

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee

Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2009

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Becket Washington School, Becket, MA, on Thursday, May 14, 2009, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Members Chivers, Darby, Goddard.

Also Present: Superintendent Donna Harlan, Assistant Superintendent James Stankiewicz, CBEA Executive Secretary Joanne Dowling, Recording Secretary Cheryl Cachat, and Members of the Audience.

ARTICLE 9651           RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

C.B.E.A. Executive Secretary Joanne Dowling read a letter on behalf of the C.B.E.A. stating that it is the belief of the organization that the retiree health insurance co-pay rates are a mandatory bargaining item. She asked that the school committee contact the union to set a bargaining date. A copy of this letter was presented to Chair Carroll-Lombardi

Becket Washington Principal David Kotowski welcomed everyone and introduced third grade teacher Mary Kay McCloskey and fourth grade teacher Patricia Robie at Becket Washington School. They spoke of the ASRP (Atlantic Salmon Rearing Program) at the school. An overview of the program and the interaction with the curriculum was enthusiastically described by them. It was also noted that this is a federally funded program and the interaction of local agencies to this program.

Kerry Ryan, Physical Education and Personal Wellness supervisor spoke of the award thru MAHPERD (Massachusetts Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance) which has partnered with Nike to award grants for equipment. The Central Berkshire Regional School District has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$3000.

ARTICLE 9652           STUDENT AFFAIRS

A.                   Wahconah Report

No student was present to report.

ARTICLE 9653           SECRETARY'S REPORT

A.                   Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 9, 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 9, 2009.*

Ayes: twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 23, 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 23, 2009.*

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: Member Grallert.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9653 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-44, in the total amount of \$522,119.57*

Warrant No. 2009-44, dated April 30, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	\$480,698.70
School Lunch	\$8,573.32
Becket Washington Preschool	\$1,957.35
Berkshire Trail Revolving Account	\$91.90
Craneville Homework Club	\$133.19
Federal Funds	<u>\$30,665.11</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$522,119.57

Ayes: Nine members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: Members Hopper, Welts, and Yates.

Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-44D, in the total amount of \$257,315.09*

Warrant No. 2009-44D, dated April 30, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	\$250,979.44
FICA Expense	<u>\$6,335.65</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$257,315.09

Ayes: Nine members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: Members Hopper, Welts, and Yates.

Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-45, in the total amount of \$538,747.44*

Warrant No. 2009-44 dated May 14, 2009

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

OPERATING EXPENSE

Accounts Payable	\$408,806.01	
Insurance Payment	\$932.63	
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		\$409,738.64
Transfers		\$161.83
Federal Funds		\$22,441.62
Circuit Breaker		\$18,522.63
School Lunch		\$7,842.87
Athletic Independent gate		\$100.00
WRHS Student Activity Fund		\$3,581.12
NRMS Student Activity Fund		\$66,374.54
WRHS Student Fees Revolving		\$438.00
Use of Facilities		\$35.00
Becket Washington Pre-school		\$51.85
WRHS Cross Country Revolving		\$260.41
WRHS Nordic Skiing Revolving		\$296.14
WRHS Softball Revolving		\$1466.00
WRHS Baseball Revolving		\$1230.00
WRHS Boys Track Revolving		\$750.00
WRHS Girls Track Revolving		\$627.04
CBRS D Gift		\$432.00
WRHS Renovation		\$800.00
Becket Washington Capital		\$410.83
Berkshire Trail Capital		\$53.59
Craneville FY08 Repairs		\$13.80
Nessacus Capital		\$1,860.82
Wahconah Capital		\$21.01
Berkshire Trail Capital		\$31.52
Short Term Bond		\$16.60
Kittredge Capital		\$91.83
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$538,747.44

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-46, in the total amount of \$555,331.78*

Warrant No. 2009-46, dated May 14, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	\$501,010.39
School Lunch	\$11,973.28
Becket Washington Preschool	\$2,208.45
Berkshire Trail Revolving Account	\$158.89
Craneville Homework Club	\$266.37
Federal Funds	<u>\$39,714.40</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$555,331.78

Ayes: Ten members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: Members Hopper and Welts

Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-46D, in the total amount of \$103,178.52*

Warrant No. 2009-46D, dated May 14, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	\$96,690.32
FICA Expense	<u>\$6,488.20</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$103,178.52

Ayes: Ten members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9655      COMMUNICATIONS

A.              Report of the Chair

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reminded members of the letter from Dalton Community Cable informing the Committee they will no longer be videotaping school committee meetings. Discussion followed about strategy to continue the taping of the meetings including; checking the cable contract for required community service, students from the high school or offering a stipend to record the meetings. The findings will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The chair discussed an informational message from MASC regarding Section 101 voting which will allow consolidation of city/town services with school services without the prior approval of the school committee. Although this does not impact a regional district it was requested that legislators be contacted in opposition. A motion was made to make contact as a school board and not on an individual basis.

MOVED BY MEMBER CONNOR, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

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

Nays: None.

Abstention: Member Lacatell

Motion carried.

B. Annual Town Meeting Dates

The chair announced that the budget had been approved in five of the member towns and thanked everyone for their hard work. A reminder was made of the remaining annual town meetings.

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 9656 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education

Member Welts reported that at the last meeting Connie West gave an update on the Positive Options program for at risk high school students. This program is in its second year and servicing a need. The accomplishments of the program were noted and applauded.

At the same meeting the committee reviewed the NCLB report card which shows the district doing well with the majority of sections scores above the state levels.

2. Finance

- Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Bargaining or Litigation)

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To go into executive session at 7:51 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, Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Lacatell, Les, Wagner, Welts, Yates and Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carried unanimously.

The committee came out of executive session at 8:35 p.m.

a. Health Insurance Contribution Rates for Retirees

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER HARVEY

WHEREAS, that effective July 1, 2009, the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee sets the following health insurance contributions rates for retiree who retired January 1, 1994, or later PPO Plan 25%, POS Plan 25%, HMO Plan 20%, PPO Value Plus Plan 25%, POS Value Plus Plan, HMO Value Plus Plan 15%, Medex 15%.

Ayes: Members Conner, Harvey, Henderson, Lacatell, Les, and Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: Members Grallert, Wagner, Yates

Abstentions: Members Farley, Hopper, Welts  
Motion Carried.

b. Approval of Budget Transfers, FY-2009

MOVED BY MEMBER HARVEY, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

WHEREAS, the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee authorizes the budgetary transfers for fiscal year 2009, effective May 6, 2009, as amended.

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Adoption of M.G.L. c32B, Section 19

- Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Bargaining or Litigation)

MOVED BY MEMBER HARVEY, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To go into executive session at 8:55 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, Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Lacatell, Les, Wagner, Welts, Yates and Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion carried unanimously.

The committee came out of executive session at 9:04 p.m.

MOVED BY MEMBER HARVEY, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

WHEREAS, the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts M.G.L. c. 32B, Section 19 (as amended) for the purpose of transferring all subscribers for whom the District provides health insurance to the Group Insurance Commission pursuant to M.G.L. c.32B, Section 19(e)

And further, to authorize the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee to: notice forthwith the initial meeting of a Public Employee Committee for the purposes of M.G.L. c.32B, section 19(e); bargain with such Public Employee Committee for the purposes of M.G.L. c.32B, section 19(e); enter into an agreement with such Public Employee Committee for the purposes of M.G.L. c.32B, section 19(e); and take all such other steps as are reasonably related to the transfer of all subscribers to the Group Insurance Commission.

Ayes: Members Conner, Grallert, Harvey, Lacatell, Les, Wagner, Yates and Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: Member Henderson

Abstentions: Members Farley, Hopper, Welts

Motion Carried.

Member Harvey informs committee that the warrants will be available at the central office on Monday for members to review and sign.

3. Policy

Member Hopper reported that a meeting was held this week at which time a review of the School Improvement Plans (SIP) and of the school handbooks are underway. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18.

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

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

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

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention:

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Personnel

Member Les reminded all members that their Superintendent evaluation was due tonight. The evaluation was sent via email to all members of the committee and could be returned via email, but the last page with their signature was required in hard copy.

B. Others

1. Wahconah Building Committee

Member Henderson stated that rate negotiations for an Owner's Project Manager were underway. The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

2. GIC Study Group

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

WHEREAS, the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee disbands the GIC Study Group, effective on this date, and further that the Committee extends to the members of the GIC Study Group its sincere appreciation for their work.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention:

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Communication Task Force

Member Grallert reported that the first meeting of this committee was held tonight. The group reviewed the DIP (District Improvement Plan) and drew up an outline of their goals. The focus of the next meeting will be to set a timeline of the goals of the committee which will interact with the Strategic Plan of the district.

4. Regional Agreement Study Group

Member Lacatell reported that the group met on April 28<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting the operating rules of the committee were adopted along with Jim Drawe of Cummington was being elected chairperson. The discussion of the meeting included the DIP (District Improvement Plan), school names, transportation, and capital assessments among other items. The next meeting is scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>.

ARTICLE 9657 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

Dr. Harlan read a letter to the school committee announcing her planned retirement as of August 31<sup>st</sup>. In this statement she reviewed her many accomplishments during her tenure as superintendent for the district. She also thanked the committee, administrators, and all employees of the district for their support.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi thanked Dr Harlan and commented that she would be missed by the district and referred to her prior reputation as a bridge builder and stated how true a statement that had been.

B. Recommendations

No recommendations reported.

C. Other

1. Senior Assembly Wahconah Regional High School June 4, 2009

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reminded all members to RSVP to Diane Koch if they planned on attending as the tickets are in short supply for this event.

2. Senior Dates

May 16, 2009	Prom, 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., Crowne Plaza
May 21, 2009	Last Day of Classes for Seniors
June 2, 2009	Senior Class Trip to Boston, 9:00 a.m.
June 3, 2009	Senior Class Awards Night, 7:00 p.m., Wahconah
June 4, 2009	Senior Assembly, 10:45 a.m., Wahconah (invitation only)
June 7, 2009	Graduation, 1:00 p.m., Wahconah (ticket required)

ARTICLE 9658 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

- Gail Prince has been appointed paraprofessional at Berkshire Trail Elementary School, six hours per day, effective April 14, 2009.
- Peter Bachli, grade 5 teacher at Craneville School, initially appointed on October 7, 1988, has resigned effective June 30, 2009.
- Dianne Garvey, school nurse at Becket Washington School, initially appointed on September 4, 1984, will retire on August 4, 2010.

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

ARTICLE 9659      OLD BUSINESS

A.                    Strategic Plan

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

Discussion occurred the actual presentation as included in the agenda packet and the subject of previous discussion was the Strategic Plan Process, not the plan itself. A motion was made to amend the vote to include the word process.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CONNOR

Whereas, the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accept the CBRSD Strategic Plan Process as presented effective on this date.

Member Farley asked to recognize the retirements as listed earlier of Dianne Garvey and Peter Bachli both long term outstanding employees of the district that will be missed.

B.                    Ratification of Secretaries' MOA

- Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Negotiations)

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To go into executive session at 9:25 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 9:40 p.m.

WHEREAS, the Secretaries' Unit of the Central Berkshire Education Association, on May 14, 2009, ratified the Memorandum of Agreement between that unit and the Central Berkshire Regional School District, covering a successor contract for the period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2011,

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED MEMBER GRALLERT

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee ratifies the Memorandum of Agreement between the Secretaries' Unit of the Central Berkshire Education Association and the Central Berkshire Regional School District covering a successor contract for the period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2011, as recommended by the Committee's bargaining team.

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

Nays: Member Connor

Abstention: Member Welts.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9660          NEW BUSINESS

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER HENDERSON

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

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

A.          Overnight Trip for Girls Track & Field members, June 8-9, 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER WELTS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

Whereas, the Central Berkshire Regional School District approves an overnight field trip for members of the Wahconah Girls Track & Field team on June 8 – 9, 2009, to participate in the MSTCA Hepathlon Championship Meet at Notre Dame Academy in Hingham, MA, as recommended by the Education subcommittee.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 9661          REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Member Grallert spoke of the events taking place at Berkshire Trail Elementary School sponsored by the PTO and of the parental involvement at the school. A 5k walk/run was held on May 9<sup>th</sup> which raised approximately \$500. The next event will be a spruce-up day to be held on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi commented on the formation of the Strategic Planning Committee and it was decided the Policy subcommittee will give input as to the make up of the committee.

Member Henderson informed the committee of the Calliopie Café which will take place at Wahconah on Friday, May 15. This event is held annually as a fundraiser for the drama department.

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER HARVEY

*To adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.