

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 12, 2008

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Berkshire Trail Elementary School, Cummington, MA on Thursday, June 12, 2008, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Bantjes, J. Chivers, L. Chivers, Farley (7:20 p.m.), Gordon, Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Les, Morton, Welts, and Carroll-Lombardi

Absent: Members Goddard and Yates.

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

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

ARTICLE 9463      RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

The Chair welcomed those in the audience.

Berkshire Trail Principal Laura Dumouchel welcomed the Committee and those in the audience. She introduced Brian Gilman who will begin teaching at Berkshire Trail in September.

Long-time teacher Charles Sturtevant addressed the Committee regarding the tentative agreement reached with teachers, stating that the proposed agreement offers nothing to teachers retiring at the end of this school year. He does not feel honored for his 35 years, and he believes that to be the sentiment of the other 20 retirees.

Mrs. Dumouchel presented certificates to students at Berkshire Trail who had been named student of the month and star of the week, who participated in the buddy games, who had won awards for athletic abilities, who were published journalists in the Daily Hampshire Gazette, and who had various musical talents. Dr. Harlan told the students how proud she and the Committee were of them and asked them to recognize their parents or those who had brought them with a round of applause. (Member Farley arrived during the presentations.)

The Committee took a brief recess.

ARTICLE 9464      STUDENT AFFAIRS

A.      Wahconah Report

There was no student present.

ARTICLE 9465      SECRETARY'S REPORT

A.      Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 22, 2008

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

*To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 22, 2008, as printed.*

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Farley and L. Chivers.

Motion carried.

B. Minutes of Special Meeting of May 28, 2008

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

*To approve the minutes of the special meeting of May 28, 2008, as printed.*

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Farley and Welts.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9466 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

*To approve warrant No. 2008-46, in the total amount of \$871,008.91, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2008-46, dated May 29, 2008

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$510,449.79
Becket Preschool Revolving	\$1,053.60
Berkshire Trail Preschool Revolving	\$1,796.23
School Lunch	\$17,730.62
Federal Funds	<u>\$40,236.96</u>
Sub-total	\$571,267.20
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$6,382.51</u>
Total Payroll	\$577,649.71
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$293,359.20</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$871,008.91

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

*To approve Warrant No. 2008-47, in the total amount of \$740,988.70, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2008-47, dated June 12, 2008

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable \$278,330.37

Insurance Payment	<u>\$974.45</u>	
		\$279,304.82
Transfers		\$161.83
Federal Funds		\$28,637.57
Circuit Breaker		\$16,961.12
School Lunch		\$26,196.83
Reimbursable Property Damage		\$152.43
WRHS Student Activity Fund		\$7,896.65
NRMS Student Activity Fund		\$3,800.00
Kittredge Library Revolving Fund		\$378.35
WRHS Cross Country Revolving		\$350.00
WRHS Softball Revolving		\$120.00
WRHS Baseball Revolving		\$199.75
WRHS Tennis Revolving		\$182.25
WRHS Golf Revolving		\$200.00
WRHS Boys' Track Revolving		\$1,582.25
WRHS Girls' Track Revolving		\$964.95
WRHS Hockey Revolving		\$585.00
CBRSD Gift Revolving Fund		\$113.65
Mary E. Poopor Library Memorial Fund		\$80.00
Maturing Debt - Principal Craneville		\$365,000.00
Maturing Debt - Interest Craneville		<u>\$8,121.25</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$740,988.70

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

*To approve Warrant 2008-48, in the total amount of \$739,749.76, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2008-48, dated June 12, 2008

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses		\$538,501.66
Becket Preschool Revolving		\$1,711.43
Berkshire Trail Preschool Revolving		\$1,796.23
Boys' Track Revolving		\$170.00
Girls' Track Revolving		\$890.00
School Lunch		\$16,664.38
Federal Funds		<u>\$35,556.73</u>
Sub-total		\$595,290.43
FICA (Operating)		<u>\$6,649.71</u>
Total Payroll		\$601,940.14
Transfers (Deductions)		<u>\$137,809.62</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS		\$739,749.76

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

B. Acceptance of Gifts and Contributions

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the following gifts and contributions, as recommended by the district treasurer:*

*To the CBRSD General Scholarship Fund*

- \$500.00 from Pat Kirouac, in memory of Mary Ano
- \$500.00 from Thomas & Linda Callahan, in memory of Thomas and Elaine Callahan
- \$600.00 from Kelli M. Zespy Trustee
- \$500.00 from Kenneth Harrison, in memory of Jacqueline Harrison
- \$250.00 from the Class of 1981
- \$2,000.00 from Quail & Associates

*\$1,000.00 to the D. Shepard Scholarship Fund from Patrick and Kelly Cullum*

*\$1,215.00 to the N. Streeter Scholarship Fund from various donors*

*\$250.00 to the David Sullivan Memorial Scholarship Fund from Brian Pickard*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Chair noted these gifts are very much appreciated by the district and its students.

ARTICLE 9467 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reported certificates had been presented to student representatives Tom Bartels, Patrick Nuguyn, and Michael Wilson at Class Night. She will visit the high school in the fall and try to encourage more student participation at school committee meetings. She also stated graduation went well.

Citizens of Peru passed the operating and capital budgets, as well as the Wahconah building project. Mrs. Carroll-Lombardi thanked Laurie Chivers and Allan Gordon for attending, noting Jim Huebner and Jim Chivers of the Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee were also present to answer questions about the building project.

ARTICLE 9468 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education – No report.

2. Finance

A meeting has been set for June 23 at 7:00 p.m., at Nessacus.

3. Policy Review

a. 2008-2009 School Improvement Plans

Member Bantjes reported the subcommittee had met earlier in the evening and will meet next on July 24<sup>th</sup> at Becket Washington School.

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER HENDERSON

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the School Improvement Plans for 2008-2009 for Becket Washington School, Berkshire Trail Elementary School, and Craneville School, as recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Approval of Wahconah Student Handbook Changes

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the revisions to the Wahconah Student Handbook, as recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. First Reading Policy Adoptions

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading adoption of Policy 2130: Non-Unit Compensation Review, as shown (in the agenda packet) and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.*

Mr. Bantjes stated the new policy sets a policy for what has happened for a number of years.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading adoption of Policy 4040: Equal Employment Opportunity, as shown (in the agenda packet) and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.*

Mr. Bantjes reported the wording in this new policy includes the latest requirements by Federal law.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Personnel

The subcommittee will meet on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Central Office.

B. Others

1. Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee

a. Disbanding of the Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee disbands the Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee, effective on this date, and further that the Committee extends to the members of the Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee its sincere appreciation for their work on behalf of district students.*

On behalf of the Committee, Ms. Chivers stated she appreciated the time given and quality of the members, as well as their commitment to the study committee.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi read a statement recognizing the members of the study committee for their efforts and the task they had completed. She noted it had been a pleasure to work with them and presented awards to those who were present.

b. Authorization to Formulate a Wahconah Building Committee

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee formulates a Wahconah Building Committee, in accordance with policy 7570: School Building Committee, as recommended by the Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Carroll-Lombardi read a list of possible members for the newly formed building committee, asking members to call her with any other suggestions by Monday, June 16, 2008.

2. GIC Committee

Member Welts reported the committee had met and reviewed projected costs from the Association and from the district's business office. They will bring their findings to the finance subcommittee on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

ARTICLE 9469 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Fund Raisers Approved

The following fundraisers were reported: Wahconah foods classes, bake sale of Krispy Kreme donuts and Sophomore Class, hypnotist show on June 11, 2008.

B. Recommendations

1. Authorization for Paraprofessional Positions

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HARVEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves two 6-hour/day inclusion paraprofessional positions, one at Nessacus Regional Middle School and one at Wahconah Regional High School, effective the 2008-09 school year, as recommended by the Director of Special Services and the Superintendent.*

The motion was amended as follows:

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HARVEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves three 6-hour/day inclusion paraprofessional positions, one at Craneville School, one at Nessacus Regional Middle School, and one at Wahconah Regional High School, effective the 2008-09 school year, as recommended by the Director of Special Services and the Superintendent. (It was noted these positions will be funded by the operating budget.)*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Special Services Director Connie West explained writing the CPR corrective action plan, noting how proud she was of the special services department for achieving a good to very good report. Those areas, which require corrective action, must be completed within one year. She reviewed the corrections and how they will change the way service is delivered at the high school and middle school and reported that Craneville grade 5 will become inclusive in the next school year. \$101,000 was included in the FY-2009 budget to support inclusion and the three paraprofessionals will provide that support. Mrs. West noted it may not be necessary to hire additional paraprofessionals in that some restructuring may occur that would allow filling the new slots with current employees.

Vote on the amended motion:

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Other

Superintendent Harlan reported.

- Berkshire Trail Elementary School has received continuing NAEYC accreditation under the leadership of Principal Laura Dumouchel and preschool teacher Margaret Kelleher.
- Several updates have been sent to Committee members from MASS, MARS and Representative Guyer.
- The Nessacus team of Nathan Sears, Christian Pickwell, Kyle Miller and Ryan Parker won first place in the Solar Sprint Competition on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Other awards were won as well, all under the coaching of teacher Debbie White.
- The district's technology plan has been approved, with thanks to Rick White and James Stankiewicz.
- The district received a letter from the Dalton Select Board requesting an additional appropriation from the district's E & D account to offset the operating amounts for FY-2009.

- A letter was received from Vivian Mason, commending students and chaperones for a very rewarding trip to Greece.

The Chair stated the request from the Town of Dalton will be referred to finance subcommittee.

ARTICLE 9470      PERSONNEL

A.              Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

The following personnel changes were noted:

- Madelaine Baker has been appointed mathematics teacher at Nessacus Regional Middle School, effective August 28, 2008, at step E-12.
- Steven Faulconer has been appointed mathematics teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, effective August 28, 2008 for one year only, at step B-7.
- Aimee Martel has been appointed grade 3 teacher at Craneville School, effective August 28, 2008, at step A-1.
- Magdalena Pasiut has been appointed grade 3 or 4 teacher at Berkshire Trail Elementary School, effective August 28, 2008, at step A-1.
- Mary Ann Gingras has been appointed kindergarten teacher at Kittredge School, effective August 28, 2008, at step C-7.

Superintendent Harlan announced the official appointment of Constance West to the position of Director of Special Services, effective July 1, 2008. She highlighted Mrs. West's resume and noted at least five grant awards have been received through her efforts. She is highly endorsed by the special needs parent advisory council.

MOVED BY MEMBER J. BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS

*To move Article 9471, Old Business, to follow Remarks for the Good of the Committee.*

Ayes: Twelve members present.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9472      NEW BUSINESS

None.

ARTICLE 9473      REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Member Hopper reported on the Craneville Fun Fair, calling it a great event.

Member Les questioned the nutritional choice of Krispy Kreme donuts in light of the district's recent recognition by the USDA.

Member Farley thanked the Committee for their card and concerns, noting his illness was very sudden.

Member Welts expressed concern over the tattered Kittredge School flag, suggesting it was a bad example for students.

Member Henderson attended Bev Favreau's third grade "Wonder Night", at which all children prepare and present a tailor-made project. The students put on the entire show. Mr. Harvey had also attended and noted it is a wonderful way to instill confidence in students. Both members agreed they hated to see Miss

Favreau go (she is retiring at the end of the current school year). Dr. Harlan reported Miss Favreau will be a full-time volunteer at Craneville next year.

Member Bantjes and his family have hosted a German exchange student this year. The student has discovered there is a lot more opportunity in education in America than just education and believes ours is an amazing school system.

Member Henderson commented on the Central Berkshire Lacross Association and the number of students (28 boys and 20 girls) who participated. It is a tremendous opportunity and a very neat thing.

ARTICLE 9471 OLD BUSINESS

A. Level 3 Grievance – Karen Scholz

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

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

*To go into executive session at 8:25 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining....including the resolution of grievances pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement.”*

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Bantjes, J. Chivers, L. Chivers, Farley, Gordon, Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Les, Morton, Welts, and Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Negotiations)

Before closing the meeting to the public, the Committee took a second roll call vote to remain in executive session to discuss strategy regarding negotiations. Following the second vote, the Chair stated the Committee would return to open session for the purpose of adjournment. Member Bantjes left the meeting at 9:48 p.m. Member Gordon left the meeting at 9:50 p.m. The Committee came out of executive session at 10:12 p.m.

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER WELTS

*To adjourn the meeting at 10:13 p.m.*

Ayes: Ten members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.