

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2008

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Wahconah Regional High School, Dalton, MA, on Thursday, November 13, 2008, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Member Yates

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.

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

ARTICLE 9551 REORGANIZATION

- Results of School Committee Election & Swearing in of Elected and Re-elected Members

Superintendent Harlan reported all newly elected members in attendance had been sworn in. Mr. Yates has not been sworn in.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi passed the gavel to Member Welts.

- Nominations for Chair of School Committee, November 2008 – November 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER LES

*To nominate Susan Carroll-Lombardi as Chair of the Central Berkshire Regional School District School Committee November 2008 – November 2009.*

MOVED BY MEMBER DARBY, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

*To nominate Billie Henderson as Chair of the Central Berkshire Regional School District School Committee November 2008 – November 2009.*

No further nominations were made.

Members Conner, Darby, Farley and Wagner voted for Mrs. Henderson.  
Members Chivers, Goddard, Grallert, Harvey, Hopper, Les and Welts voted for Mrs. Carroll-Lombardi.  
Members Carroll-Lombardi, Henderson and Lacatell abstained.

Mrs. Carroll-Lombardi assumed the Chair, thanked members and stated she would continue to do her best to ensure students receive the highest quality of education.

- Nominations for Vice Chair of School Committee, November 2008 – November 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER GODDARD

*To nominate John Les as Vice Chair of the Central Berkshire Regional School District School Committee November 2008 – November 2009.*

MOVED BY MEMBER FARLEY, SECONDED BY MEMBER DARBY

*To nominate Billie Henderson as Vice Chair of the Central Berkshire Regional School District School Committee November 2008 – November 2009.*

There were no further nominations.

Members Conner, Darby, Farley, Lacatell and Wagner voted for Mrs. Henderson.  
Members Carroll-Lombardi, Chivers, Goddard, Grallert, Harvey, Hopper and Welts voted for Mr. Les.  
Members Henderson and Les abstained.

Mr. Les thanked committee members.

- Appointment of District Secretary

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

*That Donna L. Harlan be appointed District Secretary through November 2009.*

Ayes: Thirteen members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

- Appointment of District Treasurer

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

*That Michael Kinne be appointed District Treasurer through November 2009.*

Ayes: Thirteen members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

- Appointment of Assistant Treasurer

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

*That Susan Carroll-Lombardi be appointed Assistant Treasurer effective November 13, 2008 through November 2009.*

Ayes: Thirteen members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

- Appointment of Legal Counsels for the School District

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

*That Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & LeHane, LLP and Fletcher, Tilton and Whipple be appointed legal counsel for the School District from December 1, 2008 to November 30, 2009.*

*And that Fletcher, Tilton and Whipple be retained by the School District until the conclusion of negotiations.*

Ayes: Eleven members.  
Nays: Members Darby and Farley.  
Abstentions: None.  
Motion carried.

In response to a question from Member Lacatell, Chair Carroll-Lombardi explained that negotiations had begun with an attorney from Murphy, Hesse, Toomey and Lehane who moved to the firm of Fletcher, Tilton and Whipple and the Committee felt it was in their best interest to continue with his new firm until negotiations are complete.

- Appointment of Physician for the School District

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

*That Dr. Alan G. Kulberg be appointed physician for the Central Berkshire Regional School District from December 1, 2008 to November 30, 2009.*

Ayes: Twelve members.  
Nays: None.  
Abstentions: Member Lacatell.  
Motion carried.

- Subcommittee Charters

The Chair handed members a list of subcommittees and their responsibilities and asked that preferences be returned by November 20, 2008. Members may call her with questions.

New members introduced themselves: Richard Wagner, Windsor; John Conner, Hinsdale; Carol Darby, Peru and Richard Lacatell, Dalton.

## ARTICLE 9552      RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Bill Chabot, Dalton Select Board congratulated new members. He informed the Committee that Dalton has sent a letter to Governor Patrick asking for his help in correcting the discrepancy on the Wahconah bond vote. He did not have the letter with him, but will send a copy. Mr. Chabot also wanted the Committee to know that Dalton has selected him to sit on the Regional Agreement Committee and asked the Committee to let him know if there was anything he needed to do. The Chair responded by telling him they would be sending out information.

## ARTICLE 9553      STUDENT AFFAIRS

### A.      Wahconah Report

Kathryn Reed reported that Parent/Teacher Conferences are being held Monday evening and Thursday afternoon. The Academic Decathlon team will be going to the Western Mass competition. The annual Turkeyfest will be Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. This weekend the Apollonian Players' are presenting "Up the Down Staircase". She congratulated Wahconah girls' soccer and told the Committee they will be going to

the finals in Palmer on Sunday. She also informed the Committee that the new furniture was in place and invited them to walk around the building.

ARTICLE 9554 SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 23, 2008

MOVED BY MEMBER FARLEY, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 23, 2008.*

Ayes: Thirteen members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9555 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve warrant No. 2009-20, in the total amount of \$684,213.99, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-20, dated November 13, 2008

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expense	\$438,089.68
State Other Revenue - Medicaid	\$2,889.67
Federal Funds	\$42,084.52
School Lunch	\$37,747.63
Circuit Breaker	\$23,060.52
Athletic Independent Gate	\$4,573.75
WRHS Student Activity Fund	\$20,195.19
WRHS Student Fees Revolving	\$1,118.00
Literacy Learning Classroom	\$159.50
Berkshire Trail Pre-school	\$368.54
Becket Washington Pre-school	\$51.85
Use of School Facilities	\$247.50
WRHS Boys' Soccer Revolving	\$1,293.25
WRHS Girls' Soccer Revolving	\$1,616.00
WRHS Football Revolving	\$1,475.65
WRHS Cross Country Revolving	\$640.00
WRHS Cheerleading Revolving	\$255.00
WRHS Volleyball Revolving	\$1,059.50
WRHS Renovation	\$98,785.60
WRHS Science Lab	\$5,796.64
PSAT Training	\$1,511.00
WRHS Golf Revolving	<u>\$1,195.00</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$684,213.99

Ayes: Thirteen members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.  
Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve warrant No. 2009-21, in the total amount of \$735,132.67, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-21, dated November 13, 2008

PAYROLL

<u>Operating Expense</u>	\$529,080.21
Federal Funds	\$43,553.55
Becket Revolving Account	\$1,455.15
WRHS Girls' Soccer Revolving	\$62.00
WRHS Boys Soccer Revolving	\$51.00
School Lunch	<u>\$18,310.61</u>
Subtotal	\$592,512.52
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$6,920.05</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$599,432.57
Transfers & Deductions	<u>\$135,700.10</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$735,132.67

Ayes: Twelve members.  
Nays: None.  
Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts.  
Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve warrant No. 2009-19, in the total amount of \$860,571.60, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-19, dated October 30, 2008

PAYROLL

<u>Operating Expense</u>	\$499,532.68
Federal Funds	\$38,413.54
Becket Revolving Account	\$1,455.15
School Lunch	<u>\$17,185.04</u>
Subtotal	\$556,586.41
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$6,592.27</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$563,178.68
Transfers & Deductions	<u>\$297,392.93</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$860,571.61

Ayes: Twelve members.  
Nays: None.  
Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts.  
Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9556      COMMUNICATIONS

A.           Report of the Chair

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reported to the committee that she has been in contact with Representative Guyer regarding the scheduling of meetings with him and is waiting to hear back from him.

The District Improvement Plan calls for two committees to be established: 1) Communications Task Force and 2) Regional Agreement Review Committee. The Chair asked those interested in sitting on either of these committees to let her know. Technology Coordinator Rick White and Member Les will participate in the first committee. Members Henderson and Grallert will participate in the second, as well as representatives from all seven towns.

B. Alternate Delegate – MASC/MASS Joint Conference

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER LES

*That the following member represent the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee at the annual MASS/MASC Joint Conference November 19-22, 2008:*

*Alternate Voting Delegate: Richard Lacatell*

Ayes: Thirteen members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9557 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education

Member Chivers reported that the committee had met and discussed MCAS results. Committee members were given a handout of the 2008 MCAS Report. He reported that Central Berkshire students did fairly well on the test and that both Nessacus and Craneville were listed as needing improvement in math. Discussion followed on what steps administration is taking to improve performance. Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz responded by telling members that the principals are aware of weak areas and are working to strengthen those areas. Individual students that are identified will be placed on Individual Student Success Plans and monitored. Mr. Chivers added that because the district started with a high success rate it will be increasingly difficult each year to reach the perfection the state is looking for. He added that the Education Subcommittee went over the report and has asked principals for their assessment. The next meeting will be December 4, 2008.

2. Finance

A short meeting will be set after November 20, 2008.

3. Policy Review

Member Chivers reported the subcommittee had met before the School Committee meeting. The review of the Use of Building fees will be turned over to the new subcommittee.

4. Personnel

Member Les reported the subcommittee had not met, but an update on negotiations would be given to members in Executive Session.

B. Others

1. Wahconah Building Committee

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reported the Wahconah Building Committee has not met.

2. Health Advisory Committee

a. Presentation by Nurse Leader Barbara Westwood  
Nurse Leader Barbara Westwood will present at a later meeting.

ARTICLE 9558 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Announcement of Sexual Harassment Investigators

Assistant Superintendent James Stankiewicz and Berkshire Trail Elementary School Principal Laura Dumouchel will serve as sexual harassment investigators for the district. The name and contact information for the sexual harassment investigators follows:

James Stankiewicz  
254 Hinsdale Road  
Dalton, MA 01226  
Tel: (413) 684-0320 X103  
Email: [jstankiewicz@cbrsd.org](mailto:jstankiewicz@cbrsd.org)

Laura Dumouchel  
Berkshire Trail Elementary School  
2 Main Street, Cummington, MA 01026  
Tel: (413) 634-5327  
Email: [ldumouchel@cbrsd.org](mailto:ldumouchel@cbrsd.org)

2. Announcement of Homeless/Unaccompanied Youth Education Liaison

Assistant Superintendent James Stankiewicz will serve as homeless/unaccompanied youth liaison for the district. The name and contact information for the liaison is as follows:

James Stankiewicz  
254 Hinsdale Road  
Dalton, MA 01226  
Tel: (413) 684-0320 X103  
Email: [jstankiewicz@cbrsd.org](mailto:jstankiewicz@cbrsd.org)

B. Recommendations

Superintendent Harlan announced that the District has 38 Adams Scholars and that their tuition would be paid up to 8 consecutive semesters should they choose to pursue public colleges or universities.

C. Other

ARTICLE 9559 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent’s Review of Personnel Changes

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

- Andrew Liebenow, paraprofessional at Nessacus Regional Middle School, initially appointed August 30, 2008, resigned effective October 16, 2008.
- Amie Southard has been appointed assistant cafeteria cook at Becket Washington School, approximately 2.5 hours/day, effective October 16, 2008.
- Beth O’Connor has been appointed paraprofessional at Craneville School, six hours per day, effective October 23, 2008. (Mrs. O’Connor formerly held a 5 hour/day position at Craneville School.)
- Nancy Fuore has been appointed secretary to the principal at Nessacus Regional Middle School, effective October 27, 2008, at step 1.

- Brenda Clark has been appointed paraprofessional at Becket Washington School, 3 hours/day, effective October 27, 2008.
- Christine Fairbank has been appointed paraprofessional at Craneville School, 3 hours/day, effective November 3, 2008.
- Timothy Dowling, paraprofessional at Berkshire Trail Elementary School, initially appointed August 28, 2008, has resigned effective November 5, 2008.

ARTICLE 9560 OLD BUSINESS

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

*To move Article 9560 Old Business to the end of the meeting.*

Ayes: Thirteen members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Negotiations)

ARTICLE 9561 NEW BUSINESS

None.

ARTICLE 9562 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

None.

The Committee returned to Article 9560, Old Business.

A. Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Negotiations)

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

*To go into executive session at 7:57 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, 3. "To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining..."*

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee came out of executive session at 8:58 p.m.

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LES

To adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Ayes: Thirteen members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.