



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 11, 2023, 7:00 PM - Board Room

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

Excused None

Also Present J. Reimer, M. Carter, C. Cornwell, M. Eadie, S. Kordish, M. Love, R. Mucha
Public: 1

Call to Order Mr. Atwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge of to the flag was given. He then asked for a moment of silence in observance in remembrance of 911 and all those affected by the events of that day.

**Approve
Agenda** The agenda was reviewed. Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Gow, to approve the agenda as presented.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**Accept
Minutes** The Board reviewed the minutes. Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to accept the minutes as presented from the Regular Board Meeting dated August 14, 2023, as presented.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**Public
Forum** None.

Presentations Principal's Update - Mrs. Love
Mrs. Love commented that the school year kicked off with a great start and she wanted to publicly recognize the staff and teachers, and everyone being teammates across the board. The Welcome Back evening was a success with several families in attendance. The evening also included a Grade 7 orientation, which she noted went as well as possible given technical and electrical issues during that event, the 8th grade class held a



certifications and other content related workshops. Also, several teachers engaged in writing curriculum, especially at the secondary level. A good amount was done with more curriculum work received today.

The District trained four additional teachers to be able to serve as mentors in the future. He commented that he is also planning to provide this training again during the school year to continue to increase the District's teacher mentor pool.

Mr. Cornwell provided an overview of the Opening Day for the 2023-2024 school year which was held September 5, 2023. During Opening Day, Mrs. Love, Ms. Kordish and Mr. Cornwell presented strategies for teachers to shift their mindset to help maintain their sustainability as teachers throughout the year. Also, the elementary staff had a presentation by the head of O/N BOCES media resources about all of the print and electronic resources for students and teachers that are available via our COSERs from O/NBOCES. Secondary teachers received a presentation regarding resources that the Teacher Center provides, as well as information about the online tutoring program available to Barker students (Paper). Teachers also had time to meet by department

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be on site approximately 2 weeks usually during a school break when students are not in District, and then it will take time to generate the fixed asset report.

Mr. Carter then discussed the budget transfers which are being presented this evening for approval. He noted it is a regular part of the closing of the budget for the previous year. He stated that going forward he will present to the Board budget transfers more frequently throughout the course of the year to prevent a build up of approvals at the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Carter noted that tax bills were mailed and payments continue to be received daily. The District's first deposit was \$97,730 at the end of the past week. A number of calls have been received from taxpayers and issues have been worked through and questions responded to.

Superintendent's Report &

Discussion Mr. Reimer provided an update on the Yorker House, commenting that no RFPs were received and as such, the District will move to the next phase, removal of the building from the property. He described the plans for a silent bid auction whereas people can bid on different components of the building with the responsibility of removal of the item(s) being with the bid winner. After the bid process and removal is completed, the building will be demolished by the person receiving the winning bid for that process. The property will then be backfilled. Mr. Reimer commented that he would have liked to backfill the site with dirt from the multipurpose field but the timing to utilize the soil may not work out to do so. He noted that the District is only able to use the amount approved by the voters to demolish the building so proceeds of the silent auction may be used to offset the expenses.

With regard to the Solar array, a meeting was held on Friday with Mr. Reimer, National Grid, and Solar Liberty. He explained that at the meeting he learned that the District was potentially part of a study by National Grid which he was unaware of, and the investigation into whether the District was part of the study was the reason for the delay. He was then subsequently told by National Grid the District does not need to be part of the study due to the size of its solar field. He noted his frustration as it is costing the District money by not producing electric. National Grid is now looking for a specific part that should have been ordered and in stock when the District completed the Interconnect Agreement. National Grid apparently purchased this part two years ago, but the part was subsequently reallocated. National Grid is now looking for the part and the District is to receive a date for receipt, anticipated for October at the latest. Mr. Reimer noted that he has also requested reimbursement for losses due to National Grid's delays.

The tower is close to completion and millings will be laid down on entry to the tower from Quaker Road entrance.

Five different capital outlays are ongoing with the goal to have them done the next four months to submit the Certificate of Substantial Completion certificates by December 30, 2023 in order to get full aid in 2024-2025. Otherwise, submission after that date will result in the District receiving only half the aid once completed and the other half would be



received six months later as aid is distributed bi-annually. He reviewed the projects which included the auditorium, the heat exchange/boiler project, the air conditioning for the data closet, security enhancement of cameras and fobs, and the solar project.

A meeting is scheduled for the \$25 million capital improvement project to review more components, including finer details on turf, lighting styles, etc. He reviewed submissions of Phase II, as well as the bid and construction process, and anticipated commencement of construction in February or March. He commented it will be hectic but explained how it would be worked through, and the goal to have most done before people come back to school by completing work during second shift to have as little disruption to the school's daily activities as possible. Mr. Reimer then reviewed potential bonding timelines and noted he would like to not have it bonded until after the turf is done if possible. If this can happen, it will reduce capitalized interest, which is not aidable. The goal is to have more aid come in than interest and paym (k)4 (ep)76 n1o (y)4eh7 (m)7 ixland (t)2.1 seJJa(i)6 (ng M)J9.8(,)Tj9.



Mr. Reimer discussed the establishment of the tax certiorari reserve fund for the school years from 2022-2023 in the amount of \$370,321.87 and from 2023-2024 in the amount of \$217,293.31 which he suggested would be funded by contributions from the Retirement Contribution Reserve pending a public hearing scheduled for September 28th and Board approval of the resolutions. This type of action does not require the approval of the qualified voters of the District. He noted that this is being requested to be done due to the change in the plant value, and it takes a prospective vs. retrospective position by the District should the plant win the tax cert case. He noted there is not enough in the general fund to cover the potential judgements if they occur as it was not budgeted for and thus he did not recommend paying through this source as it would utilize 80% of the emergency funds. If the Board approves the resolutions, the reserve would be funded out of the Retirement Contribution Reserve which can be used to pay for ERS and TRS, not direct retiree costs. It is believed the District has adequately budgeted for ERS and TRS costs well into the future so using this money in this way won't have a negative impact at all. The total of the monies held in the reserve fund shall not exceed the amount that would be reasonably deemed necessary to meet the anticipated judgements and claims arising out of such tax cert proceedings. Monies not expended for that purpose shall be returned to the general fund. Depending on the outcome, judgements would be paid out of the new reserve. If this occurs the District will change its energy cessation fund application and submit an amended application. The District should then get 60-70% of the claim amount back to then put in the Employee Contribution Reserve, or put monies in another reserve fund. This transfer will allow the payment to be made and not have a negative impact in the spring and thus protecting the budget.

Mr. Reimer discussed the basic educational data in relation to BEDS codes. BEDS relates to all data reports for a district, and is important to the costs of items for services and systems associated with a district which is typically charged by its BEDS code. As the energy cessation mitigation program will be going away, the District will need to find a way to make up the monies no longer received and going to one BEDS code for the District is a way to save monies and increase efficiencies. He noted there currently is a lot of duplicative reporting and fees charged with more than one BEDS code which being the

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auditors and school attorneys. It was part of the corrective action plan which is also being presented this evening.

Education Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the 2023-2024 Bus Routes.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the following items be declared excess property and that the Superintendent, or his designee, be authorized to dispose of said books as outlined in the attached.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

**Personnel
Items**

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve Timothy Clay as a Full-time Cleaner effective September 5, 2023, at a rate of \$14.48/hour, with a probationary period from September 5, 2023 through September 4, 2024.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve the appointments of the mentors as outlined with a stipend of \$750.00 for the year, and Loriann Martell as the Teacher Mentor Coordinator with a \$350.00 stipend for the year, for the 2023-2024 school year.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve Shelly Kordish as APPR Teacher Evaluator.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to approve Laura Jordan as a community/parent volunteer.

Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, to accept the resignation of Susan McGee as Substitute Clerical/Typist and Substitute Teacher Aide effective September 7, 2023.

Yes: 7, No: 0 of t openP -a005 Tw 023.510 (e ef)12 (HD 18 B Dn2 -1.1-7 (n)-7 (b)a)16 ((s)4 (a)J J[1 (t T)1 -

Board of Education Regular Meeting







Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Harris to approve the Resolution to Establish Tax Certiorari Reserve Fund for the 2023-2024 School Year.

**Resolution to Establish Tax Certiorari Reserve
Fund for the 2023-2024 School Year**

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Education Law Section 3651(1-a), the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District hereby establishes a Tax