

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee

Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2009

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Nessacus Regional Middle School, Dalton, MA, on Thursday, March 26, 2009, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Chivers, Conner, Goddard, Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Les (7:16), Wagner, Welts, Yates and Carroll-Lombardi.

Absent: Members Darby, Farley and Lacatell

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 9618        RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

ARTICLE 9619        STUDENT AFFAIRS

A.                    Wahconah Report

Dustin Lombardi reported that the Wahconah band and chorus spring performance will be held on April 7 & 8, 2009. Students will be performing various songs from Sgt. Pepper's. Apollonian Players spring production is, "Once Upon a Mattress" and will be April 2 – 4, 2009. Yesterday, students attended an assembly to hear motivational speaker Mark Mainella.

Kathryn Reed reported that members of the sophomore, junior and senior class went on a field trip to the Culinary Institute and Hyde Park, the semi-formal hosted by the sophomore class was a great success and there are only 72 days of school left for seniors.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi thanked the student representatives and invited them to sit at the table if they had time to stay for the meeting.

ARTICLE 9620        SECRETARY'S REPORT

A.                    Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 12, 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 12, 2009.*

Ayes: Ten members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9621        FINANCIAL REPORT

A.            Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve warrant No. 2009-37B, in the total amount of \$9,376.00 as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-37B, dated March 26, 2009

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

February 27, 2009 - Additional Special Needs Teacher Retirement	\$461.00
February 27, 2009 - Title I Teacher Retirement	\$4,314.00
February 27, 2009 - Title IIA Teacher Retirement	\$4,431.00
February 27, 2009 - Title IID Teacher Retirement	<u>\$170.00</u>
TOTAL	\$9,376.00

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

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve warrant No. 2009-38, in the total amount of \$555,165.72, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-38, dated March 19, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	\$499,572.27
School Lunch	\$12,929.93
Becket Washington Preschool	\$1,455.15
Berkshire Trail Revolving Account	\$160.00
Craneville Homework Club	\$266.37
Connecting Activity Account	\$300.00
Federal Funds	<u>\$40,482.00</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$555,165.72

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

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve warrant No. 2009-38D, in the total amount of \$211,536.07, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-38D, dated March 19, 2009

DEDUCTIONS

Operating Expense	\$204,718.74
FICA Expense	<u>\$6,817.33</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$211,536.07

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

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve warrant No. 2009-39, in the total amount of \$670,264.70, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-39, dated March 26, 2009

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expense		
Accounts Payable	\$181,566.21	
Insurance Payment	<u>\$332,781.53</u>	
		\$514,347.74
Transfers		\$79,654.16
Federal Funds		\$8,659.44
Circuit Breaker		\$18,418.44
School Lunch		\$15,374.24
Athletic Independent Gate Receipts		\$423.50
WRHS Student Activity Fund		\$9,733.62
NRMS Student Activity Fund		\$2,000.00
WRHS Student Fees Revolving		\$1,330.00
Literacy Learning Classroom		\$31.57
WRHS Cross Country Revolving		\$240.65
WRHS Nordic Skiing Revolving		\$361.35
WRHS Boys' Basketball Revolving		\$162.75
WRHS Girls' Basketball Revolving		\$412.30
WRHS Hockey Revolving		\$125.00
Exxon Mobil Education Alliance		\$189.00
WRHS Renovation		<u>\$18,800.94</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$670,264.70

Ayes: Ten members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9622 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

Chair Carroll-Lombardi asked members if they were able to view the agenda via e-mail. Most members were able to access the agenda, some were not able to download it and one member did not recall receiving it. Some discussion followed and it was decided that members would let Mrs. Koch know their preference regarding receiving the agenda.

The Chair spoke to members about the “Day On the Hill” May 7, 2009, and commented that it would be good to have 2 or 3 members attend. Information will be sent to members as it is received. Chair Carroll-Lombardi also reported on the MASC Charting the Course. A workshop will be held in the Berkshires on September 11 & 12, 2009, and members were encouraged to attend. The Chair added that Charting the Course is different from the workshop that is planned for members on April 16, 2009.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi asked Member Welts to speak to the Committee on the GIC. Member Welts spoke briefly about the GIC Subcommittee. Dr. Welts told members the subcommittee had taken a break and will reconvene in April. Members interested in serving on the subcommittee should contact him.

B. Annual Town Meeting Dates (Informational)

Cumington (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, 7:30 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.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi noted that a correction to the time of the Washington town meeting had been made. The correct time is 7:30 p.m.

ARTICLE 9623 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education

a. School Calendar Approval – 2009-10

Member Welts told members the subcommittee had met on March 16, and discussed a number of things: 1) History/Social Science MCAS will not be a requirement in 2012, the state does not feel educators have been trained enough and are pushing the date back at least two years; 2) the 2009 – 10 school calendar and 3) the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Latin students trip to Rhode Island.

MOVED BY MEMBER WELTS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HENDERSON

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee adopts the 2009 – 10 school year calendar, as presented and recommended by the Education Subcommittee.*

A chart showing staff and student absences for March 21, 2008, Good Friday, last year was distributed. Discussion followed on various days of no school including in-service half days for staff. Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz explained the placing of those half-days was crucial to MAP testing and end of marking periods. In response to a question on using a full day for in-service instead of the half-day, Member Goddard said that half-days count as part of the 180 days required and that it would increase the cost for the District in terms of salaries if full days for in-service were added to the calendar. Chair Carroll-Lombardi noted that more detailed discussions take place at subcommittee meetings.

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: Members Chivers, Les and Yates.

Motion carried.

b. Latin Students to Rhode Island, December 6 – 8, 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY MEMBER WELTS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves an overnight field trip for Latin students to Rhode Island from December 6 – 8, 2009, as presented and recommended by the Education Subcommittee.*

Member Welts commented that this was the 25<sup>th</sup> annual trip and Mr. Bradshaw does a wonderful job. This year 100 students and 14 chaperones are planning to attend. Discussion followed on the form submitted showing no cost to the district and the cost of substitutes for teachers. Assistance is available for students unable to afford the cost

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

In response to Member Conner's question regarding a report on RTI, Member Welts answered that a presentation to the Committee would take place at a future meeting.

## 2. Finance

Member Harvey reported that visits to town meetings are going fairly well with only two left. The finance subcommittee will have a meeting before the annual town meetings to work on a presentation.

## 3. Policy

Member Hopper reported the subcommittee had met and discussed further the Use of Facilities policy. The policy includes a section on requesting a waiver of fees and the principal of the building has the authority to grant a waiver. In response to Member Henderson's question on what the fees charged are used for, Business Manager Foster answered to pay for custodial time, maintenance, etc. Member Conner stated he was asking for the record if the vote was unanimous. Member Hopper answered that nothing in the policy had changed and therefore, no vote was necessary. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at Central Office.

## 4. Personnel

Member Goddard reported most of the subcommittee's meeting this evening was held in executive session. The subcommittee discussed the superintendent's evaluation, reviewed various contracts and would be meeting again April 9, 2009.

### B. Others

#### 1. Wahconah Building Committee

##### a. Open House

Member Henderson reported the subcommittee is planning to have the open house sometime in April.

## ARTICLE 9624 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Reports

Superintendent read a letter from Craneville Principal Deborah Bevan. Mrs. Bevan has retracted her retirement letter and the Superintendent has accepted. The Committee applauded Mrs. Bevan's decision to continue as Craneville Principal.

Superintendent Harlan informed the Committee that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has accepted the District's Corrective Action Plan for the Comprehensive Program Review on Special Education and Title I and that no further action is necessary. The Superintendent thanked Mrs. West, Mrs. Dumouchel and Mr. Stankiewicz. Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz added a thank you to Maria Keller and the school principals for their help.

Superintendent Harlan asked Member Conner to speak on the recent Leadership Training and thanked members of the Committee that had participated. Member Conner told the Committee it was a wonderful learning experience. Participants learned much about themselves and others and the lessons learned will help everyone to be great contributors. Member Conner and other participants graduated from the program yesterday, March 25, 2009.

B. Recommendations

None.

C. Other

ARTICLE 9625 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

Catherine Grady, originally appointed social studies teacher at Wahconah on August 30, 2001, has been appointed to the position of guidance counselor at Wahconah, effective April 3, 2009.

Note: All salaries are set in accordance with current contracts.

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LES

*To move Article 9627 New Business and Article 9628 Remarks For the Good of the Committee before Article 9626 Old Business.*

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9627 NEW BUSINESS

None.

ARTICLE 9628 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Chair Carroll-Lombardi stated that the following is informational and that members are always welcome at the schools.

David Kotowski, Becket Washington School	623-8757
Laura Dumouchel, Berkshire Trail Elementary School	634-5327
Deborah Bevan, Craneville School	684-0209
David Kotowski, Kittredge School	655-2525
Gerry Dery, Nessacus Regional Middle School	684-0780
James Conro, Wahconah Regional High School	684-1330

Member Hopper encouraged members to attend the Nessacus play "Music Man" this weekend.

Member Henderson told members that Wahconah's spring production is "Once Upon a Mattress", the band and chorus concert will perform music by Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band and that Craneville students put on a wonderful play last weekend, "Jungle Book".

The Committee returned to Article 9626 Old Business.

ARTICLE 9626 OLD BUSINESS

A. Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Negotiations)

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LES

*To go into executive session at 7:52 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, 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 8:28 p.m.

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LES

*To adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.*

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.