

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 24, 2008

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Craneville School, Dalton, MA on Thursday, April 24, 2008, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members J. Chivers, Farley, Goddard, Gordon, Hopper, Les, Morton, Yates, Carroll-Lombardi.  
Absent: Members Bantjes, L. Chivers, Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, and Welts.  
Also Present: Assistant Superintendent James Stankiewicz, Business Manager Robert Tensel, Recording Secretary Mary Jo Keiper, and Members of the Audience.

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

MOVED BY MEMBER GORDON, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

*Be it resolved that James Stankiewicz be appointed temporary district secretary for the duration of tonight's (April 24, 2008) regularly scheduled meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee.*

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9428      RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

George Desmarais, of the Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee, gave the Committee a copy of a DVD presentation, which will be used at the Wahconah open house on April 29<sup>th</sup>. National Honor Society members will act as tour guides from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. The open house has been publicized by Dalton Community Cable and will be advertised in the Berkshire Eagle. Informational meetings will be held in all seven towns as well. The debt authorization is included on the Dalton town meeting warrant and is expected to be on the town meeting agendas in some of the other towns also. Chair Carroll-Lombardi thanked Mr. Desmarais and the building needs study committee.

ARTICLE 9429      STUDENT AFFAIRS

A.      Wahconah Report – None.

ARTICLE 9430      SECRETARY'S REPORT

A.      Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 10, 2008

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GORDON

*To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 10, 2008, as printed.*

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9431 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GORDON

*To approve Warrant No. 2008-40, in the total amount of \$803,126.51, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2008-40, dated April 17, 2008

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$497,454.58
Athletic Independent Games	\$530.00
Craneville Homework Revolving	\$259.19
Becket Preschool Revolving	\$826.80
School Lunch	\$17,977.73
Federal Funds	<u>\$42,311.60</u>
Sub-total	\$559,359.90
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$6,276.73</u>
Total Payroll	\$565,636.63
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$237,489.88</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$803,126.51

Ayes: Seven members voting, including Chair Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Hopper and Morton.

Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GORDON

*To approve Warrant No. 2008-41, in the total amount of \$517,046.35, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2008-41, dated April 24, 2008

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$65,068.51
Insurance Payment	<u>\$308,722.36</u>
	\$373,790.87
Transfers	\$66,384.68
Federal Funds	\$14,157.40
Circuit Breaker	\$16,365.07
School Lunch	\$36,512.93
Athletic Independent Games	\$876.80
Nessacus Student Activity Fund	\$5,328.00
Kittredge Library Revolving Fund	(\$2,000.00)
WRHS Boys' Soccer Revolving	\$40.00
WRHS Football Revolving	\$40.00
WRHS Swimming Revolving	\$100.00
WRHS Nordic Skiing Revolving	\$110.50
WRHS Softball Revolving	\$589.55
WRHS Baseball Revolving	\$170.55

WRHS Golf Revolving	\$40.00
WRHS Hockey Revolving	\$40.00
Zipkin/Kittredge Cultural Trust	\$2,000.00
Becket Washington Loan Fees	\$331.10
Berkshire Trail Loan Fees	\$54.38
Craneville Loan Fees	\$58.38
Kittredge Loan Fees	\$431.87
Nessacus Loan Fees	\$1,545.13
Wahconah Loan Fees	\$31.99
Berkshire Trail Boiler Loan Fees	\$27.99
Short Term Bond Fees	<u>\$19.16</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$517,046.35

Ayes: Seven members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Member Morton.

Motion carried.

B. Authorization to Establish Scholarship Funds

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee authorizes the Treasurer to establish the William Boraski Memorial Scholarship, in accordance with guidelines shown (in the agenda packet), and further that the Committee accepts the following contributions to the William Boraski Memorial Scholarship:*

*\$5,000 from Eileen P. Boraski*

*\$25,000 from Nicholas and Ruth Boraski*

*\$25,000 from Nicholas and Ruth Boraski*

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee authorizes the Treasurer to establish the William and Patricia Carey Memorial Scholarship, in accordance with guidelines shown (in the agenda packet), and further that the Committee accepts the gift of \$10,000 from Michael and Clare Carey to the William and Patricia Carey Memorial Scholarship.*

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Chair stated students would benefit for many years from the generosity of these scholarship donors.

ARTICLE 9432 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair – None.

B. Annual Town Meeting Dates - Informational

Cummington (first Friday in May)	May 2, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Dalton (first Monday in May)	May 5, 2008, 7:00 p.m. (confirmed)
Windsor (first Monday in May)	May 5, 2008, 7:30 p.m. (confirmed)
Becket (second Saturday in May)	May 10, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Washington (second Saturday in May)	May 10, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Hinsdale (third Wednesday in May)	May 21, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Peru (first Saturday in June)	June 7, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 9433 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education – No report.

2. Finance – No report.

3. Policy Review

a. First Reading Policy Revision – 7570: School Building Committee

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

*BE IT RESOLVED that the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading revisions to Policy 7570: School Building Committee, as shown (in the agenda packet) and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.*

The Chair stated the revised policy more closely mirrors School Building Authority guidelines.

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Personnel

Member Les reported the subcommittee had met and finalized the Superintendent's evaluation form, which he distributed to those members present. He asked that the evaluation be completed and returned by May 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Les explained that the evaluation is an important function for members and asked that they devote the necessary time to it and sign the last page. A member may leave a category blank if he/she wishes. The subcommittee will set another meeting following May 8<sup>th</sup>.

B. Others

1. Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee

Mr. Desmarais asked the Chair if she would like a member of the study committee to attend the Dalton town meeting. Mrs. Carroll-Lombardi said she would and would also like to see one or two members of that committee in each of the towns when they vote on the borrowing issue. She offered to email Chairman Huebner to coordinate these efforts.

2. GIC Committee

Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz reported Joel Berrera would attend the GIC Committee on May 6 at 3:00 p.m.; other districts have been invited to attend as well.

3. School Health Advisory Committee – No report.

4. Ad Hoc Letter Writing Committee

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reported a final draft of the letter to legislators will be brought to the next school committee meeting.

ARTICLE 9434 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports – None.

B. Recommendations

1. Summer Drama-Music Program (STAGES)

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the proposal for a summer drama-music program (STAGES) to be held at Wahconah Regional High School from July 14 – 25, 2008, as outlined in a memorandum from Pamela Fortlage-Gold, dated April 2008, and recommended by the Superintendent.*

In response to a question, Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz stated although a request for use of facilities is required, the STAGES program does not pay any fees.

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

C. Other – None.

ARTICLE 9435 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

The following personnel change was noted:

Grace Lacy, assistant cafeteria cook at Nessacus Regional Middle School, initially appointed October 1, 2007, has resigned effective April 18, 2008.

ARTICLE 9436 OLD BUSINESS

A. Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Negotiations)

The Chair stated the Committee would return to Old Business for an executive session.

ARTICLE 9437 NEW BUSINESS

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GORDON

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

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

A. Senior Exam Schedule, Class of 2008

The schedule was included on the addendum for the Committee's information.

ARTICLE 9438 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Member Hopper asked if the Committee was ready for town meetings. Is there a plan for talking points and handouts? The Chair reported the Superintendent is working on the talking points and would be prepared to field questions. Mr. Hopper's concerns related to questions asked by Representative Guyer in an email to another Committee member.

Member Goddard reported the Hinsdale Finance Committee is recommending passage of the budget; however, that committee would like to see evidence of reduced staff and/or benefits in light of reduced enrollments.

The Committee returned to Old Business.

ARTICLE 9436 OLD BUSINESS

A. Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Negotiations)

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GODDARD

*To go into executive session at 7:30 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, paragraph 3, "to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining..."*

The Chair stated the Committee would reconvene in open session following the executive session for the purpose of adjournment.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members J. Chivers, Farley, Goddard, Gordon, Hopper, Les, Morton, Yates, and Carroll-Lombardi.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried unanimously.

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

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GORDON

*To adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.*

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