



**Minutes of the Barker Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
Monday, May 12, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Moved to High School Cafeteria**

Present	R. Atwater, D. Carnes, C. Gancasz, E. Gow, J. Harris, J. Sweeney, Jr., V. Voss
Excused	K. Stoll
Also Present	J. Reimer, M. Carter, C. Cornwell, M. Eadie, M. Learo, M. Love Public – 43
Call to Order	Mr. Atwater called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The pledge to the flag was done.
Agenda	<p>Mr. Atwater asked a change to the agenda to add an Executive Session prior to the Personnel Items. Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., to approve the addition of the Executive Session to the meeting. Yes: 7, No: 0 Motion carried.</p> <p>Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to approve the revision to the Board Meeting agenda as amended for May 12, 2025. Yes: 7, No: 0 Motion carried.</p>
Minutes	<p>Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Voss, to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2025 and April 22, 2025 regular meetings as presented. Yes: 7, No: 0 Motion carried.</p>
Public Forum	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.



The first speaker was Heather Ecker, community member, parent and teacher, who commented that Mrs. Pratt has gone above and beyond with her work, had great evaluations, and it was wrong that she not receive tenure, and for the Board to judge the decision by the number of co-workers here in support of her.

Doug Lewis was listed as the next speaker and he noted it was an error. He did not wish to speak.

Loriann Martell introduced herself as the BTU President for the District and spoke next. She noted she was there to discuss two matters, Education Law and the denial of tenure. She noted that NY Education Law Section §3012 Tenure: Certain School Districts, part 1.(a)i. Teachers and all other members of the teaching staff of school districts, including common school districts and/or school districts employing fewer than eight teachers, other than city school districts shall be appointed by the board of education, or the trustees of common school districts upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools. She then noted 2. (a) At the expiration of the probationary term and subject to the conditions of this section, the superintendent of schools shall make a written report to the board of education or the trustees of a common school district recommending for appointment on tenure those persons who have been found competent, efficient and satisfactory. Such persons, and all others employed in the teaching service of the schools, shall hold their respective positions during good behavior and efficient and competent service, and shall not be removed except for any of the following causes, after a hearing, as provided by section three thousand twenty-a of this article: (i) insubordination, immoral character or conduct unbecoming a teacher; (ii) inefficiency, incompetency, physical or mental disability, or neglect of duty; (iii) failure to maintain certification as required by this chapter and by the regulations of the commissioner. Mrs. Martell stated the BTU absolutely refute any and all of the items noted for reasons of denial of tenure that Mrs. Pratt does not have an immoral character, is incompetent or has failed to maintain her certification. She commented that this was demonstrated in Mrs. Pratt's exceptional year-end evaluations for 2023 and 2024. For the cause of insubordination, she never was given a formal 3020-a hearing as provided and required by this section of the law. Mrs. Pratt never received a counseling letter, nor was it ever brought to the attention of the union representative of any informal discipline measures. She commented that Mrs. Pratt was not given an improvement plan and the Mentor Committee was never notified of an issue with an untenured teacher. She commented that the issues were not addressed by practice and law, and it is incorrectly setting a precedence as due law. She noted there are many instances where an accusation has been made against a teacher, there is an investigation by administration, and the teacher and the union are brought in to address the problem. She said this was not afforded to Mrs. Pratt. She stated that none of the accusations in the termination of tenure letter were ever addressed in any sort of hearing,



informal or formal. She stated that she felt some of the accusations were “he said/she said”. She felt that Mrs. Pratt is illegally being denied due process as outlined under the referenced section of Education Law.

Mrs. Martel then referenced NY Education Law Section 3031 - procedure when tenure not to be granted at conclusion of probationary period or when services to be discontinued. She noted (a) boards of education, shall review all recommendations not to appoint a person on tenure, as to whom a recommendation is to be made that appointment on tenure not be granted or that their services be discontinued shall, at least thirty days prior to the board meeting at which such recommendation is to be considered, be notified of such intended recommendation and the date of the board meeting at which it is to be considered. Such teacher may, not later than twenty-one days prior to such meeting, request in writing that he be furnished with a written statement giving the reasons for such recommendation and within seven days thereafter such written statement shall be furnished. The person may file a written response to such statement with the district clerk not later than seven days prior to the date of the board meeting. The Board thereby could vote to reject the recommendation of a superintendent of schools. She asked that the Board do this in accordance with the law.

The second reason Mrs. Martel said she came before the Board is to ask the Board questions to consider. She commented that why is it that the BTU is here, in force, for the second board meeting in a row. Why is a group of dedicated teachers coming together to express their unhappiness with the processes and procedures of the school for a second meeting in a row. How is it happening again? She commented that in five years of being the BTU President it has never happened, noting no problems during COVID, then why the past two meetings? She asked the Board to ask themselves what is different now. What is the common denominator? She noted her time is short as she is retiring soon and leaving her teachers unhappy and stressed. She asked the Board to ask more questions.

Leslie Mocarski, teacher, noted that what she was to state was mostly covered by Mrs. Martell. She noted that the people here speak volumes and they count on the Board to do what is best for the kids. She stated to not grant tenure to Mrs. Pratt is not in the best interest of the kids. She noted that the whole district is rallying around Mrs. Pratt and she could not believe the teachers are here and it has gone this far. She stated she was very disappointed and hoped the Board does the right thing.

Melissa Philips noted she was the Vice President of the BTU and BTU Mentor Coordinator. She said she works closely with Mr. Cornwell with the program and work closely to provide a good support system for the teachers working towards tenure through the program. She discussed the mentor training program and yearly review of pairing of staff with mentors, the discussions at year-end are held with the individuals for feedback to



enable the group to review the program and evaluate to make changes as appropriate based on the past year. This information received is reviewed with Mr. Cornwell and Mrs. Phillips, and the Committee which could include a change of mentor. BTU members can come to Mrs. Phillips with issues and she brings them to Mr. Cornwell and the Committee. When an administrator saw an issue(s) with an untenured teacher, it was discussed with her and the BTU. She noted that it works very well and struggling teachers are placed on an improvement plan. If no improvement is made, the BTU and Administration meet, discuss, and would be in agreement with the decision. She noted that Mrs. Pratt was part of the program, and had a mentor she worked very well with, who felt comfortable enough to end her mentorship. Mrs. Phillips said there was never a time in the past three years that the BTU was ever notified that there was any problem. She commented that Mrs. Pratt's mentoring ended in the fall and she was doing well. She commented that she nor the BTU were notified of a problem. If the Mentor Committee knew there were issues, she stated they would have done an improvement plan for Mrs. Pratt to work on. She felt Mrs. Pratt was ambushed. Mrs. Phillips and Mr. Cornwell met to discuss where the program failed Mrs. Pratt and how to ensure that this does not happen again. He suggested keeping all untenured teachers in the program until they receive tenure which she and the BTU support. She also suggested that issues be brought to her attention by administration who is a direct supervisor so the program can work as it is supposed to. She stated there are a number of new employees this fall and concern of not failing another teacher. She is worried why the program failed Mrs. Pratt. She asked the Board to consider why the failure occurred and how to change to ensure this does not happen again to an untenured teacher.

Joy Dabill, Special Education Teacher, noted that she brought two letters to the Board this year, her resignation for the purpose or retirement and one expressing her support for Mrs. Pratt. She noted the various administrative changes in Special Ed the past few years and how Mrs. Pratt supported the Special Education Department during the tremulous years. She commented on the Special Education Department and its inconsistent leadership. She noted that Mrs. Pratt made it comfortable for her. She asked the Board to exercise its authority and grant tenure to Mrs. Pratt.

Amy Luthart, Special Education Teacher, commented that she has been a teacher for 31 years and never been to the Board to discuss a concern ever. She noted that countless staff are here to show support for Mrs. Pratt. She commented that Mrs. Pratt is a quality educator, ultimate professional, and what counts as a quality education is being aware of family dynamics and truly making a difference. She stated she was flabbergasted that Mrs. Pratt is being denied tenure. She asked the Board to look at the experience in the room and how the individuals feel and support Mrs. Pratt.



Wendy Pellow, Special Education Teacher, she noted that she has worked 20 years at the district and discussed the nine administrative changes the past few years – what does that say, and the importance of a school psychologist as a critical position. She noted the higher than average amount of Special Education classification here at Barker for grades PreK-12 and stated that there was no consistency. The Special Education area has many laws to follow with IEPs, etc. She noted the experiences with Mrs. Annable and her concern for a quality replacement when she retired. She felt Mrs. Pratt was a godsend and developing relationships with the students and teachers. She said Mrs. Pratt was passionate about her work and she was here tonight to show her support for her.

Mr. Atwater stated that that was all the individuals who were listed to speak and no one else came forward to speak at that time.

Presentations

Principal's Update - Dr. Love

Dr. Love thanked everyone for being there and sharing their voice, and stated it is lovely to see so many of our staff members in attendance this evening. Dr. Love then reviewed events since the last meeting. The Faculty Meeting this month focused on NYSED Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Framework. The goal was to increase student engagement in the learning process through a collaborative process. She noted that the session was to provide professional learning opportunities for the staff that enhance student-centered learning, active engagement strategies, and effective assessment methods. She noted that the NYSED event addressing this was held in March that she attended with Mr. Cornwell was she felt it was uplifting and brought to the forefront of what the Barker staff has been doing and incorporating into the learning experience for the students. The document is incorporated into much of the new planning from NYSED and it is important to be at the forefront of everyone's mind for our teams moving forward.

She noted that the exams for grades 3-8 went well. She stated there were technical issues but they were not on the District end of things, but noted that the students navigated through them very well and the support of the staff was terrific. Field tests for ELA 8, Algebra II, and Earth Science will be held in May. June 11th the geometry regents will be given, followed by the remaining Regents June 17th - June 25th, with the last day for high school students being June 16th.

Dr. Love then noted the recent and upcoming activities which included but are not limited to a visit from the mobile planetarium, M & M Field Trip to Allie Brandt's Bowling and Mini Golf, Senior Pictures, 5th and 6th Grade Career Day; Challenge Island for the 5th Grade and another later in the month for Grade 6, Student of the Month celebration; Honors Pass Field Trip to Buffalo State Park and the Bisons Game, the dance recital, several field trips, and concerts coming up too. She thanked Mrs. Thibault for all her work coordinating the Honors Day around all the conflicting



events so students could participate in multiple events. She also noted that Moving Up Day is scheduled for June 24th, graduation rehearsal and breakfast is set for June 26th, and graduation on Friday, June 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium for the Seniors. She also noted how exciting it was to have students from Albion, Wilson, Medina, and Roy-Hart for sporting events on campus this evening, and the students taking ownership of their building/campus.

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

Mr. Learo noted it has continued to be busy since the last meeting. From April 7th through May 12th there has been 26 CSE meetings and 8 CPSE meetings. He noted that several students, with related services only, have been declassified this past month as they've successfully met their goals. He commented on the hard work the students have done and related services support that resulted in growth. He noted the District is looking for some out-of-district placement changes for several students as they are moving to a less restrictive environment such as a 6:1+1 to 8:1+1.

Mr. Learo provided an update on the development of the District's 12:1+1 self-contained class and the logistics of such a classroom, expectations, and program overview, as well as setting up the classroom. He noted that he and some teachers are meeting with the Kindergarten and PreK teachers to discuss student eligibility and have been reaching out to Barker-only families to discuss the program. An informational session about the program for any interested staff tomorrow during 10th period during which the program will be presented and he will field questions staff may have.

Mr. Learo then reviewed trends, in particular, as it relates to families changing their homes and McKinney-Vento. He commented that recently the school has seen several families move out of district. Many will be finishing the school year here at Barker and enrolling their students in a new district over the summer. The parents will provide the transportation through year-end in order to have the students stay in District. We have also seen a number of families/students moving into the District prior to the end of the school year. He then discussed housing concerns, addressing families who fall under McKinney-Vento in order to provide uninterrupted education, services, transportation as needed, and support to the students and their families.

Mr. Learo noted that at present, there are more students coming in to the District than leaving.

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

Mr. Cornwell noted that he and Dr. Love are attending a numeracy brief webinar session tomorrow, put on by the NYS Department of Education and focused on the instruction of mathematics in NYS. The keynote speaker and creator of the briefs will be Dr. Deborah Loewenberg Ball.



Dr. Ball is the William H. Payne Collegiate Professor at the University of Michigan and the Director of TeachingWorks. NYSED and Dr. Ball will release a new series of numeracy briefs that are grounded in research, are written for practitioners, and provide scientific and useful information to support responsible teaching of mathematics across grades PreK-12. The agenda will include an overview of the eight briefs, with time to reflect and discuss with colleagues and the NYSED team. He noted that he will review this information with staff and provide an update to the Board on how this will impact Barker in June.

With regard to state testing, he noted that the NYS testing in grades 3-8 ELA, Math, and Science is just about finished. There are a few more makeups to administer and then this round of testing will be complete. Since the technical issues that plagued the first week of testing have been resolved, the remainder of testing went smoothly. Mr. Cornwell reiterated that the issues were not related to anything being done at Barker, but rather to the testing company's fault (Nextera). He gave a big shout out to our students and teachers for their patience while this occurred.

Mr. Cornwell discussed year-end assessments, commenting that between now and when the Regents exams start in June, District ENL students will take their NYSESLAT tests, and field testing for future questions on NYS assessments will be given in a few subjects at the secondary level. The new Regents exam in Geometry will kick off its testing for District high school students in early June.

Mr. Cornwell noted that the District is in the midst of the hiring process to fill the vacancies caused by teacher retirements. The interview process has been completed and candidates moving forward are into the demonstration phase, and then this will follow with the final meeting phase of the hiring process. He commented that he is hoping to wrap up the hiring process for many positions to present at the June meeting.

Mr. Cornwell is working with the Instructional Cabinet on revising the Professional Development Plan for next year. It will be brought to the Board for approval in the summer. The Cabinet and Administration are also already working on the Superintendent Conference Days agendas for the start of the next school year.

Student Update - Miss Stoll

There was no report this month.

Financial Update - Mr. Carter

Mr. Carter noted the budget public hearing was held in the Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. this evening. He thanked everyone for all the work to get the budget to the point it is this evening, acknowledging it is a lot of work.



Superintendent's Information

Dr. Reimer noted that the state funding was received last week and came out a little lower than expected. The aid runs were low compared to what the District expected because of building aid is not on the runs nor BOCES runs. He commented that the budget in place and the District will make sure final cost reports (FCRs) are in place to offset the lower than projected amounts.

Dr. Reimer noted that an overview of the cell phone ban information from the state was received and is a bit more restrictive than expected. It is a bell-to-bell ban during the day which includes during lunch times and passing times. He noted that he is waiting to receive more specific details before the District finalizes its implementation plan with the start to the school year, September 1st as he noted that there may be some litigation on this. The District will need to bring a policy to the Board regarding it and noted that BOCES is looking at this too which provides the District with suggested policy information for consideration with the development of its policies. He expects to receive more specifics in the next 30-45 days and will move forward once more is received.

Dr. Reimer provided a capital project update. He noted that work continues to move along and if the Board would like to do a walk thru again to let him know. He anticipates the turn-over date by June 23rd currently, noting some air conditioning needs to be completed in some rooms, and the library center also needs a lot of additional work. The tech wing is currently split in half to accommodate the work with a completion date for that area projected to be late September, early October. The remaining classrooms are scheduled to be turned over in August to enable the staff to get into the rooms and set up for the beginning of the year. The \$14.2 million project is moving along with the design work and to make sure it aligns with the other work being done with the projects.

Dr. Reimer noted that the electric busses are running. There was one brake issue on the first day and the District is monitoring them. Negotiations with STA continues and the impact of the electric busses is being taking into consideration.

Policies/Plans

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

5512	Reserve Funds
5520	Extraclassroom Activity Fund
5530	Petty Cash Funds And Cash In School Buildings
5540	Publication Of District's Annual Financial Statement
5550	Maintenance Of Fiscal Effort (Title I Programs)
5551	Allocation Of Title I, Part A Funds In The District



5560	Use Of Federal Funds For Political Expenditures
5570	Financial Accountability
5571	Allegations Of Fraud
5572	Audit Committee
5573	Internal Audit Function

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

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Public Forum Guidelines: Mr. Atwater discussed the public forum guidelines and read the suggested verbiage. The group agreed that the notices will be provided at the sign-in table for all so it is known what the expectations are and the purpose of the public forum time. Mrs. Gow suggested some additional language relative to “gifting” time on a topic. Mrs. Voss suggesting adding the word “negative” to the fifth bullet about refraining from comments related to a particular student, staff member, board member or member of the community. The Board discussed the suggestions and agreed to have the school legal counsel reviewed based on the feedback and bring forward at the June meeting.

Dress Code: Mr. Atwater discussed the history of the dress code review that is part of the Code of Conduct. Mr. Atwater noted that information has been taken from other districts with regard to this matter and proposed ways to approach the matter again. The options he noted were to go through the information provided, consider it, and make a recommendation at the next meeting; leave the current policy as is; or go to committee and do a work session again. He asked the Board members their view on the matter. Mrs. Gow commented that based on the current dress code policy, she does not like how specific it is and fears it is gender specific in nature, to the girls in particular. She felt students should be free to wear what they want to wear. She liked the current active proposal and felt matter was getting into too much nitty gritty. She did not want this to be a distraction to teachers and staff. She felt the bar should be set high with regard to standards and revolve around self-respect. The draft is a good start and some are getting deep in the weeds. Administration will backup the document but there needs to be understanding that there will be some judgement calls. Mrs. Harris commented it should be changed to not be specific. Super specific guidelines can be troublesome. She felt it could go back to a committee and this current draft is too specific. She felt the teachers and Administration need to work on it and the bar needs to be high without being gender specific. Mrs. Voss commented that she does not want spaghetti straps, or midriff showing. She felt that a committee should not be used and too much time has been spent. She noted how a dress code can be unfair to females but also noted that the ability to express oneself can be done outside of school. She suggested the



Board could handle the revision themselves and provide cross-outs suggestions to come up with a final document. Mrs. Carnes agreed with Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Gancasz, and wanted to delegate the revision to the teachers and Administration. Mr. Sweeney, Jr. felt that the faculty and Administration could work on the revisions and bring a plan together for the Board's review. He inquired about the number of violations per month. Dr. Love noted there are very few and most correlated to hats and hoods. Mrs. Martell commented that the teachers are not comfortable with the policy and work environment and teachers do not want to say anything. Mr. Atwater noted the opinions of the Board and summarized that the Board would like Administration and the teachers who want to work on it to come up with a solution that all are comfortable enforcing and present to the Board. The timing of completion, public hearing, approval was also reviewed.

Education

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the approve the Class of 2025 Senior Class Trip to New York City from June 9, 2025 through June 12, 2025 as outlined in the meeting package.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the resolution to change the 2025-2026 school calendar regarding the Memorial Day holiday and the last day of school for Elementary.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the transportation agreement between Barker Central School District and George Shaner for the 2024-2025 school year from January 23, 2025 through June 25, 2025.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Executive Session

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr. to move to an Executive Session to discuss matters regarding employment history of a particular person at 8:05 p.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the Executive Session and return to public session was made by Mrs. Gancasz, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by at 9:05 p.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Personnel Items

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the resolution conferring tenure of Amanda Cottle in the area of Reading effective



September 1, 2025, subject to that the employee must meet all requirements of the educational law and corresponding regulations.

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure upon Amanda Cottle in the area of Reading effective September 1, 2025, subject to that the employee must meet all requirements of the educational law and corresponding regulations.

Dr. Reimer noted that Mrs. Cottle has been with us through COVID working with students on reading and has made great connections with the students and the gains in reading are evident.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mr. Sweeney, Jr. to approve the resolution conferring tenure of Emily Smith in the area of Special Education effective September 1, 2025, subject to that the employee must meet all requirements of the educational law and corresponding regulations.

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure upon Emily Smith in the area of Special Education effective September 1, 2025, subject to that the employee must meet all requirements of the educational law and corresponding regulations.

Dr. Reimer noted that Mrs. Smith changed tenure areas to Special Education and has also made great connections with the students and does a great job incorporating technology and teaching strategies.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the resolution conferring tenure of Kyle Sosnowski in the area of Secondary Math effective September 1, 2025, subject to that the employee must meet all requirements of the educational law and corresponding regulations.

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure upon Kyle Sosnowski in the area of Secondary Math effective September 1, 2025, subject to that the employee must meet all requirements of the educational law and corresponding regulations.

Dr. Reimer noted that the way Mr. Sosnowski interacts in more specific ways and has the ability to get the students to move outside of their comfort zone and it is good to see how he teaches.



Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Voss, seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the resolution conferring tenure of Jessica Monaco in the area of Social Studies 7-12 effective September 19, 2025, subject to that the employee must meet all requirements of the educational law and corresponding regulations.

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure upon Jessica Monaco in the area of Social Studies 7-12 effective September 19, 2025, subject to that the employee must meet all requirements of the educational law and corresponding regulations.

Dr. Reimer noted that Mrs. Monaco came to the District from a nearby school and changed from working with younger students to older ones and has done an excellent job and also worked with Mr. Sullivan and provided the opportunity for the students with regard to the Seal of Civic Readiness.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointment of Thomas Mallon as Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate and Substitute Teaching Assistant and Substitute Teacher Aide at the rate of \$15.50 per hour effective July 1, 2026 for grades PreK-12.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointment of Kaitlyn Goodwin as a Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate, as well as a Substitute Teaching Assistant and Substitute Teacher Aide at a rate of \$15.50 per hour, effective May 13, 2025 subject to fingerprint and background clearances.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointment of Megan Schmidt as a Substitute Teacher at the per diem rate, Substitute Teaching Assistant and Substitute Teacher Aide both at the rate of \$15.50 per hour effective May 13, 2025, for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school and then as a Full-time Teacher Aide effective August 27, 2025 at a rate of \$15.50 per hour, all subject to fingerprint and background clearances.
Yes: 7, No: 0
Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointment of the following individuals as Summer School Teachers and Substitute Summer School Teachers at a rate of \$50.00 per hour for the 2025-2026 school year with the program running from July 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025 as outlined below:

Name	Primary Responsibility
Hanna Andrews	PK/Kindergarten
Shelby Pasquale	1st Grade
Krista Beth Feltz	2nd Grade
Mary Dudek	3rd/4th Grade Teacher
Chris Post	5th-6th Grade Teacher
Katie Snell	Substitute Teacher
Erin Zablocki	Substitute Teacher
Adam Norris	Substitute Teacher
Kyle Sosnowski	Substitute Teacher
Paul DerSarkissian	Substitute Teacher
Lori Costello	Substitute Teacher

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the change in appointments from a split stipend as approved at the February 10, 2025 Board of Education meeting to a full stipend for Paul DerSarkissian at Step 4, \$2,540.30 and Kyle Sosnowski at Step 3, \$2,424.06 for the Spring 2025 JH/Modified Track Season.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointment of the following individuals as Substitute Sports Coaches for the Spring Season of the 2025-2026 school year:

Varsity Tennis Substitutes

Rob Mucha

Karin Menz

Max Cool

Varsity Track Substitute

Kyle Sosnowski

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointment of Jeffrey Costello as a Volunteer Baseball/Sports Assistant for the Spring season of the 2024-2025 school year.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to accept the resignation of Brianna Clark, PE/Health Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the resolution that the Board of Education hereby terminates the probationary employment of Keri Pratt and all positions Ms. Pratt holds with the District effective June 30, 2025.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby terminates the probationary employment of Keri Pratt and all positions Ms. Pratt holds with the District, effective June 30, 2025.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the appointment of Devin Griffin as a Student Teacher with William Bruning as part of her undergraduate requirements at SUNY Cortland in Physical Education.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz to approve the following Parent/Community Volunteers as listed with effective dates subject to receipt of reference and background clearance checks.

Austin Buckland
Sabrina Buckland
Katelynn Gauda
David McAdoo
Gregory Quinn
Brian Wittcop

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

All but ten guests exited the meeting at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Business & Financial

Items

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to accept the Warrant Report dated March 31, 2025.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to accept the Treasurer's Report for April 30, 2025.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to accept the Extraclassroom Report dated April 2025.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

The Board received the Audit Claims Reports dated February 28, 2025 and March 31, 2025.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the change order to the contract for the 2022 Capital Improvement Project for Sicoli Constructions Services, Inc. in the amount of \$26,316.000.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Strong gave an overview of the proposed grassland, habitat restoration proposal. He noted that he had contacted three consulting firms about using the hayfields as grassland mitigation for projects that are impacting grasslands elsewhere in the state. One firm, RES, has an active project and made the District an offer which is what had previously been sent to the Board. The offer is a 24-month option term which consists of RES paying the school an initial \$2,000 to access the property to perform surveys and work on getting the project permitted with NYS. If, after 12 months, they need more time, they have the option of two, 6-month extensions for \$1,000 each. If the project is approved and moves forward with NYS, RES would pay the school a one-time fee of \$2,000/acre for the actual acreage used and would maintain it for 30 years, which is the length of the contract. The project will not drastically change anything the District is currently doing out in the noted area such as the cross-country trails and hiking. The firm will do all the land management like shrub removal and annual mowing. It will be good for the biology curriculum as it hits different concepts like ecology, human impact, and allows the school to look at real data and tradeoffs of the project. There was concern from one resident, and the Board agreed, that there would not be the removal the large blackberry patch on the west side of the property that residents like to harvest.

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Carnes to approve the Grassland, Habitat Restoration Proposal.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

End of Public Session

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Gow to adjourn public session at 9:25 p.m., and move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment history of particular persons.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.



**Executive
Session**

Motion by Mr. Sweeney, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Gow to approve the adjournment of the Executive Session at 9:30 p.m., and return to Public Session.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

**Public Session/
Adjournment**

A motion was then made by Mrs. Gow, seconded by Mrs. Gancasz, to end the Public Session and adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Yes: 7, No: 0

Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Mary H. Eadie
District Clerk