



Barker Central School District
1628 Quaker Rd.
Barker, NY 14012

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 3
MIDDLEPORT NY

POSTAL CUSTOMER
BARKER, NY 14012

BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1628 Quaker Road, Barker, NY 14012



May 8, 2023 - Public Hearing

6:30 p.m., Auditorium - Proposed 2022-2023 budget will be presented.

May 16, 2023 - Annual Meeting & Election

Noon – 8:00 p.m. in Auditorium - Vote on the budget and Board of Education Members



- ✓ If you are unable to attend and would like to vote, please contact the District Office for an absentee ballot application at 716-795-3110.
- ✓ **Please note:** Absentee ballots must be received by the District on or before May 16, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. prevailing time.

A Letter from the Board of Education President, Randall B. Atwater

Dear BCS District Residents:

Your school board and administration, along with input from the Budget Advisory Committee, are pleased to share this summary of our proposed budget for the 2023-24 school year. The expenditure budget is proposed to increase by 2.1% for a total of \$18,195,652. This modest increase, well below the inflation rate, will be sufficient to fund all current programs for another year.

While the exact increase in state aid is not yet known, Barker is anticipating another substantial increase in state aid greater than most schools in the area for the 2023-24 school year. The changes in state aid corrects the under-funding we have experienced for over ten years.

The property tax levy is proposed to increase by 2%, for a total of \$5,017,125. The 2% property tax increase will help preserve the long-term financial health of the District. Our financial condition and outlook have improved considerably over the past few years with prudent budgeting, increases in state aid and some extra funding from the NYS Energy Cessation Mitigation Fund (to help compensate for the loss of revenue from the power plant). The Mitigation Fund revenue phases out over the next five years and we have a robust financial model that projects our budget for the next six years. We are striving to have a balanced budget in the long run.

The Mitigation Fund income will help fund our programs and replenish our capital reserve account so that we can support further improvements to our campus in the coming years. Your school board and administration remain focused on the long-term health and viability and vitality of the District.



Projected Tax Levy 2% = Increase of Taxes by Approximately 2%

The District is projecting a tax levy of \$5,017,125. This represents a 2% increase above the 2022-23 school year. This amount is below the maximum allowable tax levy limit and would only require a simple majority vote to pass. Assuming there are no changes in the values of the towns, tax rates for homeowners would increase by approximately 2%. The projected tax rate for 2023-2024 is nearly equal to what is was in the 2020-2021 school year.

Based on \$100,000 home value in Somerset		
School Year	Rate/\$1,000	Tax Payment
Actual 2020-21	19.11	\$1,911
Actual 2021-22	18.06	\$1,806
Actual 2022-23	18.75	\$1,875
Projected 2023-24	19.13	\$1,913

Please note the tax rates can change from what is projected if factors in the District change between now and August. Other towns tax rates and bills may vary.

Time Sensitive Information - Budget Preparation – How?



This year, the proposed budget was developed by the Board with input from Administration, as well as the **Budget Advisory Committee** which was established by the Board during the 2021-22 school year. Membership this year included three Board members: Randall Atwater - Board President, John Sweeney - Vice President, and Jennifer Harris; and community members: Ruth King, Tammy Mallon, Charles Stodolka, and Ted Dauphinee.

The committee was charged with providing the Board and Administration input for consideration related to the development of the ensuing year’s budget and also being a conduit for information to the general public. The Committee’s work was incorporated and reflected in the proposed budget outlined below.

Budget Goals

Balanced Budget
Long-term sustainability of District
Best learning opportunity for students

Proposed 2023-2024 Barker School Budget



The 2023-2024 proposed budget reflects a continuation of current program and opportunities for students in the current 2022-2023 budget. The majority of the increased expenses relate to contractual obligations. The social/emotional health teams, student support teaching positions, programs and extra-curricular activities have been maintained for the next year while being supplemented by stimulus dollars as per Education Law.

EXPENDITURES	2023-24	2022-23	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
General Support	\$2,495,002	\$2,086,994	\$408,008	19.6%
Instruction	\$10,161,102	\$10,080,126	\$80,976	.8%
Pupil Transportation	\$1,414,975	\$1,430,277	-\$15,302	-1.1%
Community Service	\$33,600	\$33,600	\$0	0%
Undistributed*	\$4,090,973	\$4,186,537	-\$95,564	-2.3%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$18,195,652	\$17,817,534	\$378,118	2.1%

*Includes the Capital Outlay Project of \$100,000 consisting of renovations to the Jr.-Sr H.S. Auditorium including stage rigging, lights, and sound improvements.

Detailed Explanation of Categories

General Support consists of: Board of Education, Central Administration, Finance, Staff, Certain BOCES expenses, and Special Items. This also includes Maintenance and Operation of Plant, (including all maintenance and grounds salaries, supplies and materials, and utilities), Central Printing/Mailing, and Central Data Processing.

Instruction consists of: Instructional Administration and Improvement (principal’s salary and supplies, curriculum development, research and planning, and professional development for all professional staff), Teaching Regular School (all regular school teaching salaries, supplies and materials, equipment, textbooks, and BOCES services for regular students, including Occupational Education), School Library and Audiovisual, Technology Services, Attendance, Guidance, Health Services, Psychological Services, Extra-classroom Activities, Athletics, and Special Education (special education teacher salaries, supplies and materials, textbooks, CSE and CPSE Committee expenses, contractual costs, private schools tuition, and BOCES special education costs).

Pupil Transportation consists of: All bussing and fuel costs.

Community Services consists of: Summer Programming and Adult Education.

Undistributed consists of: Employer contributions to the employees’ and the teachers’ retirement systems, social security, workers’ compensation premiums, unemployment insurance, health insurance, and terminal leave payments. It also includes payments of principal and interest on school bond payments and the capital outlay project.

Long-term Planning

As part of the strategic planning process, the District has consistently been using a long-term planning tool in an effort to bring about a balanced budget to ensure the sustainability and longevity of the District, which is one of four District-wide goals of the Board of Education. See the District website homepage for the link to goals or scan the QR code to the right.



SCAN ME