

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2020

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Nessacus Middle School, Dalton, MA, on Thursday, January 23, 2020, was called to order by Chair Craft-Reiss at 7:01 p.m.

For the record, the chair does not vote unless noted.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Alpert, Bartels, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Farley, Galeucia, Hinkley, Lacatell, Lattizzori, Peters, Tucker, Wagner and Chair Craft-Reiss.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Superintendent Laurie Casna, Assistant Superintendent Leslie Blake-Davis, Director of Business and Finance Gregory Boino, Student Representative Faith Savery, Recording Secretary Michelle PH White and Members of the Audience.

Chair Craft-Reiss stated the meeting was being both audio and video recorded and asked if there were anyone recording the meeting they inform her now.

VALIDATION OF AGENDA

RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Dalton resident, Joseph Diver, commented that six months had passed since the vote passed in July regarding popular vote for capital projects. He noted that there has been no communication in the last six weeks. He feels the School Committee, especially the Dalton members, should lean in and revote on the vote taken in July.

Chair Craft-Reiss noted that the district has been in communication with DESE.

ARTICLE 12008      STUDENT AFFAIRS

A. Student Reports

1. Faith Savery – High School Representative

Wahconah High School Junior, Faith Savery, addressed the committee. She mentioned the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter marks closed and report cards will be handed out tomorrow. The robotics team traveled to Andover, MA for a competition, although they did not place. Juniors and seniors are able to sign up for the ASAP tests. Sophomores picked up their class rings this week.

B. Other

ARTICLE 12009      SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2020

Member Lacatell noted on page 71 of the minutes that the meeting was held at Nessacus and not Kittredge. He noted that on page 77 the regional agreement was reviewed by an ad hoc committee and not DESE. Also on page 77 Mr. Lacatell would like to see better clarification on comments made about the recent regional agreement changes.

MOVED BY DITOMASSO, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 09, 2020, as amended.*

Ayes: Thirteen members  
Nays: None.  
Abstentions: None.  
Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 12010      FINANCIAL REPORT

A.      Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve warrant No. PR2020-15, in the total amount of \$645,397.55, as printed.*

**Warrant No. PR2020-15, dated January 23, 2020**

<u>PAYROLL</u>	
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	
Operating Expense	572,908.70
<u>REVOLVING FUNDS</u>	
Revolving Accounts	6,003.41
Grants	42,632.20
School Lunch	15,196.76
<b>TOTAL PAYROLL</b>	<b>636,741.07</b>
Employer Medicare	8,656.48
<b>TOTAL PAYROLL &amp; TAXES</b>	<b>645,397.55</b>

No discussion.

Ayes: Twelve members.  
Nays: None.  
Abstentions: Member Farley.  
Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve warrant No. PR2020-15D, in the total amount of \$242,250.86, as printed*

**Warrant No. PR2020-15D, dated January 23, 2020**

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FROM AGENCY  
ACCOUNTS  
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

Union Dues	6,743.77
403B (Various Companies)	13,143.61
457 (Various Companies)	780.00
Wage Garnishments	824.98
Federal Income Tax	55,087.83
Medicare Employee Contributions	8,656.44
Massachusetts Income Tax	28,172.12
OBRA	1,511.15
Mass Teachers Retirement	101,525.12
Berkshire County Retirement	21,123.76
Berkshire United Way	24.00
Employee Contributions to Insurances	4,658.08
<b>TOTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT</b>	<b><u>242,250.86</u></b>

No discussion.

Ayes: Twelve members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Member Farley.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve warrant No. AP2020-16, in the total amount of \$796,587.54, as printed*

**Warrant No. AP2020-16, dated January 24, 2020**

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses: General Fund

Accounts Payable	225,976.97
Employee Health & Dental Insurance District Share	279,956.25
Retiree Health Insurance District Share	131,892.60
<b>SUBTOTAL GF OPERATING</b>	<b><u>637,825.82</u></b>

Operating Expenses: Other Funds

Agency: Employee Health & Dental Insurance Share	57,480.00
Agency: Retiree Health Insurance Share	27,641.30
Prior Year Encumbrance	2,840.00
Grants	40,286.61
	<b><u>128,247.91</u></b>

**Revolving:**

School Lunch	24,744.58
WRHS Student Activities	4,945.71

**Athletics:**

Boys Basketball	320.00
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Unified Basketball	271.52
Nordic Skiing	232.00
<b>SUBTOTAL ALL OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b><u>30,513.81</u></b>
<b>TOTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT</b>	<b><u>796,587.54</u></b>

No discussion.

Ayes: Twelve members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Member Farley.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To approve warrant No. AP2020-16, in the total amount of \$796,587.54, as printed*

**Warrant No. APW2020-12, dated January 24, 2020**

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Capital Expenses: Other Funds

WRHS Building Project	102,374.17
<b>SUBTOTAL OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b><u>102,374.17</u></b>

<b>TOTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT</b>	<b><u>102,374.17</u></b>
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No discussion.

Ayes: Twelve members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Member Farley.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Gifts and Donations

1. Acceptance of Donation from O'Connor Studio

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER DITOMASSO

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accept the donation of \$635.45 to the Kittredge Gift Account from O'Connor Studios for Portraits at Kittredge, as recommended by the District Treasurer.*

Ayes: Thirteen members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Acceptance of Donation in Memory of Martin Phillips

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accept the donation of \$500.00 in memory of Martin Phillips to the General Scholarship Fund, as recommended by the District Treasurer.*

Ayes: Thirteen members.  
Nays: None.  
Abstentions: None.  
Motion carried unanimously.

3. Acceptance of Donation to the Peter Cimini Memorial Scholarship

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accept the donation of \$1000.00 to the Peter Cimini Memorial Scholarship Fund, as recommended by the District Treasurer.*

Ayes: Thirteen members.  
Nays: None.  
Abstentions: None.  
Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 12011      COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

1. Town of Washington School Committee Vacancy

ARTICLE 12012      SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

4. Curriculum

a. Report

The committee discussed instructional rounds in which teachers will work with other teachers to identify low performing students, why they are low performing and how to improve the instruction. Principal Aaron Robb, Wahconah teacher Shawn Therrien and Assistant Superintendent Blake-Davis attended a training in East Boston on this concept.

Member Wagner noted that one of the schools in Boston benefited from instructional rounds.

Chair Craft-Weiss noted that students need to be engaged to learn about new language.

b. School Calendar Approval – 2020-21

MOVED BY MEMBER DITOMASSO, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approve the 2020 – 21 school year calendar, as presented and as recommended by the Curriculum Subcommittee.*

Member Tucker said last year parent teacher conferences occurred prior to report cards being handed out and wanted to make sure this was corrected for the upcoming calendar.

Member Lattizzori noted the start date for school was prior to Labor Day but not in August, but this is due to language in the Teachers' Contract.

Ayes: Thirteen members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Approval of Overnight Field Trip for the Wahconah Business Professionals of America to Framingham, MA

MOVED BY MEMBER DITOMASSO, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approve an overnight field trip for the Wahconah Business Professionals of America to Framingham, MA, February 29-March 2, 2020, as recommended by the Curriculum Committee.*

Ayes: Thirteen members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Finance
  - a. Report

Member DiTomaso noted that the subcommittee met January 14 to discuss the budget. The proposed budget may be questioned by the towns who voted against the new high school. She reiterated that every vote counts at town meetings and that 5 out of 7 towns must pass the budget.

The health insurance rates will be set on January 27. A low to no increase is anticipated.

The town assessments will increase by 3.31%. This is a tough sell to the towns.

Student services cost \$250,000.00 but administration has no control over the cost.

Once the state budget is released this will affect our budget.

Superintendent Casna noted that she has been invited to discuss the budget at the Select Board meeting in Dalton on January 27 and in Hinsdale on February 25.

The next subcommittee meeting is February 4 at 5:30 to discuss the tentative budget.

- b. FY 2021 Budget Discussion

- 6. Policy
  - a. Report

On February 4 there is a tentative meeting scheduled.

- 7. Personnel
  - a. Report

No report.

b. Executive Session – Negotiations

Not needed.

8. Safety and Wellness

a. Report

Chair Craft-Reiss said there was a meeting of all the chairs on January 14 to discuss the subcommittee. Since the subcommittee's inception many other groups overlap with the charter. The chairs are considering asking the Policy Subcommittee to look into eliminating the Safety and Wellness Subcommittee.

B. Others

1. Wahconah Building Project

a. Report

Member Peters noted at the last biweekly meeting a color committee was selected, which includes district art teachers. Eventually an FFE (Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment) committee will also be needed.

Member Peters noted there has been public concern about the situation with the elevator at Taconic High School. This has been addressed with the building committee and architect. The vendor used at Taconic vendor is not one of the bidders for the elevator.

Member DiTomasso reported there too much weight on the elevator during that situation which caused the elevator to stop.

Member Peters noted the next meeting is on January 30, at 6:00 pm at Wahconah.

ARTICLE 12013 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Casna read her prepared report. Topics included the Equity and Diversity Update, Elementary Math Nights, and Wahconah Academic Field Day

Superintendent Casna also mentioned she and Director Boino will attend the Dalton Select Board meeting on January 27 and Hinsdale Select Board meeting on February 26 to present the budget. A 7-Town Advisory meeting will be held on February 25 at 6 pm at Nessacus.

The governor's budget has been released. The Student Opportunity Act was signed by the governor. More information will be gathered on what the requirements are of the plan that must be submitted by April 1. It is not known how much money the district may receive.

2. Senior Activities (Informational Only)

Sunday, May 24, 2020 – Senior Prom

Thursday, June 4, 2020 – Class Night, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, June 5, 2020 – Senior Assembly

Sunday, June 7, 2020 – Graduation, 1:00 p.m.

B. Recommendations

C. Other

ARTICLE 12014      PERSONNEL

Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

- Karen Filiault, teacher at Craneville Elementary School, initially appointed September 11, 1987, will retire effective June 30, 2020.
- Madelaine Baker, teacher at Nessacus Regional Middle School, initially appointed August 28, 2008, will retire effective June 30, 2020.
- Denise Staubach has been appointed to the position of Title I Tutor at Craneville Elementary School, effective January 2, 2020

*Note: All salaries are set in accordance with current contracts.*

ARTICLE 12015      OLD BUSINESS (Unfinished Business)

*(Any business not completed or postponed from a previous meeting, or not covered if a meeting had to be adjourned for any reason prior to concluding entire agenda)*

ARTICLE 12016      NEW BUSINESS (Emergency Business)

*(Unforeseen business developed subsequent to posting of meeting and requiring timely attention. Member requests to place items on a future agenda [without deliberation of the substance of such item])*

ARTICLE 12017      REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Chair Craft-Reiss wants MARS to come present. She will have more information at the next meeting. Chair Craft-Reiss noted Wahconah Science teacher David Dahari has been accepted into a special program at NASA.

Assistant Superintendent Leslie Blake-Davis noted Mr. Dahari is an ambassador for NASA and has been working towards this for two years. The goal is to enhance physics at the high school. He will be participating in research from a plane that goes higher than an average airplane.

MOVED BY MEMBER WAGNER, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

*To adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.*

Ayes: Thirteen members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.