 9:45 p.m.
Yes: 6, No: 0
Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk