

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee

Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 25, 2009

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Kittredge School, Hinsdale, MA, on Thursday, June 25, 2009, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Members Darby and Yates.

Also Present: Superintendent Donna Harlan, Assistant Superintendent James Stankiewicz, Business Manager Marge Foster, Recording Secretary Diane Koch, and Members of the Audience.

ARTICLE 9684           RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER – Richard C. O’Sullivan

Chair Carroll-Lombardi welcomed audience members, introduced guest speaker Richard O’Sullivan and thanked Business Manager Foster for inviting Mr. Sullivan to speak at tonight’s meeting. Mr. Sullivan is an economist and founder of Change Management Solutions, an international consulting firm.

Mr. Sullivan gave a PowerPoint presentation that included the following: how bad the recession is; how school districts can help themselves; P3 – public, private, partnerships; growth; recovery from the recession; looking beyond globalization and town by town approach does not work. Mr. Sullivan answered questions and gave examples of how public, private, partnerships can work.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi thanked Mr. Sullivan for taking time to speak with the Committee.

A brief break was taken from 7:41p.m. – 7:52 p.m.

Member Henderson left the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

There were no responses from the audience.

ARTICLE 9685           STUDENT AFFAIRS

There will be no students reporting for the months of July and August.

ARTICLE 9686           SECRETARY’S REPORT

Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 11, 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 11, 2009, with the addition of adjournment at 9:51 p.m.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9687 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-53, in the total amount of \$1,439,042.12, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-53, dated June 25, 2009

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

OPERATING EXPENSE

Accounts Payable	\$185,168.29	
Insurance Payment	\$325,325.72	
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		\$510,494.01
Transfers		\$92,631.10
Federal Funds		\$8,478.95
Circuit Breaker		\$11,895.00
School Lunch		\$19,579.36
WRHS Student Activity Fund		\$2,564.00
NRMS Student Activity Fund		\$6,838.58
BTES Enrichment		\$172.50
WRHS Nordic Skiing Revolving		\$100.00
WRHS Softball Revolving		\$90.00
WRHS Baseball Revolving		\$672.00
WRHS Tennis Revolving		\$1,105.75
WRHS Boys' Track Revolving		\$1,614.53
WRHS Girls' Track Revolving		\$1,448.86
WRHS Renovation		\$5,703.98
WRHS Science Lab		\$516.00
2009 Scholarships		\$20,500.00
Poopor Library Scholarship		\$100.00
Judith Farley Scholarship		\$500.00
RAN's		\$750,000.00
Berkshire Trail Capital		<u>\$4,037.50</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$1,439,042.12

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-54, in the total amount of \$630,477.15, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-54, dated June 25, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	\$567,098.84
School Lunch	\$14,223.83
Becket Washington Pre-School	\$876.00
Berkshire Trail Revolving Account	\$160.00
Federal Funds	<u>\$48,118.48</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$630,477.15

Ayes: Ten members voting.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts  
Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-54D, in the total amount of \$225,252.30, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-54D, dated June 25, 2009

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

Operating Expense	\$217,763.72
FICA Expense	<u>\$7,488.58</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$225,252.30

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

B. Authorization for Treasurer to Borrow Money in Fiscal Year 2010

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reminded members this is a yearly vote.

*That the District Treasurer is hereby authorized, under the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16(g) as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chair of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, and to renew any note of notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.*

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

C. Acceptance of Gifts and Contributions

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

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

- \$250 to the WRHS Class of 1981 Scholarship Fund from the WRHS Class of 1981*
- \$250 to the CBRSD General Scholarship Fund from Brian Pickard in memory of David Sullivan*

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

Chair Carroll-Lombardi noted the generosity of the donors.

ARTICLE 9688 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported to members that the search committee is almost complete and as soon as the list of members is finalized it will be forwarded to school committee members. A handout of the proposed guidelines

and timeframe for the Superintendent Search was distributed and the various steps were reviewed. Discussion followed regarding the various aspects of the guidelines and members shared their thoughts. In response to a question about the policy being too rigid and the discussion from the last meeting, Chair Carroll-Lombardi commented that the policy will be sent to the subcommittee for review once the search is complete. With no objections from members on the timeframe, Chair Carroll-Lombardi will move the process to the next step. The Chair told members that MASC requires search committees to have a confidentiality agreement and she will speak with district counsel about a confidentiality agreement for the search committee.

ARTICLE 9689 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education

The Education Subcommittee will meet on July 2, 2009, at Central Office. The Chair commented that the subcommittee needs more members to attend.

2. Finance

Member Harvey reported the subcommittee reviewed the FY-2010 Bid List, the budget process and briefly discussed the FY-2011 budget. Business Manager Foster reported that the search for the Building and Grounds Manager is moving along. There were 17 candidates and 13 met all qualifications. The next Finance Subcommittee meeting will be July 9, 2009, at Nessacus.

a. Bid Award – Electrical Services

MOVED BY MEMBER HARVEY, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee awards a bid for electrical services on an as needed basis: up to \$10,000 in one year or up to \$2,500 per incident to the low bidder, County Electrical Contractors, as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee.*

In response to a question on the motion to award a bid for electrical services, Business Manager Foster explained what the Building and Grounds Manager's responsibilities will be and stated that the BGM position requires a plumbing license; the bid award is for an electrician.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Bid Award – Construction Services

MOVED BY MEMBER HARVEY, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee awards a bid for construction services on an as needed basis: up to \$10,000 in one year or up to \$2,500 per incident to the low bidder, K & E General Contracting and Remodeling, LLC, as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Policy Review

Member Hopper reported the subcommittee had met and has three policy revisions on the agenda tonight. The next meeting is scheduled for June 30, 2009.

a. Second Reading Policy Adoption

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves second reading adoption of Policy 6330: Wellness, as shown on pages 1 – 6 and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. First Reading Policy Revisions

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading revisions of Policy 6860: Pupil Transportation Services, as shown on pages 7 – 8 and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.*

Member Hopper explained that the revision clarifies the mile measurement calculations and is from the state. The language is very specific in how determinations for busing are made.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. First Reading Policy Revisions

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading revisions of Policy 7200: Budget Operation and Control, as shown on page 9 and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.*

Member Hopper told members that the revisions to the policy came from the Finance Subcommittee and is basically where the District is and what the Finance Subcommittee actually does. The Chair thanked Member Lacatell for his work on revising the policy.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Strategic Planning Team

Members were given a handout of the proposed make-up of the members of the Strategic Planning Team and a discussion followed on additional members being added. Changes were made to the proposal to include additional members.

4. Personnel

Member Les reported the subcommittee had met prior to the meeting and has items for consideration under New Business. No date was set for the next meeting.

B. Others

1. Wahconah Building Committee

The committee met Tuesday and items discussed were the progress of all projects, the PA system, the fire suppression system, handicap accessibility, and new doors.

2. Communication Task Force

It was reported that members met before the meeting tonight and discussed setting up a joint meeting with the Strategic Planning Team. Richard White, District Technology Coordinator was made Chair of the task force. An agenda was discussed for the next meeting that includes sharing how Berkshire Trail Elementary School has reenergized, working with legislators, communication responsibilities and campaigning to protect CBRSD's interests at the state government level. In response to a question about being politically proactive, some members acknowledged writing letters to legislators and the Chair added that in the past the Committee has voted to take a stand as a group and write letters. Member Les attended the communication's meeting tonight and gave a presentation on the new district website; spoke about assigning a webmaster as well as training, security and responsibilities for the site. The next meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

3. Regional Agreement Review Committee

The meeting is scheduled for June 30, 2009.

ARTICLE 9690 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports – No Report.

B. Recommendations

1. Acting Assistant Superintendent

This item will be addressed under New Business.

C. Other – No Report.

ARTICLE 9691 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

Chair Carroll-Lombardi commented that this was an informational item.

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

- Donna Kalinowsky, math teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, initially appointed August 30, 2004, has resigned effective June 10, 2009.
- Megan Townend, paraprofessional at Craneville School, initially appointed September 5, 2008, has resigned effective June 30, 2009.
- Kaitlyn Clark has been appointed grade 4 teacher at Craneville School, effective August 28, 2009, at step A-1.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reported that there would be two executive sessions and asked if a member would make a motion to move Article 9693 New Business and Article 9694 Remarks for the Good of the Committee before Article 9692 Old Business.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER WELTS

*To move Article 9693 New Business and Article 9694 Remarks for the Good of the Committee before Article 9692 Old Business.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9693      NEW BUSINESS

MOVED BY MEMBER WAGNER, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

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

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

A.      Acting Superintendent's Compensation

- Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Bargaining or Litigation)

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

*To go into executive session at 8:40 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

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi stated the Committee would reconvene in open session after the executive session.

The committee came out of executive session at 9:02 p.m.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the addendum to James Stankiewicz' current contract.*

Discussion took place about the salary for James Stankiewicz as Acting Superintendent, specifically that the current salary should be increased 3% (the anticipated increase for outgoing Superintendent Harlan). Chair Carroll-Lombardi clarified for audience members that the salary for Mr. Stankiewicz is being set at what the Superintendent is currently making under the FY08 budget and contract.

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

*To amend the motion to read: That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the addendum to James Stankiewicz' current contract with an additional 3% salary increase.*

The Chair led a discussion on the amended motion including: Mr. Stankiewicz as Acting Superintendent would receive an additional 10% over his current salary, the increased responsibilities as Acting Superintendent and the additional 3% increase.

Ayes: Members Conner, Grallert, Goddard, Les, Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: Members Chivers, Farley, Harvey, Lacatell and Wagner.

Recused: Members Hopper and Welts.  
Motion to amend failed.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi stated the Committee would go back to the original motion and read it for the Committee.

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the addendum to James Stankiewicz' current contract.*

Vote on the original motion.

Ayes: Nine members voting.  
Nays: Member Wagner.  
Recused: Members Hopper and Welts.  
Motion carried.

B. Appointment of District Secretary

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee appoints James Stankiewicz as District Secretary effective July 1, 2009, through November 2009.*

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

C. Appointment of Acting Assistant Superintendent

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the appointment of Deborah Bevan to the position of Acting Assistant Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2009, as recommended by the Superintendent.*

*And further, that the salary for be set at 85% of the Acting Superintendent's so long as Deborah Bevan holds the position of Acting Assistant Superintendent.*

In response to a question on Mrs. Bevan's health, Superintendent Harlan explained that Mrs. Bevan had recently undergone treatment for an injury to her eye and that injury is healing well.

Member Wagner expressed concern over the Superintendent recommending this appointment and asked why it could not have waited until James Stankiewicz assumed the position of Acting Superintendent.

Superintendent Harlan responded by letting the Committee know that the decision was made after conversations between her and Mr. Stankiewicz as well as many others.

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

ARTICLE 9694 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Member Hopper thanked all those, including school committee members at the table, for making this school year a successful one for his children and all students.

Member Welts asked for clarification on the Extended Learning Time program at Berkshire Trail, stating he has heard conflicting accounts. Superintendent Harlan told members the DESE has not issued any new grants, adding that the DESE commended Berkshire Trail's proposal, but due to the current economic situation there is no new grants being awarded.

Member Wagner asked if members had read the editorial on computer usage in schools and asked that the Committee keep in mind computers are an asset.

Member Farley extended his best wishes to Superintendent Donna Harlan on her retirement and thanked her for all she had accomplished for the District.

Member Wagner echoed Member Farley's sentiments.

Member Conner extended an apology to Chair Carroll-Lombardi for a remark he made earlier in the meeting. Speaking to Superintendent Harlan, Member Conner wished her well and added he personally will miss her.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi remarked for those that do not know this will be Superintendent Harlan's last School Committee meeting as she retires June 30, 2009. The Chair told the Superintendent it has been a pleasure to work with her.

Member Harvey also extended his thanks and wished the Superintendent well.

Superintendent Harlan thanked everyone for supporting her and added she will miss everyone.

ARTICLE 9692            OLD BUSINESS

- Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Bargaining or Litigation)

MOVED BY MEMBER WAGNER, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

*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 Chivers, Conner, Farley, Grallert, Goddard, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Lacatell, Les, Wagner, Welts and Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi stated the Committee would not reconvene in open session after the executive session.

The committee came out of executive session at 9:55 p.m.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER WELTS

*To adjourn the meeting at 9:56 p.m.*

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.