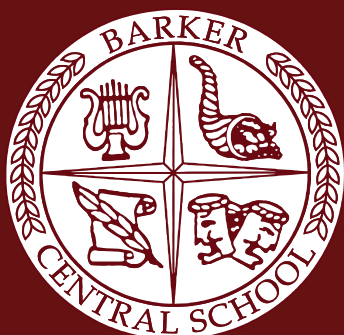


To be a leader in bringing out the best in each individual in our community.

May 2023 - Volume 38 No. 3

The Banner



Annual Budget Vote & Board Member Election

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall

To view all buget information please turn to pages 9-15 of this issue or visit www.barkercsd.net/business



(L-R): Alexis Dauphinee (Marie) and Shelby Dauphinee (Ella) during the Barker Musical Theater Production of Cinderella.

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The official website and source for
Barker Central School District news and information:

www.barkercsd.net

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

Dear BCS District Residents:

The current school year has been very productive for your Board of Education and administration in support of the many daily activities of our school district and longer-term goals. With extensive staff, student, and community input, we are working on the final design work on the \$25 million capital project that will be implemented over the next two years. The teachers and administration are working on a robust review and documentation of our PreK to 12 curriculum to ensure alignment across all programs. The school board and staff are formulating a new strategic plan to help direct our priorities and decision making for the coming years.



In this issue of the Banner, we provide more information about the proposed 2023-2024 school budget with a total of \$18,195,652 in expenditures. This represents a 2.1% increase over the approved budget for the current school year. This proposed budget will support all current programs for the 2023-2024 school year. The proposed local school tax levy for the next school year is \$5,017,125, an increase of 2% over the current school year.

The long-term financial outlook for the Barker School District has improved considerably after many difficult years resulting from the winding down and closing of the power plant. We have a very detailed six-year financial forecasting tool that enables us to see the future impact of financial decisions and plans made today. The Budget Advisory Committee established last year has met several times to review and discuss the budget and tax plan as well as to review the long-term budget forecast. Increasing state aid and several years of funding from the NYS Energy Cessation Mitigation Fund will help us cover the cost of current programs as well as replenish some reserve funds while the Cessation money is available for another five years. Our goal is to have a balanced budget in the long-term without having to consume reserve funds.

You will have an unusual ballot choice this year. You may have noticed the deteriorating condition of the Yorker House, an old home on school property just south of the high school on Quaker Road. Over 20 years ago, this house served as a small historical museum, but it has been vacant and unused since then. The school district reached out to the Town of Somerset, the Village of Barker, and the Historical Society to see if anyone had interest in taking over this property, with no takers. The school board appreciates the historical nature of the building, but we have no educational need for the structure as we have plenty of available space on campus due to declining enrollment in recent years. Bottom line, we decided to let the taxpayers decide whether to spend capital reserve money (with zero state aid) to renovate the building at a cost of up to \$200,000 or to remove or demolish the structure at a cost not to exceed \$50,000. If the second option is selected by the voters, the building will be first offered up for bids to move it. If no one purchases the structure, then the building will be demolished. Neither solution is aidable and at local taxpayers' expense.

We have much to be thankful for, including our hard-working teachers, administration, staff, and students. We appreciate the support of our community.

Randall B. Atwater

Barker Central School District Board of Education President



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Barker Learning Community,

I am so excited to write this letter to you! We have so many wonderful things happening around campus and great things are coming to our learning community.

As you all know by now, District voters approved a \$25,205,000 capital project in December. The design work on this has begun and is in full swing. We have had numerous meetings with staff and our architects over the last 4 months and we are getting close to completing the first phase of our project, which will include the work on the new multipurpose athletic fields that can be used by many of our athletes, all of our students during physical education, and our community. We will also be completing work on the parking lots during the first phase along with some additional items on the outside of the building. We expect to begin work on this in just about a year, or sooner if things go perfectly. The second phase, which is comprised of interior work is still being worked on and we hope to have final designs later this summer. We have created a webpage to follow along with capital work. Just go to our District webpage and click on the quick link titled 'Capital Project' along the left side of the main page. Right now you can find some preliminary designs that have been discussed as well as the most up to date ideas. Please take a look at these and feel free to send your thoughts to me at jreimer@barkerksd.net. We have had a lot of eyes on these, and great ideas have been tossed around, but we want your input too.

Next, as we wind down the school year, I again want to encourage our entire community to come out and support our students and staff in the many things they continue to do. We have various concerts, athletic contests, extra-curricular events, and more. These are all things our students have been working on in addition to their daily school work. As a smaller school, we try to get as many kids involved in these activities as possible and we want to show our entire community what they do. Please look at the District event calendar, found here: www.barkerksd.net/calendar, to see when and where things will be happening.

It's a great time to be a Raider!

Lastly, there are a lot of items being proposed at this year's budget vote. All propositions are important and valuable to the school and community. Your voice matters so please make sure to review the propositions and cast your vote on all these important items. If you have any questions on any proposition, please contact me directly and I will answer them for you.

I look forward to seeing you in the near future and again, please don't forget to vote on the annual budget on May 16, 2023 in the Ludwig Auditorium in the Jr.-Sr. High School!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Reimer'.

Jacob L. Reimer, EdD
Superintendent

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CARTER, PRINCIPAL

Dear Barker Learning Community:

Hello Barker families! As we close in on the end of the 2022-2023 school year, we would like to make you aware of a few updates.

First, if you know any families who will have a Prekindergarten aged child in September 2023, please direct them to our website for PreK registration information. Children must be four years old by December 1, 2023. The program is also open to non-residents. The Prekindergarten program will have both a full-day and half-day session.

If we have enough students to warrant two full-day sections, the District will attempt to run both. The full-day program will run from 7:50 am to 2:28 pm. The half-day program will run from 7:50 to 10:30 am. Parents will note their preference on the registration materials. Placement is not guaranteed. Placement spots in the program are available to resident students before non-resident students. Busing is available to all District resident students.

We are also working on filling several vacant instructional positions across the District. This includes an English teacher, counselor, and business teacher at the Jr.-Sr. High School, as well as a PreK-12 Librarian. We hope to have all of these positions filled by the conclusion of the school year in June. These positions are open due to the retirement of several of our faculty members. Please extend a “thank you” and “congratulations” to the following faculty members who have spent their career working with Barker CSD students: Mr. Ross, Mrs. Horton, Mrs. Benoit, Mr. Luckman, Mrs. Morrow, and Ms. Heilgenthaler.

Please mark Tuesday, September 5th as our “Welcome Back Night.” We did this for the first-time last September. It will give our students and families the opportunity to see their classrooms, meet their teachers, bring in materials, and be ready for the first day of school. School will begin on Wednesday, September 6th for all students, PreK-12. More details will be announced in the coming months.

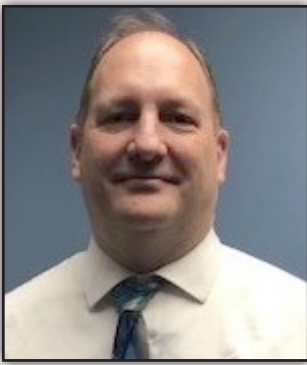
Also, starting July 1st, I will become the School Business Administrator. It has been an honor to serve as the Jr.-Sr. High School and PreK-12 Principal over the past six years. I really enjoy being a part of the Barker Learning Community, and I am excited to continue my time here in this new position. We hope to have the new Principal on board by the conclusion of this school year.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at one of our many end of year events.

Sincerely,

Michael Carter
District Principal





FROM THE OFFICE OF MR. CORNWELL, COORDINATOR OF CURRICULUM & PROFESSIONAL LEARNING/ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Happy Spring from the Office of Curriculum and Professional Development!! Hopefully this update finds you enjoying our Western New York spring weather. On a personal note, I thoroughly enjoyed my first few months in my new position at Barker Central School. Our kids, teachers and professional staff, and parents were very welcoming to me as I acclimate myself to the Barker community.

The Professional Development Day held on March 17th for our teachers and staff was a success. Feedback from the teachers and staff who participated was very favorable. The overwhelming majority indicated that they enjoyed the day and the ability to choose which morning session they attended. The most well attended morning sessions included those on instructional strategies to help students who have suffered from trauma, multi-media resources for instruction, and an introduction to common vocabulary and more inclusive strategies to help our LGBTQ+ students. The afternoon of this day was set aside for grade level and content area curriculum work. As part of our survey for feedback on the day, we received many ideas for future topics for professional development. Overall, the day was well received!

Since the current school year started, our teachers have been working on a program to “map out” their curriculum and instruction over the entire school year’s time. As part of this work, grade level and content area teachers are developing a sequential plan that indicates the order in which content will be taught and learned, as well as the in-depth planning of instructional units of study. While this work is ongoing and continuous, our goal is to have the vast majority of this work completed by the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s educational program, or the instructional program of our school, don’t hesitate to reach out to me. You can email me at ccornwell@barkerccd.net, or reach me by phone at 716-795-3388.

Yours in education,
Christian Cornwell
Coordinator of Curriculum & Professional Learning/AP

BARKER’S CARE CLOSET NOW OPEN

The Barker Central School District’s Care Closet is a one-stop shop for all your clothing and hygiene needs and it is now open. Through generous donations and sponsorship from Women United of United Way of Greater Niagara, Barker is offering families access to free items such as: shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash, lotion, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, backpacks, school supplies, hats, gloves, scarves, clothing, coats, shoes and much more.

The Care Closet is open on Tuesdays during 10th period and is located in room 330. Parents are able to make requests using the QR found to the right.

For questions, more information, and to donate, please contact Mrs. Leah Riley or Mrs. Allison Finitz at 716-795-3237.



FROM THE OFFICE OF MS. KORDISH, DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Hello! My first few months have been busy and I look forward to meeting more of you and working with the Barker community to support our students.



We are currently expanding our continuum of services for students with special needs to include a 12:1:1 special class within our Barker Central School building (twelve students, one special education teacher, and two assistants/aides). Students will be in grades Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade, or within a 36-month range. The special class will be composed of students with disabilities with similar individual needs, such as levels of academic or educational achievement and learning characteristics, levels of social development, levels of physical development, and management needs as determined by the Committee on Special Education. The classroom staff have participated in specialized training with a consultant from Daemen College and will be scheduled for additional trainings prior to the classroom opening in September for the 2023-2024 school year. During the 2022-2023 school year our continuum of services included a 6:1:1 special class (six students, one special education teacher, and one aide) and was composed of students with similar learning needs and low management needs. We will be discontinuing this option in June 2023 and changing to the 12:1:1 model to meet the needs of additional Barker students during the 2023-2024 school year. We hope to continue to expand our continuum of special education services in future years to include additional grade levels.

I wanted to provide an update regarding Home School students. Barker Central School District has 23 families and 41 students participating in Home Instruction during the 2022-2023 school year. We have newly created a direct email for all Home School communication: homeschool@barkerbsd.net. Please utilize this email for questions, sending documents, and communication regarding your child's Home School program. Our website also contains information and a packet regarding Home School Instruction. Please visit www.barkerbsd.net/homeschool for additional information and remember a Letter of Intention to educate your child at home is due to the Barker Central School District by July 1st of each year, or within 14 days of commencing home instruction.

Enjoy the remainder of the school year and a wonderful summer recess. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions and contact me directly at skordish@barkerbsd.net or 716-795-3350.

Shelly Kordish
Director of Instructional Services



(L-R): Mrs. Audra Horton, Cheyann Walker, Villette Jary, Ava Crenshaw, Nevan Tylec, Caleb Renko & Leo Volkosh before taking a walk during their lunch study hall.



**Chief
Jon Miller**

SRO Corner

Greetings Barker/Somerset Community,

Many times the School Resource Officers are asked what we do in the school. First, the school SROs are NYS certified police officers. The SRO collaborates with the school administration and faculty to ensure your school is a safe place. SROs are not meant to be armed security. They are meant to be educators, informal counselors, and law-enforcement officers.

As SROs, we are there to support students, teach classes, promote trust, and patrol the school and grounds to support a safe school. Your SROs are occasionally asked to come into a classroom to talk about law or law enforcement related issues.

All the SROs are specifically trained to detect something that looks suspicious and are trained to de-escalate situations fairly.

Everyone, have a safe and happy spring and summer.

Somerset Town Police/Barker School SROs



**Officer
Allison Parente**



**Officer
John Yotter**



SELF-DEFENSE COURSES OFFERED

The Town of Somerset Police Department, in conjunction with the Barker Central School District Community Education Program, is proud to announce that self-defense courses are now being offered. These classes are specifically tailored to women that wish to increase their situational awareness and physical defense capabilities. The RAD system of self-defense, which was developed in 1989, has previously only been offered on select college campuses and is comprised of both lecture and hands on training. The training spans the course of 4 weeks, with classes being held a total of 3 hours one night per week for a total commitment of 12 hours. The classes are being held at the Barker school campus.

All interested female participants are urged to contact the Town of Somerset Police Department regarding upcoming classes and registration information by emailing the following address: somersetnewyork@gmail.com



Please also look in future Banners under the Community Education section for additional information.

PYSKATY RECEIVES NAVY IMPACT INFLUENCER AWARD

On Wednesday, January 18th, Christopher McCurry, U.S. Navy Commander (pictured above with Mr. Pyskaty) and Frank Moesch, BMC(SW/AW), U.S. Navy were present at Barker Jr.-Sr. High School to recognize Mr. Jeffrey Pyskaty with the Navy Talent Acquisition Group Navy Impact Influencer Award. Mr. Pyskaty was nominated by Barker Class of 2022 alumnus Willard Nellist who is currently in the Navy's Nuclear Engineer Program.



The award was given to Mr. Pyskaty for the leadership, mentorship, and guidance he provides for his students every day. His commitment to education is reflected in the selection of Nellist into the program.

As stated in the award presented to Mr. Pyskaty, Nellist will undergo a rigorous training schedule where he will earn 72-90 credits towards a degree of his choice. Mr. Pyskaty provides his students with unwavering support and dedication to the highest quality education possible. Through Pyskaty's teaching, Nellist was given the foundation needed to be selected for the program.

STOP THE BLEED

Students in grades 9-12 participated in Stop the Bleed training on April 17th & 18th. A presentation and hands on training was provided for the students by the Niagara County Health Department. The students were educated on how to recognize a life-threatening bleeding and shown three quick techniques to “Stop the Bleed.”:

- Apply Pressure with Hands
- Pack Wound and Press
- Apply Tourniquet

For more information visit <https://www.stopthebleed.org/training/>



(L-R): Lillia Peace, Emma Evans, and Samantha Simmeth take direction from head instructor Jim Volkosh on how to pack a wound. Trevor Mietlowski applies pressure to “Stop the Bleed,” as assistant instructor Lara MacFarlene provides support. Trent Dickinson packs the wound.

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

12:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall

The ballot will contain six (6) propositions which you may vote on:

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – Adopt 2023-2024 Budget

Shall the Barker Central School District Board of Education, Niagara County, New York be authorized to spend the sum of \$18,195,652 in the total amount set forth in the proposed Budget during the 2023-2024 school year and to levy the necessary tax.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 – Election of Board Members – Vote for Two

To elect two (2) members of the Board for a 3-year term commencing July 1, 2023 and expiring on June 30, 2026, to succeed John E. Sweeney, Jr. and Emily Gow whose terms expire on June 30, 2023.

- ☐ John E. Sweeney, Jr.
- ☐ Emily Gow
- ☐ Write In _____
- ☐ Write In _____



(Top-Bottom, L-R): Cimari Street and Kathryn Jaques show books of interest. Ainsley Richards and her mother, Mrs. Michelle Kramp-Richards check out the PTO BOGO Scholastic Book Fair. The book fair ran from Monday, April 17th - Friday, April 21st.

PROPOSITION NO. 3 – Authorization to Renovate OR Remove Yorker House Structure

You may **CHOOSE ONLY ONE** of the following options:

1. Appropriate and Expend Monies from 2011 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund to Renovate and Rehab the Yorker House

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District is hereby authorized and directed pursuant to Section 3651 of the New York Education Law to appropriate funds from the 2011 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund established by the voters on May 16, 2011, in the amount of two hundred thousand dollars and zero cents (\$200,000), and to expend such funds for the renovation and rehab of the Yorker House (1628 Quaker Road, Barker, NY 14012), and to take any and all action necessary to effectuate the appropriation and expenditure, as described herein.

OR

2. Remove Yorker House Structure from District Property

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education is hereby authorized and directed to remove the Yorker House structure from District property by demolition for no more than fifty thousand dollars and zero cents (\$50,000), or sale of the structure at fair market value (the appropriate option as determined by the Board of Education), and to take any and all action necessary to remove the Yorker House structure from District property, as described herein.

(There are two options to choose from. You can only pick one choice for this proposition or your vote will not be counted. The first option is to spend up to \$200,000 to remodel the Yorker House for non-instructional space. Unfortunately, this space is not easily converted to usable instructional space that fits with New York State Department of Education code. As such, this remodel would be completely at the local taxpayers' expense and we would not receive aid on the renovation as we do on other instructionally based capital projects. If this were the decision of the taxpayers, we would essentially gut the house and remake it from the ground up to the roof. Our intent would be to maintain as much of the original structure as possible to retain the historic significance of the structure but bring it up to usable form. This space could be used for various groups as a gathering space or for other more daily uses such as storage or other practical purpose.

The second option you can choose from is to have the house either sold and removed to another location or to demolish the structure if a buyer does not emerge for the structure. If the structure is sold, the buyer would be responsible for moving the structure from the property to a new location. This option would obviously cost the District nothing and would be our first option for the property. However, if the structure does not sell and isn't moved, then the District would use up to \$50,000 to remove the building. We do not expect this cost to be a full \$50,000, but as costs continue to rise every day, we are sure this amount would be enough to cover any potential costs or other issues that could arise in this process.)



(L-R): Students from Miss Tabone's class celebrated Read Across America. Scarlett Chludzinski, Wren Sutch, Mason Taylor, Amiya Riches are ready for some nice spring weather to go fly a kite.



PROPOSITION NO. 4 – Authorization to Create and Fund a 2023 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund

Shall the following resolution be approved by the voters:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District be authorized and directed to establish a reserve fund pursuant to Education Law Section 3651 to be known as the “2023 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund,” for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part, the District’s activities in constructing, reconstructing, adding to, renovating, altering and improving District buildings, facilities, grounds and real property, including the acquisition of real furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required in connection therewith, and costs incidental thereto; with the ultimate amount of such reserve fund not exceeding ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) plus any accrued earnings on amounts deposited in such reserve fund, the probable existence of said reserve fund being ten (10) years, but with said reserve fund continuing in existence for its stated purpose until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until the funds are exhausted, and the sources from which funds shall be obtained for said reserve fund being: (a) an initial deposit of eight hundred thirty seven thousand three hundred twenty one dollars and thirty-nine cents (\$837,321.39) and accrued interest through and including June 30, 2023, minus any expenditure therefrom that may be authorized by the voters in another proposition to be voted upon on May 16, 2023, which shall be transferred from the 2011 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund, (c) current and future unappropriated fund balances made available by the Board of Education from time to time, (d) state aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time related to capital improvements, and (e) any other monies derived from budgetary appropriations or other sources authorized by the voters from time to time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2009 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund is hereby depleted and dissolved as a result of this action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2011 Capital Improvements Reserve Fund is hereby depleted and dissolved as a result of this action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Barker Central School District is authorized to take any and all action necessary to effectuate the creation and funding of the reserved as described herein.

(This proposition is an extremely important one to vote on. The District has had multiple capital reserves over the years. However, the ones in place are no longer sufficient for the future needs of the District. Basically, the intent of this proposition is to combine all our current capital reserve funds into one new capital reserve that will meet the needs of the District for the foreseeable future. As part of our long-term budget planning, as discussed by the Board of Education and the Budget Advisory Committee, this new capital reserve will be used to save money toward any other future capital work we may need to do. This new ‘savings account’ will not result in any additional taxes on taxpayers and will largely be funded through funding received from the Energy Cessation Mitigation Fund over the next few years. Again, this is a long-term planning need for the District to continue being sustainable well into the future.)

PROPOSITION NO. 5 – Adopt Library Budget

To adopt the funding for the Barker Public Library, which is raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Barker Central School District be increased from \$81,182.00 to \$82,806.00. This is an increase of \$1,624.00.



PROPOSITION NO. 6 – Library Trustee Election

You may CHOOSE ONLY ONE from each of the following three term options:

To elect one (1) Trustee to the Barker Public Library Board for a 5-year term commencing July 1, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2028 to succeed Kathie Smith.

- ☐ Kathie Smith
☐ Write In _____

and

To elect one (1) Trustee to the Barker Public Library Board for a 4-year term commencing July 1, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2027 to succeed Ashley Grabowski.

- ☐ Ashley Grabowski
☐ Write In _____

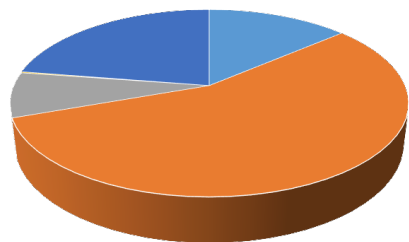
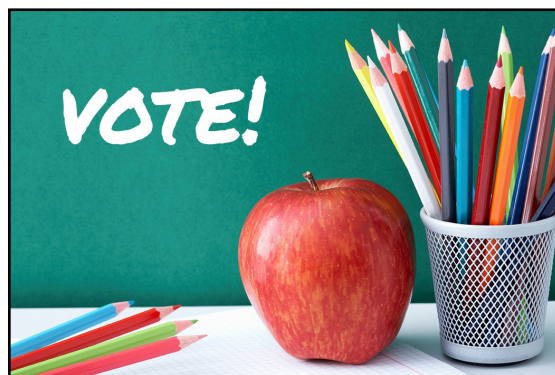
and

To elect one (1) Trustee to the Barker Public Library Board for a 1-year term commencing July 1, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2024 to succeed Jessica Monaco.

- ☐ Jessica Monaco
☐ Write In _____

QUALIFICATIONS OF A VOTER

You qualify as a voter if: you are a citizen of the United States; you have been a resident of the Barker Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the school budget vote and election held on May 16, 2023; you are at least eighteen (18) years of age; you are qualified to register for an election in accordance with Section 5-106 of the Election Law. In addition, you do not need to be a property owner to be eligible to vote.



TRI-COMPONENT BUDGET INFORMATION

For information about the budget please visit the Barker website at:
www.barkerksd.net/business

The Tri-Component contains the line by line breakout of the budget as well as the property tax report card and other information. It can be found at:
www.barkerksd.net/tri-componentbudget

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	19.55%
Instruction	10,161,102	10,080,126	80,976	0.80%
Pupil Transportation	1,414,975	1,430,277	-15,302	-1.07%
Community Service	33,600	33,600	0	0.00%
Undistributed**	4,090,973	4,186,537	-95,564	-2.28%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$18,195,652	\$17,817,534	\$378,118	2.12%

*Increased cost in the area of General Support is primarily due to changing from inhouse management of technology services to using Erie 1 BOCES to provide this service. There is also an increased cost for the Central Business Office services received through Erie 2. Additional money was also added to the utility budget lines.

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

For additional information, see also: Tri-Component Budget at: www.barkerco.net/tri-componentbudget

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 busing 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.

MEET THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES



John E. Sweeney, Jr.

I am a 1978 graduate of Barker Central School and a 1980 graduate of Alfred Ag and Tech with a degree in Animal Husbandry. After graduation, I came home to work on the 113-year old family owned Maple View Dairy and am co-owner of the West Somerset Road farm. I am a member of the Upstate Niagara Milk Cooperative, the Niagara County Farm Bureau, Treasurer of the Barker Alumni Association, member of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau, Faith United Methodist Church, and co-leader of the 4-H Dairy Cattle program. My wife Deborah and I have three children that have graduated from Barker School.

With the challenges facing education today, I want to make certain every child receives the best education possible while balancing the fiscal responsibilities the position holds. My history with the system from being a Barker graduate to having my children experience a variety of programs, gives me a unique perspective on the board. I have seen that when today's youth are well-rounded individuals by participating in the arts, academics, athletics, and community service, they become the leaders of tomorrow. My dedication to the school and community, my leadership style, and my experience with a variety of people, make me an excellent candidate for re-election as a Board of Education member.



Emily Gow

My name is Emily Gow and I am running for re-election on the Barker Central School Board. I am a third generation Barker graduate, class of 2002. My husband Jordan Gow graduated from Barker, class of 1998. We have two children who attend Barker. Charlie is in 7th grade and Elanor is in 4th. After graduating Barker High School, I achieved my Bachelor's of Arts degree at SUNY University of Buffalo and attained my Master's of Arts Degree from City College of New York in New York City. I currently work as an Escalations Research Analyst at KeyBank focusing on resolving escalated issues for branch operations.

As an Alumna of Barker and a proud parent of two hard-working students, I believe my understanding of the benefits of attending a small school as well as my passion for children and education, make me an asset to the school board. I grew up in the Village of Barker and decided Barker is the place I want my family to live and my children to attend school. I am great at creative problem resolution and very technically savvy. I enjoy bringing my video and tech skills to the school and being involved in the extracurriculars for students, including the elementary and high school musicals. I believe my ideas and unique perspective lend to keeping Barker the great educational institute that it has always been while adapting to the challenges facing our school in a rapidly changing world.

(L-R): Clifford the Big Red Dog, with **Adia Nestoros**, delivered books to Pratt Elementary in January. Prior to spring break, the Jr. HS Student Council provided an Easter Egg Hunt for PreK and K classes. **Summer Hung** won a plush bunny. **Fombens Sejour** holds up his golden egg for a special prize.



SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 17,817,534	\$ 18,195,652	\$ 17,959,602
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$ 378,118	\$ 142,068
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.12 %	0.8%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 4,918,750	\$ 5,017,125	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 81,182	\$ 82,806	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 4,999,932	\$ 5,099,931	\$ 4,999,932
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 0	\$ 0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$5,004,625	\$ 5,055,766	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 4,918,750	\$ 5,017,125	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 85,875	\$ 38,641	
Administrative Component	\$ 1,638,867	\$ 1,726,882	\$ 1,678,282
Program Component	\$ 14,391,016	\$ 14,775,890	\$ 14,748,440
Capital Component	\$ 1,787,651	\$ 1,692,880	\$ 1,532,880
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>The Capital Outlay project as well as equipment classified as contingent has been eliminated. Reductions have also been made in materials and supplies as well as conference attendance and association dues.</p>			
<p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p>	Description	Amount	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	

*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2023-24 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 399.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Barker School District, Niagara County, New York, will be held in the Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 12:00pm and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the Barker Jr.-Sr. High School at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

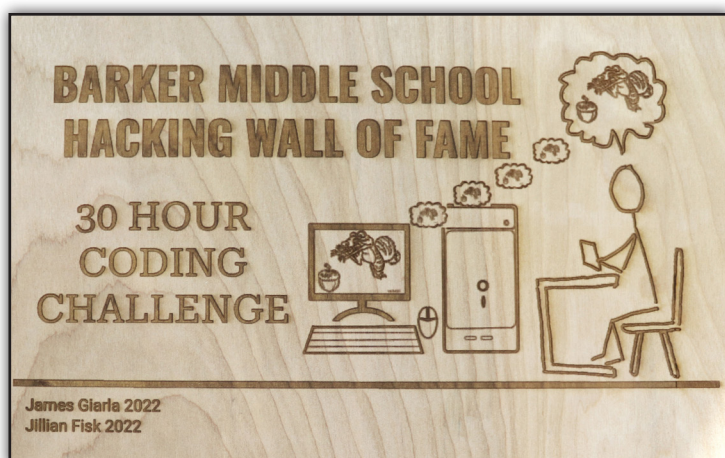
FISK COMPLETES CODING CHALLENGE

Barker Jr. High School 8th grader Jillian Fisk (pictured with Mr. Post) has been recognized on the Barker Middle School Hacking Wall of Fame. Ethical hacking is solving problems using computer programming or coding. Each semester in Mr. Post's MS Computer Technology Class, the students are challenged to complete 30 hours of programming problem-solving.

Mr. Post gives the students about 10 hours of class time to complete the basics and collaborate with other students while solving these problems. Any student that completes the final 20 hours outside of class receives the distinction of being listed on the Hacking Wall Of Fame.

Since coming to Barker in the fall of 2020, Mr. Post has offered this challenge to his Middle School students. To date, Jillian is only the second student at Barker to reach this level. Congratulations on a job well done and the commitment to complete the additional hours on her own.

At Barker, every middle school student currently takes one semester of computer science based technology and one semester of trades-based technology.



STUDENTS RECEIVE ALL-COUNTY HONORS

7 students received All-County music recognition this school year. The Niagara County Music Educators Association selected the following students from Barker Jr.-Sr. High School:

(Clockwise from Upper Right and L-R): NCMEA Jr. High All-County Band (March 3-4 @ Niagara Falls HS):

Julia Kalynycz - Percussion

Adeline Atwater - Trumpet

Addisyn Weller - Clarinet

Riley Marciszewski - Baritone

Sr. High All-County Band (February 3-4 @ Roy-Hart Senior HS):

Michael Kalynycz - Percussion

Matthew Goodwin - Baritone

NCMEA Sr. High All-County Chorus (March 3-4 @ Niagara Falls HS):

Caleb Pierce



'IMPOSSIBLE THINGS ARE HAPP'NING EVERY DAY'

The BCS Jr.-Sr. High School production of *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* made it's way to the Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Auditorium stage March 10-12. The cast and crew included over 30 current students, alumni, faculty, and community members.



The Barker production was recognized at the Kenny Awards nomination ceremony on Monday, April 17th at Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo. 10 finalist schools, including Barker, were selected from a larger pool of applicants in the fall. All 10 schools had their performances adjudicated by 10 judges. The final award winners will be announced at the Kenny awards on Saturday, May 27th. Barker is nominated in six categories:

- Outstanding Musical Production
- Outstanding Dramatic Performance
- Outstanding Supporting Actress - Julia Kalynycz
- Outstanding Technical Design
- Outstanding Scenic Design
- Outstanding Costumes

Congratulations to the cast and crew and best of luck at the Kenny Awards.



(Clockwise Upper Left and L-R): **Melodi Murphy** (Lord Pinkleton) and **Sahara Holland** (Madame). **Gloria Haller** (Gabrielle) and **Julia Kalynycz** (Charlotte). **Adler Detschner** (Sebastian) and **Connor Dwyer** (Topher).



ALADDIN KIDS! TAKES MAGIC CARPET RIDE IN BARKER

The Pratt Elementary production of *Disney's Aladdin Kids!* took place on April 28th & 29th. The show had a cast of over 60 students from grades 3-6.



(Top-Bottom and L-R): **Chace Atwater** (Aladdin) and **Zoey Quiett** (Genie). **Brayden Gregory** (Jafar), **Carson Costello** (Sultan) and **Diarra Taliaferro** (Jasmine). **Emilia Farina** (Iago).

FOR MORE PICTURES FROM CINDERELLA & ALADDIN KIDS!, CHECK OUT THE PHOTO GALLERIES ON THE BARKER WEBSITE.

CHAMPIONS CROWNED IN P.E. TOURNAMENTS

The second annual high school physical education class corn hole tournament took place in January and a repeat champion was crowned. Aidan Voss, part of the winning duo last year, paired with Jordan Leising this year and defeated Joel Harris and Aiden Mescall for the title.

The single elimination tournament had 30 teams, totaling 60 students and this year included junior high students. The inaugural tournament was senior high only. There were 15 physical education class champions and 15 second place pairs that were entered into the bracket.

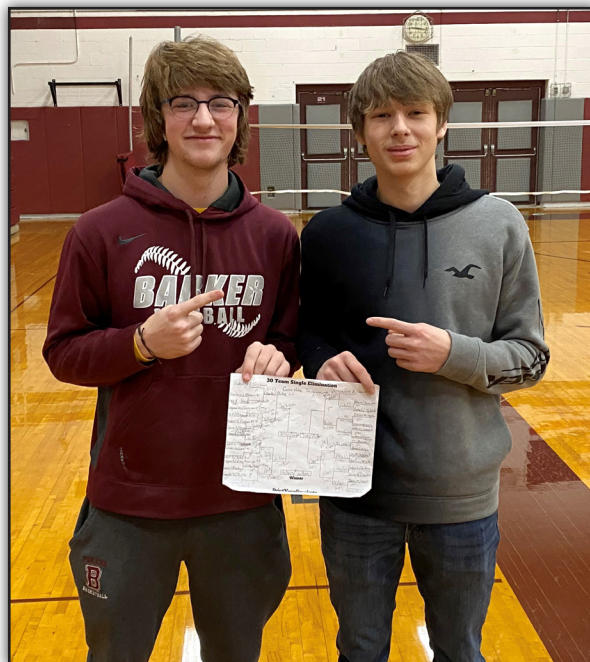
Congratulations to Joel Harris and Aiden Mescall for reaching the finals before falling to the champion pair of Voss & Leising. Leising made the finals in the tournament last school year.

Class champions were:

- Alexander Ark & Daniel Goodwin
- Logan Wagner & Grayson Prynn
- Jackson Hauser & Logan Murrell
- Thomas Harris & Bradford Cantrell
- Lucas DerSarkissian & Cameron Hefferon
- Logan Flint & Riley Marciszewski
- Aidan Voss & Jordan Leising
- Noah Buyea & Hunter Witkop
- Cole Carnes & Tytus Wedekind
- Jillian Maines & Milayna May
- Nathanael Hess & Dakota Mandaville
- Jackson Prynn & Madelina Pavlock
- Lilly Monthony & Logan Tolliver
- Caden Garcia & Anthony Taliaferro
- Joel Harris & Aiden Mescall

The physical education department also ran a pickleball tournament which wrapped up prior to spring recess. Isaac Monaco and Donovan Hefferon bested Ryan Fisk and Tristan Garcia in the finals. Teams competed within each class and then the 11 class champions were bracketed into a single elimination tournament. Class champions included:

- Aidan Voss & Blake Schwab
- Ryan Fisk & Tristan Garcia
- Rachel Stutter, Lucas DerSarkissian & Cameron Hefferon
- Alexis Weeks & Madison Miller
- Mikala Woock & Daniel Goodwin
- Mia Herman & Nathanael Hess
- Cole Carnes & Parker Sikora
- Joel Harris & Levi Hauser
- Isaac Monaco & Donovan Hefferon
- Lucas Flegal & JP Mason
- Duke Redsteer & Zackary Santarsiero



(Top-Bottom, L-R): Aidan Voss and Jordan Leising are corn hole champions. Isaac Monaco and Donovan Hefferon won the pickleball title.

The Sports Page

Top level recognition for winter sport athletes included the Varsity Girls Basketball team earning recognition as a NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete team. The spring season is underway and a new Athlete of the Week program has begun. To view the full list of recipients and their accomplishments, visit www.barkerbsd.net/aotw.

Individual accolades for both the winter and spring seasons are listed below.



(Top-Bottom and L-R):

Mia Herman, Field Hockey, Basketball, Softball:

- Niagara PAL Prep Athlete

Mason Allee-Castro, Cross Country, Basketball, Track & Field:

- Niagara PAL Prep Athlete

Luke Fay, Wrestling:

- Niagara-Orleans League Champion, 126 lbs.

Luis Castro, Basketball:

- Niagara-Orleans League, 1st Team

Ireland Brady, Baseball:

- Athlete of the Week, 4/3/23

Mia Herman, Softball:

- Athlete of the Week, 4/3/23

Natalie Brandel, Softball:

- Athlete of the Week, 4/10/23

Lucas DerSarkissian, Tennis:

- Athlete of the Week, 4/10/23

BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1628 QUAKER ROAD
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

Board of Education

Randall B. Atwater, President
John E. Sweeney Jr., Vice President
Deanna Carnes
Candice Gancasz
Emily Gow
Jennifer Harris
Virginia Voss

Superintendent of Schools

Jacob L. Reimer

Principal

Michael Carter

Business Administrator

Carol Heiligenthaler

**Coordinator of Curriculum &
Professional Learning/Assistant**

Principal

Christian Cornwell

Director of Instructional Services

Shelly Kordish

District Clerk

Mary Eadie

District Mission Statement:

We will provide a school environment that fosters respect, compassion, tolerance, and nurtures life-long learners who make meaningful contributions to society.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT - PI DAY (L-R): Tuesday, March 14th was Pi Day and the Pi Memorizing Contest was held. (R-L) Coming in 5th place was Ryan Fisk. Melodi Murphy was 4th, Riley Marciszewski was 3rd, Julia Kalynycz was 2nd and the 2023 Pi Memorizing Champion was Jillian Fisk. Jillian memorized 187 digits of pi. Congratulations to all who competed and to the students who located one of the eight pictures of Einstein.