

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee

Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 23, 2007

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Wahconah Regional High School, Dalton, MA on Thursday, August 23, 2007, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Bantjes, J. Chivers, L. Chivers, Dextraze, Farley, French, Goddard, Henderson, Hopper, Les, Shugrue, and Carroll-Lombardi.

Absent: Members Gordon, Harvey, and Welts.

Also Present: Superintendent Donna Harlan, Assistant Superintendent James Stankiewicz, Business Manager Robert Tensel, 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 9283 RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Athletic Director Robert Powell reported it was the first day for fall sports; 267 students arrived to practice. The soccer lights project is underway with a lot of work being done by a lot of people, many of whom are students. The school will participate in an “impact program” which will be used to track head injuries and concussions of athletes, beginning with the winter sports season. Only students whose parents have given permission will take part. Chair Carroll-Lombardi thanked Mr. Powell for the update.

ARTICLE 9284 STUDENT AFFAIRS

A. Wahconah Report

Principal James Conro reported all teaching vacancies at the high school are filled and he is looking forward to welcoming a good group of new teachers. He also reported 90 AP tests were given in five subject areas and 72% of students scored a 3, 4, or 5. Twenty-one of twenty-two students scored in that category in the AP English comp exam; all students of teacher Mark Franklin.

ARTICLE 9285 SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 26, 2007

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 26, 2007, as printed.

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9286 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

To approve Warrant No. 2008-05 in the total amount of \$130,424.30, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-05, dated August 9, 2007

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$81,858.70
School Lunch	\$2,075.62
Federal Funds	<u>\$20,373.25</u>
Sub-total	\$104,307.57
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$1,232.77</u>
Total Payroll	\$105,540.34
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$24,883.96</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$130,424.30

Ayes: Ten members.
Nays: None.
Abstention: Member Hopper
Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

To approve Warrant No. 2008-06 in the total amount of \$357,018.32, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-06, dated August 9, 2007 (Previously signed)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$318,842.90
Insurance Payment	<u>\$988.09</u>
	\$319,830.99
Transfers	\$162.47
Federal Funds	\$32,243.56
School Lunch	\$2,537.35
Summer Drama	\$770.44
WRHS Student Fees Revolving	\$281.00
Literacy Learning Class Revolving	\$313.73
Berkshire Taconic Foundation	<u>\$878.78</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$357,018.32

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

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

To approve Warrant No. 2008-07 in the total amount of \$169,194.32, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-07, dated August 23, 2007

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$104,936.07
Summer Drama/STAGES	\$490.65
School Lunch	\$2,075.62
Federal Funds	<u>\$14,228.64</u>
Sub-total	\$121,730.98
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$1,176.10</u>
Total Payroll	\$122,907.08
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$46,287.24</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$169,194.32

Ayes: Ten members.
 Nays: None.
 Abstention: Member Hopper
 Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

To approve Warrant No. 2008-08 in the total amount of \$550,916.74, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-08, dated August 23, 2007

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$127,970.17	
Insurance Payment	<u>\$305,948.72</u>	
		\$433,918.89
Transfers		\$66,875.21
M & E		\$30,739.00
Federal Funds		\$12,490.74
School Lunch		\$6,092.83
Summer Drama		\$111.12
PSAT Revolving Fund		\$588.95
Berkshire Trail Pre-School		\$50.00
Becket Washington Pre-School		<u>\$50.00</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$550,916.74

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

ARTICLE 9287 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

The Chair distributed a letter from Wahconah teacher Charles Bradshaw regarding holding classes on Good Friday. The letter was referred to the Education Subcommittee for consideration. A recent email from MASC on this subject will be forwarded to Member J. Chivers by the Chair.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi distributed the results of the school committee self-evaluation, asking that the members read it prior to discussion on September 13th.

B. District Improvement Plan, 2007-08

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER FRENCH

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee adopts the district improvement plan for 2007-08, as shown in the agenda packet (attached to the official minutes) and recommended by the Superintendent.

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Official Delegate – MASC/MASS Joint Conference

The Chair asked members to take a look at information on the Joint Conference and to think about attending. Member Laurie Chivers indicated her tentative availability for a portion of the three days and agreed to serve as the district's alternate voting delegate.

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That Member L. Chivers represent the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee at the annual MASS/MASC Joint Conference November 14-17, 2007, as its alternate voting delegate.

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9288 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education

Member J. Chivers reported the subcommittee had not met but would set a meeting shortly.

2. Finance

a. Approval of Paraprofessional Positions

Member L. Chivers reported the subcommittee had met prior to the full school committee meeting. The boiler replacement at Craneville School will cost 20% more than the amount approved for the capital bonding project. It is the finance subcommittee's recommendation that \$4,915 be paid from the operating budget with the remainder paid from short-term capital bonding funds. It was noted that only the boiler portion will be replaced and that all towns would contribute to any funding from the operating budget.

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee awards a bid for the replacement of the cast iron portion of the boiler at Craneville School to Cardillo Plumbing and Heating in the total amount of \$28,452, of which \$23,537 will be funded by the Craneville short-term capital bonding project and \$4,915 will be funded by the operating budget, as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee.

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

Ms. Chivers reported the bid on Craneville windows was high and the project will be re-advertised without identifying the balancer, in hopes that the bid will come in within the projected budget. She also announced that auditor John Polumbo is retiring; but will return for the 2007 audit as a member of his former partner's firm, under the name Stanley H. Kulas. Mr. Kulas will take over the audit in future years. The subcommittee also has reviewed end of year transfers with the business manager.

The finance subcommittee was asked to recommend the authorization of several paraprofessional positions. At their meeting they agreed to support up to five positions, three hours or less, based on need and availability.

A six hour position at Craneville School was not discussed. Superintendent Harlan explained the request was made to provide safety for students who arrive as early as 7:00 a.m. at Craneville School and to cover recess and lunch duties.

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

To authorize the addition of up to five paraprofessionals, each three hours or less, based on need and availability, as recommended by the finance subcommittee.

It was noted these positions are needed to accommodate the IEP's of special needs students, mandated by law but not funded by the mandating authority.

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

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

To approve one six hour/day paraprofessional position at Craneville School to provide student safety and MCAS coverage, replacing a 2-hour/day position.

The Committee discussed the need for this position, noting parent responsibility, the liability for a lone adult on the playground with an unaccounted number of children, providing this coverage at Craneville and not the other elementary schools, and what was meant by MCAS coverage.

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

The superintendent was directed to go back to the Craneville principal for another consideration.

Ms. Chivers continued. There is a need to talk with retirees about the district's provision of their health insurance. The subcommittee will invite retirees, by mail, to its meeting on September 10, 2007. The subcommittee will address options brought forward by the Ad Hoc Long Range Planning Restructuring Committee at a subsequent meeting.

3. Policy Review

The Policy Review subcommittee is scheduled to meet on August 30th at the Central Office.

4. Personnel

Member French reported the subcommittee had not met. He distributed the final evaluation of the Superintendent, reviewing the process used to compile the results. Superintendent Harlan thanked those who participated for their input.

B. Others

1. Craneville Short-Term Capital Bonding Committee

The Committee will meet on September 6th at 6:30 p.m. at Craneville School.

2. Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee

Member Henderson reported the committee is working very hard on its presentation for the seven town advisory meeting on August 30th. The Chair asked that they report back to the School Committee in October, prior to the start of the budget cycle. She will invite Chair Jim Huebner by email. Member Farley asked if it were true that funding would not be available for at least ten years; the answer was yes.

ARTICLE 9289 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

None.

B. Recommendations

1. Locations of Upcoming School Committee Meetings

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee sets the following locations for meetings:

<i>September 13, 2007</i>	<i>Becket Washington School</i>
<i>September 27, 2007</i>	<i>Berkshire Trail Elementary School</i>
<i>October 11, 2007</i>	<i>Kittredge School</i>
<i>October 25, 2007</i>	<i>Craneville School</i>
<i>November 8, 2007</i>	<i>Nessacus Regional Middle School</i>
<i>December 13, 2007</i>	<i>Wahconah Regional High School</i>

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Authorization for Special Services Department Head, WRHS

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee authorizes the extra-duty position of special services department head at Wahconah Regional High School, effective the 2007-08 school year, as recommended by the superintendent.

Members were reminded that this position was recommended by the NEAS&C team. It is a small department and will bring a smaller stipend than most department heads at Wahconah. Funding will come from the special education budget.

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Other

ARTICLE 9290 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

The following personnel changes were noted. All salaries are set in accordance with current contracts.

- Susanne Petrucci, family and consumer science teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, initially appointed August 30, 2004, has resigned effective August 30, 2007.
- Judith Ross, special education teacher at Becket Washington School, initially appointed September 7, 1988, has retired effective June 30, 2007.
- Christine Almedia, 2 hour/day paraprofessional at Craneville School, initially appointed October 6, 2003, has resigned effective August 7, 2007.
- Laurie Blore, school nurse at Becket Washington School, initially appointed September 7, 1994, will retire on October 5, 2007.
- Mary Robison has been appointed math teacher (one-year only) at Wahconah Regional High School, effective August 30, 2007, at step E-1.
- Tracy Harrison has been appointed Spanish teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, effective August 30, 2007, at step A-10.
- Karen Fisher has been appointed family and consumer science teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, effective August 30, 2007, at step B-6.
- April LeSage has been appointed earth science teacher (one-year only) at Wahconah Regional High School, effective August 30, 2007, at step A-2.
- Sarah Valentine has been appointed district-wide school psychologist, effective August 30, 2007, at step B-1.
- Mayra Weiskotten has been appointed Spanish teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, effective August 30, 2007, at step B-1.
- Sarah Thomas has been appointed .9 elementary art teacher (Craneville and Berkshire Trail Elementary Schools), effective August 30, 2007, at step B-1 (prorated at 90%).
- Jennifer Annand has been appointed .5 elementary art teacher (Becket Washington and Kittredge Schools), effective August 30, 2007, at step B-10 (prorated at 50%).

ARTICLE 9291 OLD BUSINESS – None.

ARTICLE 9292 NEW BUSINESS – None.

ARTICLE 9293 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Member Dextraze announced her resignation from the Committee, due to her work schedule, noting she hoped someone would come forward to replace her. The Chair stated Holly has been an excellent member – very dedicated and always in attendance at meetings and subcommittee meetings. She presented Mrs. Dextraze with a certificate and a bouquet of flowers. Member Les noted he had left and returned, suggesting that perhaps Mrs. Dextraze would be able to come back at a future time.

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

To adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.