

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee

Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2009

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Nessacus Regional Middle School, Dalton, MA, on Thursday, March 12, 2009, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Chivers, Conner, Goddard (7:04 p.m.), Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Lacatell, Les, Wagner, Welts, Yates (7:05) and Carroll-Lombardi.

Absent: Members Darby, and Farley

Also Present: Superintendent Donna Harlan, Assistant Superintendent James Stankiewicz, Business Manager Marge Foster, CBEA Executive Secretary Joanne Dowling, Recording Secretary Diane Koch, and Members of the Audience.

For the record, Chair Carroll-Lombardi does not vote unless noted.

ARTICLE 9607           RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Karen O'Brien, CBEA President and English teacher at Wahconah, asked the Committee to consider increasing the operating budget more than 2%. Mrs. O'Brien noted that with the overall 2% increase three of the seven towns would actually receive less than a 2% increase. She added that the district has the lowest per pupil spending in Berkshire County and the state. Mrs. O'Brien also asked the Superintendent to use money the District is saving with retirements to restore the secretarial positions that may be cut.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi stated for the record that the 2% increase is an average and that some towns are seeing an increase significantly higher than 2%.

Tom Szczepaniak, Dalton Select Board, commented that in years past he was always critical about the District's budget, this year he wants to congratulate the Committee for doing a great job developing the budget.

ARTICLE 9608           STUDENT AFFAIRS

A.                   Wahconah Report

Member Conner questioned whether the student representatives understood that they were welcome to sit at the table with the Committee. Chair Carroll-Lombardi responded by saying the students were invited, but most nights they have other responsibilities as well. The Chair then introduced Kathryn Reed and Dustin Lombardi.

Dustin Lombardi told the Committee the Wahconah science lab renovation was almost complete and that students will begin using it very soon. The ceiling tiles and lights have now been installed. Dustin told the Committee that the one-act play lost in the competition despite an all-star cast that included Kim Kirchner, Kirsten Holmberg, Nick Lewis and Cody Miller. Girls' basketball lost in the semi-final championship by five points to Monument Mountain. Spring sports begin on Monday.

Kathryn Reed reported that the book drive was a great success and over 5,000 books were collected. The winning homeroom was Mrs. Keegan's with 750 books collected. Swimming had a very good season, boys tied for first in the county with one loss and the girls were second with two losses. Ms. Reed thanked

the Committee for their donation to the Wahconah yearbook. There are now only 86 days of school left for seniors.

B. Delegates to Boys State and Girls State (Informational)

Delegates to Boys State at Stonehill College in June are Matthew Boino, Anthony Cherry, Jarron Lord, Nelson Lewis and alternate William Henderson. Delegates to Girls State at Westfield State College in June are Michaela Rivers, Gillian Lamont, Stacy Benham, Rachel Hambro and alternate Kassandra Lai.

ARTICLE 9609 SECRETARY’S REPORT

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 12, 2009 (correction)

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

Chair Carroll-Lombardi explained that a correction had been made to the voting on the motion to keep fifth grade as presently constituted.

*To approve the correction to the minutes of the regular meeting of February 12, 2009.*

Ayes: Eleven members voting.  
Nays: None.  
Abstention: Yates  
Motion carried.

B. Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 26, 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER WAGNER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 26, 2009, as printed.*

There was discussion about a report from the Education Subcommittee about RTI and it was decided that the subcommittee would discuss at the March 16, 2009, meeting a formal report to bring to the Committee on the program.

Ayes: Eleven members voting.  
Nays: None.  
Abstention: Yates  
Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9610 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve warrant No. 2009-36, in the total amount of \$514,313.31 as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-36, dated March 5, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	\$475,043.85
School Lunch	\$7,036.90
Becket Washington Preschool	\$1,455.15
Berkshire Trail Revolving Account	\$20.00
Craneville Homework Club	\$133.19

Federal Funds	<u>\$30,624.22</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$514,313.31

Ayes: Ten members voting.  
 Nays: None.  
 Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts  
 Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve warrant No. 2009-36D, in the total amount of \$102,302.53, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-36D, dated March 5, 2009

DEDUCTIONS

Operating Expense	\$96,027.66
FICA Expense	<u>\$6,274.87</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$102,302.53

Ayes: Ten members voting.  
 Nays: None.  
 Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts  
 Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve warrant No. 2009-36A, in the total amount of \$2,067.08, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-36A, dated March 5, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	<u>\$2,067.08</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$2,067.08

Ayes: Ten members voting.  
 Nays: None.  
 Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts  
 Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve warrant No. 2009-36AD, in the total amount of \$347.01, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-36AD2, dated March 5, 2009

DEDUCTIONS

TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$347.01
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Ayes: Ten members voting.  
 Nays: None.  
 Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts  
 Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To approve warrant No. 2009-37, in the total amount of \$303,060.80, as printed.

Warrant No. 2009-37, dated March 12, 2009

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$254,499.69	
Insurance Payment	<u>\$979.04</u>	
		\$255,478.73
Transfers		\$161.83
Federal Funds		\$20,116.27
School Lunch		\$9,206.75
Athletic Independent Gate Receipts		\$1,626.00
Becket Washington Pre-school		\$1,901.85
WRHS Cross Country Revolving		\$125.25
WRHS Nordic Skiing Revolving		\$164.76
WRHS Boys' Basketball Revolving		\$370.50
WRHS Girls' Basketball Revolving		\$587.00
WRHS Golf Revolving		\$39.60
WRHS Hockey Revolving		\$578.75
WRHS Academic Decathlon Revolving		\$1,095.27
CBRSD Gift Fund		\$420.00
Berkshire Trail Boiler Project		\$8,000.00
WRHS Renovation		\$930.64
WRHS Science Lab		\$2,257.60
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$303,060.80

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9611 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

Chair Carroll-Lombardi asked committee members for their thoughts about emailing agenda packets to save on postage costs. Members that were unable to download could have the agenda packet mailed. The agenda will be emailed as a test for the next meeting and the usual packet will be sent through the mail.

The Chair told members that she was going to ask Glen Koocher, MASC if he or another representative could come out to talk to the Committee and answer questions. She will keep the committee informed.

B. Annual Town Meeting Dates (Informational)

Cummington (first Friday in May)	May 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Dalton (first Monday in May)	May 4, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Windsor (first Monday in May)	May 4, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
Becket (second Saturday in May)	May 9, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Washington (second Saturday in May)	May 9, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Hinsdale (third Wednesday in May)	May 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Peru (first Saturday in June)	June 6, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 9612 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education

Member Welts reported the subcommittee has not met, but a meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2009.

2. Finance

Chair Carroll-Lombardi stated that the vote on the budget was being done differently this year to allow members that have a conflict of interest with voting on salaries and benefits the opportunity to vote on the remaining operating budget. The Chair then asked Member Harvey for his report.

Member Harvey distributed a handout on the FY-2010 budget, reviewed it by pointing out the changes from FY-2009 and commented that it was a very good budget given the current fiscal situation. Mr. Harvey added, that with an average 2% increase to towns there still had to be cuts in services, which have been built in as contingencies. Member Harvey thanked Business Manager Foster for preparing a detailed budget breakdown. Discussion on the budget followed.

Members Hopper and Welts left the room at 7:29 p.m.

a. Final FY-2010 Budget Adoption

1. Salaries and Benefits

WHEREAS, the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee on February 12, 2009, adopted a tentative gross salaries and benefits budget for FY-2010 in the amount of \$18,275,409.

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBE HARVEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee adopts a final salaries and benefits budget for FY-2010 in the amount of \$18,239,269*

Ayes: Ten members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Members Hopper and Welts returned to the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

2. Remaining Operating Budget

WHEREAS, the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee on February 12, 2009, adopted a tentative remaining gross operating budget for FY-2010 in the amount of \$7,567,875.

MOVED BY CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HARVEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee adopts a final remaining gross operating budget for FY-2010 in the amount of \$7,604,015.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HARVEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee adopts a final anticipated revenue budget for FY-2010 in the amount of \$11,295,082.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HARVEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee adopts a final net town levy budget for FY-2010 in the amount of \$14,548,202.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Capital Budget

MOVED BY CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HARVEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee adopts a final net capital budget for FY-2010 in the amount of \$723,339.*

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

Ayes: Twelve members voting.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Member Chivers remarked that the finance subcommittee is planning to start the FY-2011 budget process in June.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi thanked Member Harvey, Member Chivers and the Finance Subcommittee for their time and commitment in developing the FY-2010 budget.

### 3. Policy

Member Hopper reported the subcommittee has not met, but has two meetings scheduled, March 18 and April 7.

### 4. Personnel

Member Les reported the subcommittee met before the meeting tonight and will bring an item forward under new business regarding a cafeteria employee asking for leave for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year.

## C. Others

### 1. Wahconah Building Committee

Member Henderson told the committee that the science lab at Wahconah looks great. In response to her question, Business Manager Foster told the Committee the ads for design services will be out next week. There are fourteen other projects that still need to be addressed. Jim Conro, Wahconah principal, added that the last of the furniture has been ordered and quotes for new lockers are coming in.

2. School Health Advisory

Member Hopper reported that the subcommittee is sending two policies to the education subcommittee. He also reported that with family dynamics changing that perhaps the schools should inform parents that applications for free and reduced lunch are still available. Member Hopper informed the Committee about a change in state law for bus drivers. Under the new law drivers will need to be certified in CPR. The subcommittee feels that more needs to be done to train district employees in all buildings.

ARTICLE 9613 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

Superintendent Harlan told the Committee a clip board was going around with dates for town visits and asked members to sign up to go along on those visits.

Dr. Harlan introduced Principal Conro and asked him to speak about the New England Association of Schools and Colleges letter he received. Mr. Conro reported that N.E.A.S. & C. member schools submit a yearly progress report in addition to the two-year and five-year follow-up reports. The N.E.A.S. & C. accepted Wahconah’s Yearly Progress Report at the January 25 & 26 meeting. The commission was especially pleased with Wahconah’s progress on the following: 1. The extensive range of examples submitted to illustrate the emphasis on curriculum with depth of understanding over breadth of coverage; 2. The successful creation of a pilot program using school wide rubrics to assess students’ achievement with the school’s academic expectations and 3. The implementation involving the four special education teachers in the grade 9 inclusion program as a strategy to better meet student needs. With the acceptance of this report Wahconah continues to be accredited by the N. E. A. S. & C. Mr. Conro was very pleased with the report but added that there is still work to be done before Wahconah files the self-study report.

B. Recommendations

1. Locations of Upcoming Meetings

MOVED BY HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee sets the following locations for regular meetings through August 2009:*

April 9, 2009	Kittredge School
April 23, 2009	Craneville School
May 14, 2009	Becket Washington School
May 28, 2009	Wahconah Regional High School
June 11, 2009	Berkshire Trail Elementary School
June 25, 2009	Kittredge School
July 23, 2009	Becket Washington School
August 27, 2009	Berkshire Trail Elementary School

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Other

Superintendent Harlan extended an invitation to the Committee from Mr. Charles Bradshaw to attend the Senior Assembly at Wahconah on June 4 at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Harlan asked members to RSVP to Diane Koch by May 27.

ARTICLE 9614 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

No changes were reported.

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To move Article 9616 New Business and Article 9617 Remarks For the Good of the Committee before Article 9615 Old Business.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9616 NEW BUSINESS

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the addition of new business to the agenda.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Member Les reported that a cafeteria employee, Mary Wood, has requested a leave to care for her ailing father for the remainder of the 2008 – 09 school year. Mr. Les informed members that Food Service Director Rose Goddard has given her approval for the leave, but that the Committee has to approve a leave for cafeteria employees.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves Mary Wood's request to take leave for the remainder of the 2008 – 09 school year.*

In response to Member Harvey's question on the cost for this leave, Superintendent Harlan stated there would be no cost to the district. Food Service Supervisor Rose Goddard will be helping the cook at Berkshire Trail Elementary School.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9617 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Member Conner asked the Chair about the make-up of the subcommittees and co-chairs on some subcommittees. The Chair responded that she assigns the subcommittees and this year there were more volunteers. It was decided that on some of the subcommittees duties would be shared to lessen the burden. Members responded that with other commitments they may not be available to attend all meetings and having another person to share the responsibility with helps.

The Committee returned to Article 9604, Old Business.

ARTICLE 9615 OLD BUSINESS

A. Level 3 Grievance – Paul Gage

The Chair read an outline for the grievance hearing, asking the Association whether a public or private hearing was desired. Joanne Dowling, CBEA Executive Secretary requested a private.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To go into executive session at 7:50 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, 23B, “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining...including the resolution of grievances pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement.”*

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Chivers, Conner, Goddard, Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Lacatell, Les, Wagner, Welts, Yates and Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Chair stated that the Committee would not reconvene in open session, but would adjourn the meeting at the close of the executive session.

The Committee came out of executive session at 10:19 p.m.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER HARVEY

*To adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.