

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee

Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 26, 2007

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Craneville School, Dalton, MA on Thursday, July 26, 2007, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Bantjes, J. Chivers, Dextraze, French, Goddard (7:06 p.m.), Gordon, Hopper, Welts, and Carroll-Lombardi.

Absent: Members L. Chivers, Farley, Harvey, Henderson, Les, Shugrue.

Also Present: Superintendent Donna Harlan, 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 9272 RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

ARTICLE 9273 STUDENT AFFAIRS

A. Wahconah Report – None.

ARTICLE 9274 SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 28, 2007

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 28, 2007, as printed.

Ayes: Eight members voting (includes Mrs. Goddard).

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9275 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

To approve Warrant No. 2007-52 (previously signed), in the total amount of \$229,682.05, as printed.

Warrant No. 2007-52, dated June 30, 2007 (Previously signed)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expense	\$184,898.82
Federal Funds	\$35,736.15

Circuit Breaker	\$1,680.75
School Lunch	\$6,398.65
Athletic Independent Games	\$230.58
WRHS Student Activity Fund	\$143.10
WRHS Baseball Revolving	<u>\$594.00</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$229,682.05

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

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

To approve Warrant No. 2007-53, in the total amount of \$60,412.37, as printed:

Warrant No. 2007-53, dated July 12, 2007

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$39,423.25
School Lunch	\$238.26
Federal Funds	<u>\$10,768.16</u>
Sub-total	\$50,429.67
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$587.29</u>
Total Payroll	\$51,016.96
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$9,395.41</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$60,412.37

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

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

To approve Warrant No. 2008-01, in the total amount of \$87,875.71, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-01, dated July 12, 2007

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$63,014.16
School Lunch	\$2,075.62
Federal Funds	<u>\$3,860.92</u>
Sub-total	\$68,950.70
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$769.67</u>
Total Payroll	\$69,720.37
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$18,155.34</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$87,875.71

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

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

To approve Warrant No. 2008-02 (previously signed), in the total amount of \$297,911.10, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-2, dated July 12, 2007 (Previously signed)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expense	\$294,761.10
Circuit Breaker	<u>\$3,150.00</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$297,911.10

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

To approve Warrant No. 2008-03, in the total amount of \$162,491.35, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-03, dated July 26, 2007

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$84,605.11
Summer Drama/STAGES	\$3,960.00
School Lunch	\$2,075.62
Federal Funds	<u>\$25,579.87</u>
Sub-total	\$116,220.60
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$1,314.01</u>
Total Payroll	\$117,534.61
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$44,956.74</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$162,491.35

Ayes: Six members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

To approve Warrant No. 2008-04, in the total amount of \$545,934.81, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-04, dated July 26, 2007

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$132,854.05
Insurance Payment	<u>\$297,008.10</u>
	\$429,862.15
Transfers	\$75,150.69
Federal Funds	\$20,675.74
Circuit Breaker	\$1,743.00
School Lunch	\$8,720.66
Reimbursable Property Damage	\$170.40
Summer Drama	\$5,940.00

NRMS Student Activity Fund	\$2,000.00
Literacy Learning Class Revolving	\$347.17
Becket Washington Pre-school	\$25.00
Berkshire Taconic Foundation	\$800.00
CBRSD General Scholarship	<u>\$500.00</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$545,934.81

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

B. Gifts and Contributions

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the following gifts and contributions:

- \$500 to the CBRSD General Scholarship Fund in memory of Sally Billick, from Shawn & Shelley Murray
- \$300 to the CBRSD General Scholarship Fund in memory of Dr. William Carey, from various donors
- \$100 to the CBRSD General Scholarship Fund in memory of Dr. William Carey, from Richard & Joyce Lacatell

The generosity of the donors was noted by the Committee.

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

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

To move the report of the Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee ahead of Article 9276, Communications.

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

The Chair introduced James Huebner, chairman of the Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee, who addressed the Committee. Mr. Huebner stated Wahconah has been excluded from capital projects, expecting that the building would qualify for School Building Authority funding. However, it is now apparent that state funding for a major Wahconah project may not be available for at least ten years. Mr. Huebner reviewed a handout (attached to the official minutes), summarizing the study committee's activities to date, its current status, its vision for a more "green" school, and its future plans. Goals for the near future include replacement of the current heating system and windows, using energy savings to cover the costs. The building needs study committee will present at the seven-town advisory committee meeting on August 30th. Mr. Huebner answered questions and took suggestions. The chair thanked him, Kelly Markland and James Chivers for attending and the full committee for their efforts. She asked that the study committee report to the School Committee again in the fall.

ARTICLE 9276 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

The Chair asked that members who have not turned in their school committee self-evaluations either drop them at the Central Office or mail them in. She reported a community member has approached her regarding the naming of a facility location after a local citizen. She referred the matter to Policy Review Subcommittee for a recommendation at the August meeting. She asked members to visit the municipal benchmarking website and bring their thoughts regarding membership to the next meeting. The Chair pointed out an article on school committee boot camp in the latest American School Board Journal, asking members to take a look at it.

ARTICLE 9277 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education – None.

2. Finance

a. Approval of Title I Grant Funded Positions

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the following positions, effective the 2007-08 school year, grant funded through Title I, as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee:

- *One (1) remedial math teacher (1.0 FTE), Nessacus Regional Middle School*
- *Two (2) paraprofessionals, 3 hours/day each, Craneville School*
- *One (1) paraprofessional, 2 hours/day, Berkshire Trail Elementary School*

Superintendent Harlan noted the Title I funding is redistributed periodically based on low-income enrollments.

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Increase in Price of School Lunch and School Breakfast

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the following increases in school lunch prices effective September 1, 2007, as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee:

- *regular student lunch from \$1.55 to \$1.75*
- *regular student breakfast from \$.85 to \$1.00*
- *milk at Nessacus and Wahconah from \$.35 to \$.40*
- *adult meal from \$3.00 to \$4.00*

(No changes will be made to reduced-price meals.)

It was reported a smaller container of milk is provided at the elementary level; the new prices are in line with other districts; reduced price rates are set at the federal level. The changes will be mailed to all students along with the bus stops and will appear also in the fall newsletter.

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Policy Review

The policy review subcommittee had not met.

a. 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 Nessacus Student Handbook, as outlined on pages 1-14 (in the agenda packet) and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.

Member Bantjes reported many of the changes were related to Athletics.

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

To move the report of Craneville Short-Term Capital Bonding Committee ahead of Article 9277, Subcommittee Reports and Recommendations, Personnel.

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Chair reported Craneville capital bonding had been approved by the Town of Dalton; no other town voted, thereby approving the projects. The phone system will be replaced in the fall, windows have gone out to bid and probably will be installed in September, the boiler replacement will go out to bid within a week.

4. Personnel

Member French reported the subcommittee will reschedule a recent meeting because there was not a quorum present.

a. Hearing of Step 3 Grievances

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER BANTJES

To move the hearing of step 3 grievances to follow Article 9282, Remarks for the Good of the Committee.

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Others

1. Craneville Short-Term Capital Bonding Committee – Taken up earlier.

2. Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee – Taken up earlier.

ARTICLE 9278 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

- The Superintendent reported the collaborative feasibility study is complete and copies will be made for school committee members by request. The original has been mailed to the Commissioner and application will be made for two additional grants.
- Dr. Harlan reported on impressive AP scores for Wahconah students, stating the school had a remarkable showing.
- She elaborated on emails she had sent or forwarded to Committee members.
- She publicly thanked Maureen Boino for an extremely successful collection (\$6,000) at Craneville School for the district's endowment (STEEP). In response to a concern about the number of fundraisers falling within the same timeframe, the Superintendent stated a joint PTO meeting would be organized and times of fundraisers would be an agenda item.

B. Recommendations – None.

C. Other – None.

ARTICLE 9279 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

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

- Kathryn Sanders, assistant cafeteria cook at Wahconah Regional High School, initially appointed September 11, 1987, has retired effective June 18, 2007.
- Meghann Donovan, paraprofessional at Kittredge School, initially appointed September 8, 2006, has resigned effective July 17, 2007.
- Meghann Donovan has been appointed English teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, effective August 30, 2007, at step A-6.
- Diane Mariano, district-wide elementary art teacher, initially appointed August 30, 2005, has resigned effective August 27, 2007.
- Patricia Conroy-Shepley has been appointed half-time grade 2 teacher at Craneville School, effective August 30, 2007, at step A-1 (pro-rated at 50%).
- Louise Dynok has been appointed full-time special education teacher at Berkshire Trail Elementary School, effective August 30, 2007. She was assigned .6 FTE special education teacher at that school last year.
- Samuel Ernst has been appointed district-wide interim TEAM coordinator, grant funded for one year only, effective August 30, 2007, at step D-11.
- Kelly Baldasaro has been transferred to the position of cafeteria cook supervisor, approximately 5.5 hours/day, at Kittredge School, effective June 1, 2007.
- Kellie Houle, Title I paraprofessional at Craneville School, initially appointed October 4, 2006, has resigned effective July 18, 2007.

ARTICLE 9280 OLD BUSINESS

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

To take up old business in executive session following the grievance hearings.

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9281 NEW BUSINESS

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

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. Authorization for Preschool Position – Becket Washington School

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee authorizes the following position at Becket Washington School, effective the 2007-08 school year, funded by the Community Partnership for Children grant, as recommended by the Superintendent:

- 1 paraprofessional, 30 hours/week (1.0 FTE equivalent)

The superintendent reported the Becket Washington preschool numbers are at 28 students. The additional paraprofessional will assist the eight added students. She was uncertain if these eight students were from Becket Washington. She stated we have realized additional enrollments at Becket Washington School from the preschool.

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

B. Approval of FY-07 Budget Transfers

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee authorizes the budgetary transfers for fiscal year 2007 as shown on the attached pages (filed with the official minutes).

Business Manager Tensel reviewed the transfers for the committee, noting this is done every summer.

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

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee authorizes the amount to be transferred from the School Choice Revolving Fund for fiscal year 2007 be reduced to \$304,087.

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

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee authorizes the amount of \$130,408 to be transferred from the Medicaid Revolving Fund for fiscal year 2007 to the General Fund.

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

ARTICLE 9282 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Member Goddard reported that every student receiving an AP grade also received a handwritten note from Principal Jim Conro. Approximately 90 students were sent individual messages from their principal.

Business Manager Tensel asked for direction on the disposal of outdated computers, monitors, etc. The matter was referred to Policy Review Subcommittee.

ARTICLE 9277 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Reports
- 4. Personnel
- a. Hearing of Step 3 Grievances

The Chair reported the committee would hear two grievances, filed at Step 3 by AFSCME Local 204, on behalf of Laurie MacDonald and Christine Buck. A private grievance session was requested by the union. The Chair stated the Committee would reconvene the public meeting at the close of the evening's grievance session.

MOVED BY MEMBER FRENCH, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

To go into executive session at 8:05 p.m. in accordance with Chapter 39, Section 23B, 3, "to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation...including the resolution of grievances."

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Bantjes, J. Chivers, Dextraze, French, Goddard, Gordon, Hopper, Welts, Carroll-Lombardi.
Nays: None.
Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee came out of executive session at 9:13 p.m.

MOVED BY MEMBER BANTJES, SECONDED BY MEMBER FRENCH

To adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

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