

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee

Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2009

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Craneville School, Dalton, MA, on Thursday, April 23, 2009, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Conner, Farley, Goddard, Henderson, Hopper, Lacatell, Wagner, Welts, Yates and Carroll-Lombardi.

Absent: Members Chivers, Darby, Grallert, Harvey and Les.

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 9640 RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no audience responses.

ARTICLE 9641 STUDENT AFFAIRS

A. Wahconah Report

No student was present to report.

ARTICLE 9642 SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 9, 2009

There was discussion regarding three items in the April 9, 2009, minutes. The first item was about The Community Partnership Summer Program, members were given a copy of an expanded account of the proposal and no further correction needs to be made. The second item was in reference to GIC as a subcommittee; that will be changed to GIC study group and the third item, minutes regarding the Strategic Plan will be rewritten. Chair Carroll-Lombardi commented for new members not familiar with minutes that meeting minutes are usually kept brief and do not necessarily record the discussion in detail. The April 9, 2009 minutes will be brought to the April 23, 2009, for approval.

ARTICLE 9643 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve Warrant No. 2009-42, in the total amount of \$563,617.36

Warrant No. 2009-42, dated April 16, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	\$504,599.12
School Lunch	\$14,495.45
Becket Washington Preschool	\$1,455.15
Berkshire Trail Revolving Account	\$140.00
Federal Funds	<u>\$42,927.64</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$563,617.36

Ayes: Seven members voting.
 Nays: None.
 Abstention: Members Hopper and Welts.
 Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve Warrant No. 2009-43, in the total amount of \$695,556.03

Warrant No. 2009-43, dated April 23, 2009

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
OPERATING EXPENSE

Accounts Payable	\$221,291.67	
Insurance Payment	<u>\$330,709.90</u>	
		\$552,001.57
Transfers		\$72,365.38
Federal Funds		\$4,222.79
School Lunch		\$31,834.83
WRHS Student Activity Fund		\$2,099.18
NRMS Student Activity Fund		\$6,880.00
WRHS Softball Revolving		\$227.25
WRHS Baseball Revolving		\$337.75
Exxon Mobil Ed Alliance		\$50.48
WRHS Renovation		\$25,536.80
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$695,556.03

Ayes: Nine members voting.
 Nays: None.
 Abstention: None.
 Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9644 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reminded members about the Superintendent’s evaluation (due at the May 14 meeting) that was e-mailed to them. Members unable to access the document were asked to let Diane Koch know and a hard copy will be sent via USPS.

The Chair read a letter from Dalton Community Cable informing the Committee they will no longer be videotaping school committee meetings. Discussion followed about the possibility of arranging to have students from the Nessacus video club film the meetings. Members were asked to think about this idea as well as others for discussion at the next meeting.

B. Annual Town Meeting Dates

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

ARTICLE 9645 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education

The next meeting will be May 7, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at Central Office.

2. Finance

There was no report from the subcommittee.

Business Manager Foster shared good news with the Committee, Moody's bond ratings upgraded the District's rating from Baa2 to Baa1 as a result of a survey questionnaire, the audit report and the District's budget process. This upgrade would have a positive effect should the District refinance or apply for new bonds.

There was discussion about the House budget concerning Chapter 70 aid, transportation aid (possible \$485,000 reduction) and stimulus money. The Chair commented that the Finance Subcommittee will have a more detailed report at the May 14th meeting, but Representative Denis Guyer has filed for an amendment. Superintendent Harlan told members the House hasn't begun debating the budget yet and reviewed the state's budget process for the Committee. More discussion followed about monies for FY-09 and Business Manager Foster told members the Finance Subcommittee was informed the administration has decided to keep the budget freeze in place and is watching finances closely. Third quarter revenue has been received, but fourth quarter as well as transportation will not be distributed until June and there is a possibility the state will reduce the amount of revenue expected. Further discussion took place on school choice revenues (\$5000/per student) and how the money is brought into the budget and used. Chair Carroll-Lombardi asked members to return to tonight's business, stating the current discussion should take place in a finance subcommittee meeting.

3. Policy

Member Hopper reported the meeting scheduled for May 5, 2009, has been cancelled and no new date has been set. Member Hopper explained the policy revision on the agenda tonight will require a long-term substitute to have a current Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education licensure, which is more inline with state mandates.

a. First Reading Policy Revision – 3485: Long Term Temporary Substitutes

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER WELTS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the first reading revisions to Policy 3485: Long Term Temporary Substitutes, as shown (in the agenda packet) and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.

Ayes: Eight members voting.
Nays: None.
Abstention: Member Hopper.
Motion carried.

4. Personnel

a. Sidebar Agreement

Member Goddard told members the personnel subcommittee had met tonight and reviewed the sidebar agreement on the agenda for approval.

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, it was

MOVED BY MEMBER GODDARD, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

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.

Ayes: Six members voting.
Nays: Member Conner.
Abstention: Members Hopper and Welts.
Motion carried.

B. Others

1. Wahconah Building Committee

Member Henderson reminded members about the Wahconah Science Lab Open House, April 30th at 6:30 p.m.

Superintendent Harlan stated for the record that Mrs. Henderson had worked many hours coordinating the different facets of the science lab renovation as well as organizing the plaque recognizing the generosity of donors. Mrs. Billie Henderson and Mr. Shawn Therrien as well as others involved received applause for their dedication and commitment to improving the learning environment for students.

Business Manager Foster added that an Owner's Project Manager was chosen and negotiations have started, bids are being sought for new lockers and for refinishing the gym floor. In response to a question regarding the salary for the OPM, it was said that the position would not exceed \$50,000.

2. GIC Study Group

Member Welts reported the study group will meet April 29, 2009, 4:00 p.m. at Central Office. The study group will be reviewing and discussing the plan and will bring their findings to the finance subcommittee before bringing it to the full committee.

ARTICLE 9646 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

B. Recommendations

1. School Choice Openings

Superintendent Harlan gave members a revised school choice opening sheet (filed with the official minutes) and reviewed the enrollment numbers. Dr. Harlan reminded members that it was only a projection and enrollment changes over the summer months. Discussion followed on the meaning of principal's discretion, how many school choice students are currently enrolled, how many students choice out of the district and the amount received for school choice tuition. In response to questions, it was reported that an informal study on choice was done about one year ago and a more formal study was done in 2004. Dr. Harlan told members she would forward a document to them showing grade level, town of residence and to which schools students that choice out of the district attend.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the school choice openings for the 2009 -10 school year as shown on the projection and recommended by the Superintendent.

Ayes: Nine members voting.
Nays: None.
Abstention: None.
Motion carried unanimously.

C. Other

Nothing to report.

ARTICLE 9647 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

There were no personal changes to report.

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

ARTICLE 9648 OLD BUSINESS

A. Ratification of Assistant Principals' Contract

- Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Negotiations)

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

To go into executive session at 7:42 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 Conner, Farley, Goddard, Henderson, Hopper, Lacatell, Wagner, Welts, Yates and Carroll-Lombardi.
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee came out of executive session at 8:00 p.m.

WHEREAS, the Central Berkshire Educational Administrators' Association, on April 17, 2009, ratified the Memorandum of Agreement between that unit and the Central Berkshire Regional School District, covering successor contracts for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, and the period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2011, it was

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER HENDERSON

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee ratifies the Memorandum of Agreement between the Central Berkshire Educational Administrators' Association and the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee covering successor contracts for the period July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, and the period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2011, as recommended by the Committee's bargaining team.

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: Member Welts.

Motion carried.

Member Hopper asked if the information on the STAGES program discussed at the last meeting had been gathered. Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz reported that STAGES was started in 1993 to be used as a feeder program for the high school drama program. Mr. Stankiewicz and Mrs. Fortlage-Gold founded the program and there was an understanding that no cost would be charged and a revolving account was established. The program brings school choice students into the district to participate in the high school drama program.

Business Manager Foster gave a brief account of the programs finances for the last three years. Discussion followed and Dr. Harlan added that STAGES is a prototype of what she would like to see at the other schools, especially the elementary to bring more students into the district.

The Chair stated the Committee would return to Old Business after Article 9650 Remarks for the Good of the Committee for a second executive session.

ARTICLE 9649 NEW BUSINESS

Member Conner asked about a discussion with MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher that took place at the April 16th workshop. Chair Carroll-Lombardi answered that she and Superintendent Harlan spoke with Mr. Koocher about the possibility of consolidating subcommittees, but that Mr. Koocher advised against it.

More discussion took place about a study on school choice students both sending and receiving and having principals do some research on the matter rather than the education subcommittee.

Discussion about developing a subcommittee to coordinate media releases took place after discussion about the recent Nessacus Science Fair and whether the media had reported on it. Superintendent Harlan told members a media subcommittee had been discussed and had gone no further. Members Conner, Henderson and Welts will set a time to meet and discuss the matter further.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

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

Ayes: Nine members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

To approve Warrant No. 2009-42D, in the total amount of \$104,106.74

Warrant No. 2009-42D, dated April 16, 2009

DEDUCTIONS

Operating Expense	\$97,572.22
FICA Expense	\$6,588.52
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$104,160.74

Ayes: Seven members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9650 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no remarks tonight.

ARTICLE 9648 OLD BUSINESS

The committee returned to Article 9648 Old Business.

- Executive Session

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To go into executive session at 8:21 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, 23B, "to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining...."

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Conner, Farley, Goddard, Henderson, Hopper, Lacatell, Wagner, Welts, Yates and Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: None

Abstentions: 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 8:51 p.m.

MOVED BY MEMBER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY MEMBER GODDARD

To adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Ayes: Nine members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.