



**Barker Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, July 2, 2025 7:00 p.m.
Board Room**

Present	R. Atwater, D. Carnes, C. Gancasz, E. Gow, S. Mason, J. Sweeney, Jr., V. Voss
Excused	K. Stoll
Also Present	J. Reimer, M. Carter, C. Cornwell, M. Eadie, M. Learo, M. Love Public - 32
Agenda	<p>Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the agenda as presented.</p> <p>Yes: 7, No: 0</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
Minutes	<p>Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the minutes from the Regular and Audit Committee meetings held on June 9, 2025 as presented.</p> <p>Yes: 7, No: 0</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
Public Forum	<p>Mr. Atwater read a statement pertaining to public forums. He noted that the purpose of the public forum is to provide an opportunity for District residents to address the Board. Comments should be limited to less than three (3) minutes and be confined to subjects normally addressed at the Board level. The Board does not intend for the public meeting to be a dialogue. He noted that this is a meeting held in public; it is not a public meeting.</p> <p>The first speaker was Jennifer Mason, who noted she was a 2004 graduate of Barker, and she said she spoke as an advocate for the establishment of a boys' soccer team and a merger with Lyndonville Central School District. She noted the development of a soccer program by a family member and questioned why the District did not have the same opportunity for the boys as provided the girls. She commented that the ability to have a soccer team would keep boys active and engaged, noting that not all boys want to participated in cross-county, golf, or football. She noted that her sons are interested and deserve this opportunity. She said the District should</p>



collaborate with Lyndonville CSD for golf and cross-county too. She asked the Board to “say yes” to the opportunity and give fairness to the boys the same as the girls.

Oscar Dergel, a Barker student noted that he was too old for the summer soccer league opportunities and was in favor of having the boys’ soccer program established. He provided his reasons he felt a program should be approved, some of which included, it would bring more families into the District by offering more diversity, the ability to utilize the new sports complex, it would not have a large impact on the budget which would be offset by people moving into the District. He said there is a long list of items which support the creation of the program.

Grace Lefever, resident, parent, coach, talked about knowing that her son Parker would drastically like to play soccer and most of his friends in the grades below and above are interested. She said she sees a passion for it and hears of the interest from kids, and was concerned about the numbers that signed up according to Mr. Mucha’s report. She stated that you have to draw the kids in and keep them busy, there is interest, and that is a huge factor.

Holly Rounds, resident, spoke and noted that most of her points regarding the request for a soccer program were addressed by the prior speakers. She noted her child plays soccer and some of the reasons it is important to establish this program which is that it is good for others, it would teach children to get along, and they can make friends they might not have otherwise. She read the letter from Mr. Mucha and did not think allowing the boys to play would detract from other sports. She noted that several boys said the other sports are not for them. The District needs to work together through education, sports, and other activities.

Presentations

Soccer Analysis Update and 2024-2025 Year-end Sports Review - Mr. Mucha

Mr. Mucha discussed the recent inquiry into creating a boys' soccer program and provided information to the Board based on the request from last month’s meeting. He reviewed the processes conducted less than 1.5 years ago, the findings, and the Athletic Director's recommendation that was fully supported by the Board of Education to, at that time, not add a boys’ soccer team to the sports offering for the students.

He stated that on January 8, 2024, a thorough review of the District’s Fall athletic programs was presented to the Barker Central School Board of Education in regard to creating a boys' soccer program. Extensive research was done involving District enrollment, enrollment of local districts, comparing the number of sports teams these districts have, the overall interest in soccer within the Barker District, a thorough Title IX report, the potential impact of starting another athletic program on existing programs as well as the financial impact to the District.



At that time, it was determined that the number of athletic programs offered at Barker Central School is within the norm compared to school districts of similar size. There was some interest in modified soccer, with a total of 6 boys interested in 6th and 7th grade. An additional 9 boys were interested in Junior Varsity soccer and an additional 11 boys were interested in Varsity. As a result of these numbers, it was determined that it would have a severe negative impact on existing programs. The Title IX research found the District in compliance. The cost to the District would be approximately \$19,352, which would be reduced if merged with another school. As a result, the Director of Athletics did not recommend adding soccer to the Fall 2024 season and was fully supported by the Barker Board of Education.

Mr. Mucha noted that over the past year, little has changed in terms of enrollment and numbers. However, due to the recent inquiry from the community, a sign-up list was established and found that 9 boys in 6th grade were interested in modified soccer, 2 boys were interested in Junior Varsity, and only 4 boys were interested in Varsity. Although these numbers are quite different than last year, he felt it would still cause stress this year on other teams losing 2 potential football players and 3 potential golfers from the Varsity golf team, respectively. He commented that the greater concern he has of starting another program is the long-term effects. There are only so many athletes to choose from and the District will ultimately spread them too thin, which could cause programs to fold or be forced to merge with another district. It was determined last year that the Barker identity was compromised when merged with other schools to the point that students were not aware of having certain teams. He commented that those teams often lose the connection to the school and to the community. He also noted that the Barker identity has improved with Barker hosting more events and even becoming the host school with two other programs since the updated sports complex was completed. However, there is recent evidence that suggests the negative impacts of creating any more programs.

He discussed that prior to 2020, the girls' soccer program was healthy. But due to decreasing enrollment and/or interest, it ultimately folded entirely in 2021. At that time, we had a healthy field hockey team. A movement was made to bring back girls' soccer as a merged program with Lyndonville in 2022, and has shown signs of success at the JV and Varsity levels only. We have not had enough girls between the two schools to field a modified team in 2024, nor will we have enough for the 2025 season. In 2023, girls showed interest in cheering in both the fall and winter. Competitive cheer was started in the Winter of 2024 and football cheerleading was started in the Fall of 2024; both as merged teams with Royalton-Hartland. As a result of starting the girls soccer teams and fall cheerleading back, and the girls field hockey program is suffering. Currently, there are only 3 girls signed up for modified field hockey, and it is in jeopardy of folding. Some potential players have decided to cheer, while some players have decided to try and play soccer now. He noted that the field hockey scenario is what



needs to be considered in making this decision. He commented that by starting another sport, the District would be providing another opportunity for students, but at what cost? Is it fair to the other kids to be forced to merge with another team, for a team to be less competitive, or perhaps lose their sport that they love too?

He noted that some people have said students have the opportunity to dual sport. He noted that this is true, that the league has approved dual participation opportunities for student-athletes. However, the program is meant for the exceptional student-athlete who is mature, responsible, can manage participation in two sports and keep their average above an 85%, which is one of the requirements of dual participation that many people are not aware of. Dual participation is not a solution for low student enrollment. It simply provides a potential opportunity for a select group of athletes. In addition, many times dual participation is not an option depending on practice and game schedules conflicting between sports.

Mr. Mucha stated that as such, he still maintained that little has changed since the last review of information, and that the creation of another athletic program in the Fall will likely have negative effects now and in the future. The number of Fall sports that are currently offered is appropriate compared to districts of Barker's size. Therefore, he did not recommend offering a boys' soccer program, either stand-alone or in a shared capacity with another district at this time.

Mr. Mucha continued his report with his 2024-2025 year-end sports review. He discussed the continued focus on safety and noted that the District successfully made its supervisors more visible with new high visibility bright yellow jackets and each coach was issued AEDs this year. There are a total of seven AEDs for the Athletic Department use. He then discussed the continued focus on grades and attendance for inter-scholastic athletes noting the Pass to Play (P2P) program continues to be successful. The coaches receive a weekly failure list which has reduced the number of athletes on P2P. The emphasis on attendance with daily reports going out to coaches has improved athlete attendance immensely. He noted that he has received compliments several times on very few numbers of kids on the report now. He reported that the District is an NYSPHSAA School of Distinction, something to be very proud of. He also discussed the number of scholar athlete teams he was proud of.

He reported that the turf field has been a tremendous success getting many compliments and many organizations and local schools requesting to use the facility.

He noted that he also focused on the coaches this year and their morale too and provided each coach with a coaching polo with the Bulldog logo on it to recognize them at year-end and during coaches' appreciation week, as well as holding an end of year coaches social to show his appreciation.



Mr. Mucha noted another continued focus was emphasizing sportsmanship at each preseason parent meeting as a result of some somewhat unsportsmanlike behavior that had to be addressed during the Fall season of the school year. The message was received in the community and resulted in a very sportsmanlike Winter and Spring from both the athletes and parents. The effort showed as evidenced with the four team sportsmanship awards received by the District.

Mr. Mucha continued with a summary of the seasons. During the Fall sports season there were 129 athletes who competed in 12 Modified/JV/Varsity sports (up 10 athletes from the year before). Out of 6 Varsity teams, there were 5 Scholar Athlete Teams from girls and boys cross country, golf, field hockey and girls soccer, with 55 athletes earning Scholar-Athlete honors. There were also 13 seniors who earned All-WNY Scholar-Athlete Honorable Mention honors. (4 more than last year). In addition, there was 1 League Sportsmanship Award in Golf with Adler Detchner being the individual recipient, and 1 League Championship in boys cross country who finished undefeated in league play and were the runner up Section 6 Class D Champions. Mr. Mucha also recognized Coach Paul DerSarkissian for receiving the N-O League Coaches Sportsmanship Award who will be recognized at the Section 6 Recognition night in August.

There were 120 athletes who competed in 11 Modified/JV/Varsity sports (up 5 athletes from the year before) during the Winter season. Out of 4 Varsity teams there were 3 Scholar-Athlete team in girls basketball, boys basketball and girls swimming with 21 athletes earning Scholar-Athlete Honors, 6 seniors earned All-WNY Scholar-Athlete Honorable Mention honors, 1 League Sportsmanship Award in wrestling, as well as 1 League Champion in girls swimming for the third year in a row.

Spring sports had 140 athletes competing in 9 Modified/JV/Varsity Sports. Out of the Varsity teams, Mr. Mucha commented that all 5 varsity teams were Scholar-Athlete teams in boys and girls track, softball, baseball and tennis with 71 athletes earning scholar-athlete honors, 17 seniors earned All-WNY Scholar-Athlete Honorable Mentions honors. There were also 3 League Sportsmanship Awards with Michael Kalynycz receiving the award for baseball as the individual recipient, Rachel Samson for girls track and the girls softball team was the League Champions for the second year in a row and were runner-up Section 6 Class C Champions.

Future Plans for 2025-2026 for the Athletic Department include that the District will now be the host school for both football and girls soccer. The rebranding will hopefully be completed by the start of the school so the high school gym entrance and gym will show Bulldog pride. He also noted that the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) helped with the rebranding designs.



Mr. Atwater thanked Mr. Mucha and asked what the District's options were relative to soccer. Mr. Mucha noted that there is very little communication with Lyndonville CSD's Athletic Director for soccer or another other sport regarding merger that has been discussed. Mrs. Stephanie Mason asked if Mr. Mucha had reached out to the Lyndonville district. Mr. Mucha commented that he had not until the discussion with the Board took place and the Board provided direction. Mrs. Mason noted she felt that Mr. Mucha, being the golf coach, was a conflict of interest with regard to the analysis, and felt there were mature athletes that could do a dual sport at Barker. She commented that if cost is not a barrier then what is, stating to run the program and evaluate if there is a decline in the current teams. She suggested to approve a two-year pilot program and for the Board not to say no without seeing how it is, and to start as a merged boys soccer team and see if there is interest.

Mr. Atwater inquired if Lyndonville CSD were to be interested, how would you identify the range of cost. Dr. Reimer noted that the expense would all depend on the number of students as it is prorated based on the number for each district. He noted some of the associated costs which included transportation, a varsity coach stipend would be approximately \$5,300, and the officials would be approximately \$2,000, etc.

Mrs. Voss asked Mr. Mucha how many years he had been coaching. He noted that he has coached for 26 years. She commented that she knows he has the approximate 126 athletes he oversees with the best intentions for them in his heart.

When asked about the number of Lyndonville CSD players, Mr. Mucha said it was approximately 13-14 soccer players. He informed Mrs. Gancasz they do have a Varsity team but no JV.

Mrs. Voss commented that the opinion has not changed from the past meeting. She appreciated Oscar Dergel and the parents' support of the children but stated the Board represents the entire District. She noted that her son played three sports and if we continue to add hockey, soccer, etc. other teams will be shared and down the road, she felt Barker would lose pride, comradery, as it is not all about winning and competition. She noted that we need to encourage the students to do other sports. Mrs. Carnes agreed with Mrs. Voss and to keep the energy into the current programs. Mr. Sweeney, Jr. stated that Mr. Mucha does a great job and if the Board chose to go down the path, it should reach out to other school it shares services with such as Lyndonville CSD with girls soccer, Royalton-Hartland CSD with football, Varsity wrestling, and Varsity boys and girls swim, but felt Barker should stay as it is and not merge students.

Mr. Mucha emphasized that although we would like to give students all the opportunities, he provided the example of being unable to keep volleyball as requested due to limited numbers, and thus is unable to support a recommendation to add boys soccer at this time.



Mr. Atwater asked if this topic should be polled each year.

Mrs. Mason inquired about the timeframe to inform students to let the District know if interested. Mr. Mucha noted that at the last meeting, it was determined to post sign-ups which he had outside his room, as well as week-long announcements stating that there were sign-ups there. He also noted that he was surprised that Ms. Lefever's son and his friends were not on the sign-up list. Mrs. Mason asked how many were on cross-country and soccer. Mr. Mucha noted that 12 students are on cross-country and there were 6 students in grades 7-11 and 9 students in 6th grade who posted interest in Modified, JV, and Varsity soccer. Mrs. Voss confirmed that it was a total of 15 students who showed interest to cover the three levels and was informed it was. Mr. Mucha commented that the District has to look at the short- and long-term impact.

Mrs. Gow noted the importance of sports to her when a student, especially volleyball, and she understood why the District does not have volleyball now and supported the decision. She stated that the Board has to make decisions that make the most sense for all kids based on what we know. The Board has to assume Mr. Mucha knows what he is talking about, has been doing this job for a number of years, and support the recommendation.

Mrs. Gancasz noted that last time she told the students and parents to come back again to see if the analysis changes as she can see they are passionate about this. She noted to look into it a little more and get back to the community. She stated she does trust Mr. Mucha. There is a passion here and do not burn it down, and that the Board does especially listen to the students. Sometimes it changes. She noted that she would be heartbroken in cross-country or field hockey go away but understands how students' interest can change and could impact current opportunities. She commented to look into it with another school, and if not for this year, for next.

Mrs. Mason commented to try a two-year pilot, build trust with the community, and if more students are needed if the District does not have the numbers, to merge with another school and utilize the sports complex here. She noted she was begging for the program, and then analyze the data and if it does not work, then go from there.

Mr. Atwater summarized what he thought the Board felt which was it did not seem the majority of interest was for this fall; interest changes and different sports rise up in interest; the Board believes it continues to be open to changes and the desires of the students; the soccer request needs to continue to be monitored; it needs to share the idea with other districts; there is a need to keep options open and move forward; and to keep in touch with the community with regard to this subject.



Principal's Update - Dr. Love

Dr. Love commented that the end of year went off with a bang and she noted a huge thank you to the team. She stated she was proud of graduation and that all that started the school year crossed the finish line. The PAC team created an amazing time for the year-end and it was wonderful, as last year it rained. The prom at the Gallagher was beautiful and there was positive feedback from the staff and people there. Dr. Love noted that the people in charge of the photo booth both commented that they never met a more polite group at prom. Regents went well too for the students. She noted that they have been really busy with PreK registrations with 33 signed up to date. PreK and Kindergarten screenings are mostly done with a couple scheduled for August.

Dr. Love noted that staff is already working on next year, with the Jr./Sr. High School scheduling being run this week and working in the specials and other pieces, and the aides and AIS schedule will be set shortly too. She noted the teachers were working on their end-of-year processes, with the elementary report cards already sent home, and the Jr./Sr. High school report cards going out tomorrow.

On July 9th there will be the public hearing on the Codes of Conduct and Safety Plans. She asked for the Board's opinion, as the current policy has no hats being worn through 9th period but internet devices/cell phone policy is enforced through 10th period. She stated she wanted to bring it to their attention and asked the Board if they wanted it left that way or change it for consistency. Mrs. Gancasz inquired about the timeframe for 10th period which is from 2:30-3:15 p.m. Dr. Reimer noted the cell phone policy must be through 3:15 p.m. She stated it would make sense to have both through 3:15 p.m. Mrs. Voss and Mr. Atwater agreed, and the Board concurred to make both no hats and internet devices/cell phones policies be in effect through 10th period. Dr. Love noted she will make sure the Codes mirror what the Board agreed to. With regard to head phones and ear buds, Dr. Love noted that the language will be in the Code as it relates to the policy, the same as before. She also noted that the Safety Plans are being presented for review this month and noted that the Building Safety Plan is confidential and only provided to the Board, not the public. She stated the changes to the policies are the normal changes for employee changes, room moves, etc. However, one big change was that NYS adopted the I Love U Guys emergency response terminology and she discussed them which included:

- Evacuate or evacuation: Move students for their protection from a school building to a predetermined location in response to an emergency.
- Shelter or shelter-in-place: Keep students in school buildings and shelter them when it is deemed safer for students to remain inside rather than to return home or be evacuated.
- Lockdown: Immediately clear the hallways, lock, and/or barricade doors, hide from view, and remain silent while readying a plan of



evacuation as a last resort. Lockdown will only end upon physical release from the room or secured area by law enforcement. Lockdown is initiated during incidents that pose an immediate threat of violence in or around the school.

- Hold or hold-in-place: The restriction of movement of students and staff within the building while dealing with short-term emergencies.
- Secure lockdown: Students and staff remain inside school buildings that are locked and secured during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside the school.

Every school and district must ensure that 2025-2026 building and district plans are inclusive of all settings and times, including before, during and after school activities and times, as well as indoor and outdoor activities. This language will be in the welcome back training for staff, will be communicated to the parents with the Banner and through other forms of communication.

Mrs. Voss inquired if most of the teachers were remaining in their current areas/grades and was informed that most were with the exception of a Kindergarten teacher and 6th Grade teacher.

Mrs. Mason stated she wanted to touch upon Moving Up Day. Dr. Love said she was grateful for the team that coordinated the day and that a lot of thought went into the day, noted it got hot outside fast and a call about the day was made. Dr. Reimer would discuss this under his report.

Mrs. Gancasz noted that she wanted to thank the Administration and teachers regarding the dress code as it was a lot of work to get it to where it is. Dr. Love agreed it took a lot of time but Administration and the staff worked together.

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

Mr. Cornwell provided an instruction update. He noted that he is asking the Board to approve another resource for our new Technology program. This book is for woodworking courses. Already approved, was one for metal fabrication. Nothing has been purchased as of yet but keeping the District's options open for course resources.

Mr. Cornwell then discussed the Professional Development Plan, which the Board will be asked to approve for the 2025-2026 school year. He said a lot of work has gone into it addressing the Board's goals and the District will keep that moving forward. A key part is the Action Plan on pages 8-13. All three goals are taken from the District's Strategic Plan. Goal 1, student engagement, will look to build on work done by our 5th and 6th Grade teachers this past year. Goal 2, which focuses on literacy, will be informed by the Science of Reading/Literacy Initiative developed by NYSED. Goal 3, which includes an attendance component, will look to build on work done by our Grade 2-4 teachers.



Mr. Cornwell report that after this evening, almost all of the openings will be filled due to teacher vacancies. 10 new teachers will be joining us for the 2025-2026 school year. To help with this transition, there will be a 2-day New Teacher Orientation for the new hires which is scheduled for Monday, August 11th and Tuesday, August 12th. Planning is being finalized but some primary topics of this orientation include: a campus tour, a bus tour of the community, technology overview and training, curriculum work time, classroom work time and time to spend with mentors/mentees. The goal is to make the new hires transition successful.

The District continued its history of good strong academic performance on Regents exams. There were ten exams this year, and the students achieved a proficiency (passing rate) of 85% or higher on nine of the ten exams given. Mastery rates (scoring an 85% or higher) fluctuated a bit but were as high as 48% on one particular exam. He stated he would provide a larger academic data overview at an upcoming meeting including Regent's exam data, attendance data, and graduation data.

Based on a question from Mrs. Voss, Mr. Cornwell stated that the orientation is being coordinated through multiple people but he and Mrs. Phillips, BTU President, are overseeing it. As this is a new way of bringing in the hires, feedback will also be asked for at the end to see what worked, what they felt they needed more of, etc. so it could be adjusted as appropriate.

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

Mr. Learo thanked the Board and noted its dedication to the Barker learning community and thanked them for his time working with the District. He reported that since the last meeting there were three CSE meetings, 1 CPSE meeting, with two transitions from CPSE to CSE meetings to take place during the summer. He provided a Special Education update on the 12:1+1 self-contained class. He said he held the second staff information session regarding the 12:1+1 classroom creation and answered staff questions that had been submitted via a Google form. The classroom teacher and related service providers have met to discuss related services for next year. Requisitions have been submitted by the classroom teacher for needed furniture, supplies and materials. He noted the excitement to see this classroom take off in September.

Mr. Learo commented that he participated in the O/N TIG Leadership Team meeting during June, as well as a Random Moment in Time Study (RMTS) coordinator training, staff interviews, and BOCES Graduation (Godfrey Learning Center) with sixteen students from different districts. He noted that one of the graduates is on the agenda this evening as he is being recommended for an appointment as a cleaner.

Financial Update - Mr. Carter

Mr. Carter reported that last month the Board received the edited policy 5220 – District Investments, for its first review and noted that the only



change since then was to add verbiage to address the investment of extra classroom account funds, which averages around \$100,000, to authorize its investment into higher yield savings accounts for the benefit of the Jr./Sr. High Student Council.

Mr. Carter noted that the transportation agreement with STA had a proposed 3.4% increase for \$1,328,000 million.

Mr. Carter stated the close-out of the 2024-2025 financial year-end is wrapping up and 2025-2026 is starting. This includes working on payroll changes, recertification of accounts, and he discussed the unappropriated funds projected at \$40,000 for year-end which was very favorable but noted it will change as utilities and transportation for June is still to be applied.

With regard to the Lumsden McCormick year-end audit, Mr. Carter noted the goal would be to have Mr. Seth Hennard back to report to the Board at the September meeting.

Mr. Carter discussed the projections for the expense related to the BOCES CBO, which is based on the number of districts utilizing the services, for the 2025-2026 school year. He noted that two months ago, the expense was projected to decrease, last month it was projected to increase \$175,000, and now it is projected to decrease to \$162,000 for the school year, which after aid is approximately \$73,000 in expense to the District. He noted that one district joined since last month.

Student Representative - Miss Stoll

There was not report from the student this month.

Superintendent's Information

Dr. Reimer discussed the unappropriated fund balance for year-end 2024-2025. He noted with the amount left over as of fiscal year-end 2024-2025, after the increase in the budget needed during the winter due to Special Education costs, given the amount the District projected demonstrates how accurate Administration was in the forecasting process for these unforeseen expenses. The amount in the unappropriated equates to approximately one-quarter of a percent of the District budget.

Dr. Reimer noted the tour this evening and hoped the Board could see the amount of work being undertaken. He said the construction is moving along, albeit a little behind what he wanted, for various reasons. He noted for example that the receipt of the carpet was delayed but some was received today and the contractors are already putting it into the spaces. The high school and elementary main offices, along with guidance and the nurses are schedule to move into the combine main office space by the end of the month. Dr. Reimer commented on how flexible people have been given changes can occur in a daily basis and it is a challenge to manage and communicate if the change occurs quickly. It is still projected that all



spaces, except the Tech Area and a few of the newly converted spaces will be turned over for the start of the year, with Tech planned for September/October.

Dr. Reimer explained the two change orders for review and approval this evening relating to the areas shown on the tour. He noted that when the design was bid out the construction budget had contingency monies in it. The project manager was confident on the figures as the project progressed and usage of the contingency money. As there is projected to be more funds left over, the review of what could be done with these funds could allow the District to tie together some items not planned to do that are at the end of life to be addressed and stay within budget. The current projection is approximately \$825,000 to \$900,000 but dependent on a lot of factors he noted, and he also stated that in some areas, the contractors have not gotten deep into the work to know if there are any unforeseen expenses, and the District will not know until a little further down the road. However, Dr. Reimer and the contractors' felt after reviewing the status to date, the courtyard could be addressed which had not been initially awarded. He noted that the contractor who was originally came in with the best price, when contacted, said it was unable to perform the services. The second lowest bidder was contacted, and stated it could still do the work at the cost bid. As such, Dr. Reimer noted that the bid will be brought forward in late July for approval. Adjusting the contingency budget for this bid amount will leave approximately \$600,000. Dr. Reimer noted that based on that, he will then review other options to utilize funds with SEI and the contractors and bring more options to the Board to consider once ready.

Prior to the end of the school year, Dr. Reimer met with some teachers in the early grades regarding the Attestation of Science of Reading and practices for grade PreK-3 on curriculum, as well as the development plan with the group to meet again to go through all the components and see if the District has addressed them all or not. If not, the plan would then be to put actions steps in place and submit to the state to ensure compliance.

Dr. Reimer noted that as always, end of year is always hectic and even more so this year and a lot of stress and challenges for all staff to get through the end of June and graduation. He noted that the staff and the community pulled together, and he thanked everyone. With regard to the Moving Up Day, Dr. Reimer commented he took a lot of time on this, focusing on the traditions and activities, and Administration worked with the staff to make a great day for all. He discussed the review of starting times, locations, he met several times with staff members on the turf to evaluate the usage and even that day to talk about options, whether keeping it there, moving to another field, the auditorium. He discussed the real time information on the date including information on the forecast National Weather Forecast and that morning it was decided to have on the turf. He noted he felt it was a safe decision, that the temperature changed, but felt it was best decision at the time and it did not work out and he felt horrible



about it. He noted that next year there will be more options noted space limitations currently. He stated that had he known the weather would change so quickly, he would have changed the location and he does not make any decision arbitrarily or capriciously. He noted how he relates many of his decisions as it relates to his own kids, if they would be safe in the scenario. He felt his child would have been safe, but the weather changed and he is sorry for that. He noted that a lot of time went into it the decision.

Mrs. Mason was not happy about the day, provided her feedback, and asked why the old football field was not utilized. Dr. Reimer commented that the locations options were discussed but ultimately not used.

Mrs. Voss inquired about the start time of the ceremony, which was 9:15 a.m., and was informed that it was stopped at approximately 9:50 a.m. and involved grades PreK–6.

Mrs. Gancasz noted she also remembered the event for her children and then, it was held the gym.

Dr. Reimer noted he took responsibility for the program and the turf location.

Mrs. Mason noted the grass would have been cooler and asked if chairs were considered to which Dr. Reimer noted that chairs were considered and for a number of factors, were not utilized. Mr. Atwater stated that it was a lesson learned as this was the first year on the turf.

Dr. Reimer noted that Mr. Joel Strong, a District Science Teacher, completed a research article and is being published in science journal. He commented that to do that, while working full-time is very challenging. He stated it is really a big deal and gave a shout out to Mr. Strong as it is a great honor to be published and the District is proud of his accomplishment.

Policies/Plans

The second reading of policies was presented. There were not comments or changes brought forward.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve policies the following policies as presented:

Policy #	Policy Name
3311	Notification of Disclosure of Employee Disciplinary Records
5220	District Investments
5685	Max Temp for Buildings and Facilities
7221	Participation in Graduation Ceremonies and Activities
7441	Student Voter Registration and Pre-Registration



Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

The Board then reviewed the first reading of Policy 7316 – Use of Internet-Enabled Devices and Cell Phones During the School Day and the draft dress code.

Dr. Reimer discussed the internet-enabled devices/cell phone policy as required by New York State and the survey to solicit input from shareholders (staff, students, community). He discussed the results of the data noting it address three areas: (1.) storage of devices, (2.) how parents can communicate during the day to their children, and (3.) consequences for usage of internet devices. The option of pouches, backpacks, and other options feedback was discussed.

With regard to communications, there are apps that could be utilized but a good trend has been to call in to the school, and the office and get a message or call the student down. Email by parents to students is already available for communication between them without the cell phones. The third item was consequences. Possession of cell phone is not a reason for discipline, but rather the use of the cell phone or internet accessible device is. The plan would be that the first violation would be to take from the student and have the student pick up at the end of the day at the office. Second violation would be to again take the phone from the students and have the parents pick up. The third violation, the phone is taken from the student, the parents must pick it up and then suspension would be enforced. Administration discussed ways to “put teeth” into the discipline portion of the policy and felt that bringing the parents in is part of the consequence would also have a reinforcement impact on the student to deter further violations. The Board was asked their thoughts to be able to finalize the policy if changes were needed. The Board discussed backpacks, use of lockers, use of fitbits and other electronic devices as it applies to the policy, and enforcement by staff and Administration and agreed with the policy as written.

The Board then discussed the dress code, in particular the wearing of pajamas and sweatpants as so many students wear both now. Dr. Love noted that sweatpants are fine but if it looks like pajamas, they will not be allowed. Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Voss agreed that the Code’s intent should be to raise the bar. Mrs. Voss inquired if the District would have clothes to offer students if their apparel broke the Code. Dr. Love said that in most cases, the District will make all attempts to get the kids to dress appropriately, but at times we may not have clothes. She also noted that sometimes, students are able to address the concern with additional apparel they already have.



The Board was informed of next steps with regard to the policies incorporation and timeline. There were no additional questions brought forward.

They then continued with a review of the 2025-2026 Pratt Elementary Grades PK-6 Code of Conduct, and the 2025-2026 Junior/Senior School Grades 7-12 Code of Conduct with no questions raised.

Education

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

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the adoption of the textbook series for the Technology Department, effective 2025-2026 school year: Explore Modern Carpentry 14th Edition (Copyright 2026) G-W Publisher.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Personnel Items

Dr. Reimer noted the rigorous interview process that the candidates being presented for appointment went through. He also recognized Ms. Lingle and Ms. Gelz who were present at the meeting this evening.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the appointment of Karin Gelz for the full-time probationary School Psychology position effective August 27, 2025. Her probationary period would be effective August 27, 2025 through August 26, 2029, and in the tenure area of School Psychology. The expiration date is tentative and conditional only. In order to be eligible for and considered for tenure, she must meet all requirements of the Educational Law and corresponding regulations. Her annual salary rate at MA30, Step 8, 2025-2026 BTU salary schedule at \$61,415.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the appointment of Anna Wojtas for the full-time probationary Physical Education/FACS Teacher position effective August 27, 2025. Her probationary period would be effective August 27, 2025 through August 26, 2029, and in the tenure area of Physical Education/FACS. The expiration date is tentative and conditional only. In order to be eligible for and considered for tenure, She must meet all requirements of the Educational Law and corresponding regulations. Her annual salary rate at BA, Step 1, 2025-2026 BTU salary schedule at \$44,132.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the appointment of Deborah Lingle for the full-time probationary Special Education Teacher position effective August 27, 2025. Her probationary period would be effective August 27, 2025 through August 26, 2029, and in the tenure area of Special Education. The expiration date is tentative and conditional only. In order to be eligible for and considered for tenure, she must meet all requirements of the Educational Law and corresponding regulations. Her annual salary rate at MA30, Step 12, 2025-2026 BTU salary schedule at \$68,387.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the appointment of Madeleine Myers as a Summer Band Lesson Teacher at a rate of \$35.00 from Monday, July 7, 2025 - Thursday, August 8, 2025 payment not to exceed cap approved at the June 9, 2025 Board Meeting of \$10,000.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the appointment of Darold McGee as a Part-time Cleaner at a rate of \$15.50 effective July 1, 2025.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the appointments of the mentors with a stipend of \$750.00 as well as the Teacher Mentor Coordinator with a stipend of \$350.00 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mentee	Mentor
Shae Owens	Mark Scofill
Max Cool	Mary Dudek
Sarah Bowman	Joy Dabill
Allison Finitz	Erin Zablocki
Michelle Kramp-Richards	Meghan Black
Julia Domiano	Erin Stockwell
Michelle Pask	Aileen Gilbert
Kim Roberto	Deanna Nestoros
Ashley Cieslewicz	Ashley Atwater
Jessica Bush	Melissa Phillips
Jadyn Wagner	Joel Strong
Molly Handrich	Joel Strong
Scott Tanyi	Erin Stockwell
Madeline Myers	Drew Burke
Sari Arrow	Mark Scofill



Colin Knight	David Carson
Nathan Sutch	David Carson

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the appointments of the following Club Advisors for the 2025-2026 school year.

Club	Advisor	Category	Step
8 th Grade/DC (split)	Ginny Hambruch	B	4
8th Grade/DC (split)	Jessica Monaco	B	2
American Field Service (split)	Joel Strong	A	4
American Field Service (split)	Jeffrey Pyskaty	A	4
Conservation Club (split)	Joel Strong	C	4
Elementary Band	Madeleine Myers	B	1
Elementary Musical	Andrea Smith	B	4
Elementary School Store	Jamie Weller	E	4
Elementary Vocal	Drew Burke	B	4
English Club	Jackie Moffitt	D	4
Entrepreneurs Club	Krista Beth Feltz	E	4
Freshman Class Advisor	Joel Strong	D	4
Garden Club	Cindy Calandra	B	4
GSA	Kyle Sosnowski	E	3
Jazz Band	Jeff Rappold	C	4
Junior Class Advisor (split)	Rene Kalynycz	B	1
Junior Class Advisor (split)	Jackie Stephan	B	1
Junior High Band	Jeff Rappold	B	4
Junior High Student Council (split)	Drew Burke	B	4
Junior High Student Council (split)	Wendy Pellow	B	4
Junior/Senior Vocal	Drew Burke	B	4
Latrator Business Advisor	Jackie Moffitt	B	4
Latrator/Yearbook	Jackie Moffitt	A	3
M&M Club	Ashley Cieslewicz	E	1
Multicultural Club	Ashley Atwater	E	4
Musical Orchestra Director	Jeff Rappold	C	4
Musical Vocal Director	TBD	D	
National Honor Society	Mark Scofill	B	4
Photography Club	Krista Beth Feltz	E	4
Safety Patrol	Adam Norris	E	4
Senior Class Advisor	Mark Scofill	A	4
Senior High Band	Jeff Rappold	B	4
Senior High Student Council	Jeffrey Pyskaty	B	4
Sophomore Class Advisor	Max Cool	D	1



Varsity Club	Jeffrey Costello	A	4
Walking Club	Dave Carson	C	4

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the appointment of Rob Mucha as Athletic Director for the 2025-2026 school year per the BTU Agreement.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Atwater congratulated and welcomed the new teachers joining the District.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the following individuals as Coaches for the Fall Season of the 2025-2026 school year.

Bill Bruning	Head Varsity Football	Step 4
Chris Post	Assistant Varsity Football	Step 1
Colin Knight	Assistant Varsity Football	Step 4
David Schwab	Head Modified Football	Step 2
Dan DiJames	Assistant Modified Football	Step 2
Karin Menz	Varsity Field Hockey	Step 4
Jeff Costello	Assistant Field Hockey	Step 4
Kristina Nagel	Co-Modified Field Hockey	Step 2
Shelby Watry	Co-Modified Field Hockey	Step 3
Lee Dillenbeck	Varsity Girls Soccer	Step 4
Deanna Luckman	JV Girls Soccer	Step 2
Paul DerSarkissian	Varsity Boys Cross-Country	Step 4
Sharon Lamb	Varsity Girls Cross-Country	Step 4
Kyle Sosnowski	Modified Cross-Country	Step 4
Rob Mucha	Varsity Golf	Step 4
Max Cool	JH Golf	Step 2
Jenna Snell	Football Cheerleading	Step 1

Note: Varsity Field Hockey Coaches are combining the two stipends into two equal payments

Unpaid certified assistant coach during the 2025 Fall season:

Eric Lunde	Football
Bill Moeller	Field Hockey

Unpaid volunteers during the 2025 fall season:

Blake Schwab	Football
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Coaching intern during his student teaching experience:

Mitchell Holtz	Football
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Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the appointment of the following individuals as listed within as District-wide Lifeguards, inclusive of Community Ed, for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

Ashley Atwater
Bill Bruning
David Carson
Lori Costello
Heidi Dergel
Paul DerSarkissian
Krista Beth Feltz
Colin Knight
Sharon Lamb
Heather McIntyre
Karin Menz
Madelina Pavlock
Paul Sanford
Beth VeRost
Jesse Watts
Bill Wilson

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the appointment of the following students from Niagara County Community College as student nurses with Ms. McKee and Ms. Watry during the 2025-2026 school year.

Gomar Reyes	Yuliza	September 8, 10, 15, 17
Kerr	Victoria	September 22, 24, 29, October 1
Dix	Paige	October 6, 8, 15, 20
Thompson	Annagrace	October 22, 27, 29, November 3
Flynn	Julia	November 10, 12, 17, 19

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the agreement between the Barker Central School District and T. Michael Carter, Business Administrator, from July 1, 2025-June 30, 2027.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Barker Teachers' Union and the Barker Central School District regarding extra-curricular clubs and activities.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the acceptance of the resignation of Mark Learo as the Director of Instructional Services/Assistant Principal effective July 30, 2025.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

**Business & Financial
Items**

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to accept the Warrant Report dated May 31, 2025.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Claims Report dated May 2025.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the Shared Employee Contract between the Barker Central School District and the Royalton-Hartland Central School District for Julie Fuerch as the School Lunch Manager.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the agreement between the Barker Central School District and the Town of Somerset for services for a full-time School Resource Officer for the 2025-2026 school year.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the awarding and acceptance of the \$20,665,000 BAN note bid from TD Securities at the rate of 3.2313% as recommended by the District's financial advisors, Municipal Solutions.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the change order to the contract for the 2022 Capital Improvement Project for Sicoli Construction Services, Inc. in the amount of \$30,073 for existing door revisions.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the change order to the contract for the 2022 Capital Improvement Project for Sicoli Construction Services, Inc. in the amount of \$32,256 for existing door revisions.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the extension for one year of the transportation contracts with Barker Central School District and Student Transportation of American (STA).

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the resolution regarding Le Chase:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the scope of work and services reflected in the Construction Manager Contract proposal relating to the potential Capital Project with Le Chase, for the performance of services identified in said proposal as the Construction Manager, and authorizes the Superintendent of Barker Central School District to execute such contract reflecting such services.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the AHERA six-month periodic Surveillance and Inspection Report as of June 27, 2025.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

**End of Public
Session**

The Board of Education confirmed there was not a need for an Executive Session. Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to end the Public Session and adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk