

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee

Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2009

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Kittredge School, Hinsdale, MA, on Thursday, April 9, 2009, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Chivers (7:02), Conner, Farley (7:05), Goddard (7:02), Grallert, Henderson, Hopper, Lacatell, Les, Wagner, Welts, Yates and Carroll-Lombardi.

Absent: Members Darby and Harvey.

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.

ARTICLE 9629 RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Chair Carroll-Lombardi asked that Kittredge students be allowed to perform before responses from the audience were heard.

Kittredge Principal David Kotowski welcomed everyone and introduced Sharri Buxton, music teacher at Kittredge. Mrs. Buxton gave a brief introduction of a musical selection by Konnie Saliba titled *Safari* that grade 4 and 5 students would perform. Students Selena Schilling, Erica Perrea, Shayla Grogan, Austin Cooney, Cory Daniels, Perin Genaway, Lindsay Ellsworth, Alisa May, Ashley Litchfield, Karli Talora, Collette Basiliere, Alexis Petersoli, Isabelle Haugu and Brittany Quinn sang and played various instruments that represented the sounds of the jungle. Chair Carroll-Lombardi thanked Mrs. Buxton and her students and congratulated them on a wonderful performance.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi, in response to an inquiry by C.B.E.A. President Karen O'Brien at a previous meeting, distributed a sheet on School Committee expenditures and reviewed the line items.

No audience members addressed the Committee this evening.

ARTICLE 9630 STUDENT AFFAIRS

A. Wahconah Report

Wahconah senior, Kathryn Reed reported that the spring musical "Once Upon a Mattress" was a great success. The band and choral concert this week was a sell out both nights. Spring sports have begun, the tennis team lost today and the softball team won their first game and was currently playing. Ms. Reed also reported that third marking period has closed at Wahconah and many seniors have received letters of acceptance from colleges. Seniors have only 58 days left.

ARTICLE 9631 SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 26, 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 26, 2009.

Ayes: Eleven members voting.
Nays: None.
Abstention: Member Lacatell.
Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9632 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To approve Warrant No. 2009-40, in the total amount of \$567,586.32

Warrant No. 2009-40, dated April 2, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	\$510,019.81
School Lunch	\$12,610.41
Becket Washington Preschool	\$1,455.15
Berkshire Trail Revolving Account	\$160.00
Craneville Homework Club	\$266.37
Gate Receipts	\$520.00
Federal Funds	\$42,554.58
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$567,586.32

Ayes: Nine members voting.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: Members Hopper, Welts and Yates.
Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To approve Warrant No. 2009-40A, in the total amount of \$3,101.61

Warrant No. 2009-40A, dated April 2, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	\$2,602.46
FICA Expense	\$36.84
DEDUCTIONS	\$462.31
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$3,101.61

Ayes: Nine members voting.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: Members Hopper, Welts and Yates.
Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To approve Warrant No. 2009-41, in the total amount of \$166,346.94

Warrant No. 2009-41, dated April 9, 2009

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expense	\$92,518.63
Federal Funds	\$23,329.52
School Lunch	\$4,269.90
Reimbursable Property Damage	\$146.70
Athletic Independent Gate Receipts	\$2,315.00
WRHS Student Activity Fund	\$6,428.02

NRMS Student Activity Fund	\$2,000.00
Becket Washington Pre-school	\$51.85
WRHS Nordic Skiing Revolving	\$43.33
WRHS Boys' Basketball Revolving	\$1,390.00
WRHS Girls' Basketball Revolving	\$1,435.00
WRHS Hockey Revolving	\$4,950.00
WRHS Renovation	\$22,776.85
WRHS Science Lab	<u>\$4,692.14</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$166,346.94

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

B. Acceptance of Gifts and Contributions

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER HENDERSON

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts a grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation for science and technology equipment, as recommended by the district treasurer.

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

Chair Carroll-Lombardi thanked the generosity of the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation for their donation.

ARTICLE 9633 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair – No report.

B. Annual Town Meeting Dates

The Chair stated the following was informational and welcomed members to attend the meetings.

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, 7:30 p.m.
Hinsdale (fourth Wednesday in May)	May 27, 2009, 7:00 p.m. (changed)
Peru (first Saturday in June)	June 6, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 9634 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education

a. Overnight Trip for Grade 5 Students, June 4 – 5, 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

Member Henderson informed the Committee that Mrs. Deborah Bevan and Mrs. Deborah White presented this trip to the Education Subcommittee. Becket Chimney Corners YMCA is donating the experience to C.B.R.S.D. fifth grade students for the next three years. Mrs. Henderson explained the only expected cost to the district might be for a school nurse to accompany students.

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves an overnight trip for grade 5 students from Becket Washington, Berkshire Trail Elementary, Craneville and Kittredge schools on June 4 – 5, 2009, to participate in a team building and bonding experience at The Berkshire Outdoor Center, Becket, MA, as recommended by the Education Subcommittee.

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: Member Hopper.

Motion carried.

b. Community Partnership Summer Program

MOVED BY MEMBER HENDERSON , SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

Special Services Director Constance West presented a brief overview of a proposed enrichment summer program (Camp Star) that would be coordinated by our Community Partnership for Children (CPC grant). She provided members with a handout that outlined the proposal. Mrs. West explained that the program would offer district students a safe, structured, learning environment during the summer. It would also be a cost effective way to provide mandated summer services for our special needs students entitled to these services based on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) These K-2 students would be tuitioned into Camp Star instead of the district running its own program. This proposed program would be self-sufficient. The tuition collected from those attending will pay for most of the expenses and the CPC Revolving account will pay any additional expenses. In response to a question about CPC monies, Mrs. West stated that the District manages the CPC Revolving account. If, for some reason, the CPC grant for FY10 disappeared, there would be still be enough money in the revolving account to cover any additional expenses for this 2009 summer program.

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the Community Partnership 2009 Summer Program, July 6 through August 21, 2009, as outlined in a proposal from Special Services Director Constance West and as recommended by the Education Subcommittee.

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: Member Hopper.

Motion carried.

Member Henderson gave a report on RTI (Response To Intervention). The program is part of No Child Left Behind mandates and one way that Central Berkshire is addressing the issue is through Measured Academic Progress testing (M.A.P.) Students, using M.A.P. software are tested and teachers receive immediate reports detailing specific areas that a student may be having difficulty. Information from the reports allows teachers to adjust learning for individual students and addresses the needs of any students that might be having difficulty. Mrs. Henderson asked members to look at the example on the handout that was given.

2. Finance

Member Chivers reported a meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2009, 7:00 p.m., at Nessacus to discuss the budget presentation for annual town meetings.

3. Policy

Member Hopper reported the subcommittee had met and will be bringing a policy revision to the Committee at the April 23, 2009, meeting.

4. Personnel

a. Sidebar Agreement

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

WHEREAS, the Central Berkshire Education Association, on April 1, 2009, signed an amendment to the agreement between the Central Berkshire Regional School District and the Central Berkshire Education Association pertaining to Article 5 and Article 8,

THEREFORE, That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the signing of the amendment pertaining to Article 5 and Article 8 between the Central Berkshire Regional School District and the Central Berkshire Education Association, as recommended by the Personnel Subcommittee.

Brief discussion followed and it was decided that the Personnel Subcommittee did not have enough time to review and recommend the sidebar agreement before the meeting.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To table the sidebar agreement to the teacher's contract for further discussion.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Others

1. Wahconah Building Committee

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reported there will be an open house on April 30, 2009, 6:30 p.m. at Wahconah. The subcommittee interviewed 2 candidates for the OPM on Tuesday and the engineering bid is going out.

2. GIC STUDY GROUP

Member Welts reported that the *study group* would be reconvening and the first meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2009, 4:00 p.m. at Central Office. Dr. Welts explained the GIC is a study group comprised of a member from each unit, administrators and school committee members to gather information and report to the full Committee. A discussion followed about the time of the meeting and Dr. Welts invited all those interested to e-mail him. Future meeting times will be discussed.

ARTICLE 9635 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Strategic Plan

Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz with Amy Gelinis, Nessacus science teacher, Terry Williams, Dalton Finance Committee, and John Conner, C.B.R.S.D. School Committee member, gave a presentation of the plan for developing a Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is a 5 – 10 year long-term vision for the District. Members of the school committee were given a handout showing the phases and timeline for implementation over the next year (attached to the official minutes) and asked to review it for discussion at a future meeting. *Dr. Gelinis reviewed the proposed timeline, the phases of developing the Plan and added that the mission and*

vision need to include core values from the communities as a whole. Terry Williams told the Committee that the District needs to be “proactive rather than reactive” and have ideas to show the state. Mr. Stankiewicz told members the Plan can be more aggressive if they chose and that the Plan should include input from the communities, schools, business, etc. *Member Conner complimented the dedication of everyone involved and added that everyone’s job is to nurture the children in the communities, this is a beginning platform and can be expanded upon.*

B. Recommendations

1. Summer Drama-Music Program (STAGES)

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER , SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the proposal for a summer drama-music program (STAGES) to be held at Wahconah Regional High School from July 6 – 17, 2009, as outlined in a memorandum from Pamela Fortlage-Gold, dated March 2009, and recommended by the Superintendent.

Members discussed the program, facility fees, and if the salaries were paid by the district. In response it was stated that, students are charged a fee to attend and expenses are paid using the money collected from that fee. Chair Carroll-Lombardi remarked that if the Committee needs additional information it will be provided.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Other

ARTICLE 9636 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent’s Review of Personnel Changes

The following personnel changed were noted; all salaries are sent in accordance with current contracts.

- Craneville Principal Deborah Bevan has retracted her letter of retirement, effective March 24, 2009.
- Paul Gage, social studies teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, initially appointed August 20, 2001, has resigned effective April 6, 2009.
- Caitlin Harrigan, initially appointed, August 28, 2009, to the position of (.40) social studies teacher at Wahconah, has been appointed to the position of (1.0) social studies teacher at Wahconah, effective April 6, 2009, at step B-1 (pro-rated for remainder of 2008-09).
- Hilary Dynok, paraprofessional at Berkshire Trail Elementary School, initially appointed September 5, 2007, has resigned effective April 13, 2009.
- Deborah White has been appointed Principal of Becket Washington and Kittredge schools effective July 1, 2009. (Currently Mrs. White is a science teacher at Nessacus Regional Middle School.)

MOVED BY MEMBER CONNER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To move Article 9638 New Business and Article 9639 Remarks For the Good of the Committee before Article 9626 Old Business.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9638 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.

A. Overnight Trip to Grand Canyon

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER HENDERSON

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves an overnight trip for grade 7 students from Nessacus Regional Middle School on April 17 – 21, 2010, for an expanded learning experience that ties directly to the grade 7 curriculum frameworks, as recommended by the Education Subcommittee.

Member Henderson told the Committee that Joanne Dowling and Lynn Clairmont came to the Education Subcommittee and gave a presentation on the trip. Mrs Dowling, in response to questions, told the Committee that there will be at least one chaperone for every ten students attending. Students need to make a \$99 down payment and have until next year to pay the remaining cost. Discussion followed about details of the trip, financing for the trip, assistance for students that can't afford the cost and possible ways students can raise funds.

Ayes: Ten members voting.

Nays: Members Chivers and Conner.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9639 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 attended the Nessacus performance of "Music Man" last weekend and told members students did an outstanding job. His daughter has caught the "drama bug" and is looking forward to performing again.

Member Les talked about the science fair at Nessacus tomorrow, April 10. Judging will take place in the morning and the fair is open to the public from 6:00p.m. until 7:00p.m.

Member Les told members he has released version one of the District website to Chair Carroll-Lombardi, Superintendent Harlan and other administrators for their comments. It is crucial to make changes to this phase before continuing on. Chair Carroll-Lombardi shared that the site is easy to navigate and looks wonderful.

Member Farley attended Wahconah band and chorus' tribute to "Sgt. Pepper's" and said as always, Mrs. Desautelle, Mr. Rabuse and students put on an outstanding performance. Mr. Farley added that while he was there he visited the newly renovated science area and congratulated all involved for doing such a wonderful job.

The Committee returned to Article 9637 Old Business.

ARTICLE 9637 OLD BUSINESS

A. Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Negotiations)

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LES

To go into executive session at 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, Farley, Goddard, Grallert, 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 8:53 p.m.

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.