

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2022 7:00 p.m.

**Meeting Held at Craneville Elementary School and Via Remote**

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held in-person and remotely, on Thursday, May 19, 2022, was called to order by Vice Chair Lacatell at 7:00 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Members Alpert, Bartels, Case (remote), DiFazio, DiTomasso (remote), Emerson, Gelinas, Lacatell, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart (7:02) and Tucker.  
Absent: Members Eberwein and Chair Craft-Reiss.  
Also Present: Superintendent Leslie Blake-Davis, Director of Finance & Operations Gregory Boino and Recording Secretary Michelle White and Members of the Audience.

Co-Chair Lacatell stated the meeting was being audio and video recorded.

**ARTICLE 12417 RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE**

There were no comments from the audience.

**ARTICLE 12418 STUDENT AFFAIRS**

A. Student Reports

1. High School Representatives – Kevin Duma

Student representative Kevin Duma reported: Senior decision day was on May 2; students and staff wore shirts where they went or plan on going to college; SAT testing took place at PHS; AP exams took place; Wahconah band performed their spring concert; Planet Fitness is offering free gym memberships for students over the summer; 2022 Academy Day gave students an opportunity to get a nomination for the armed forces; Sophomores took the MCAS test; Spirit week will celebrates the last week for Seniors; Student Council put on a craft fair; Student Council also took comments on lunch issues such as portion size, more vegan options, bringing back the snack line and extra drinks and switching out foods if the food advertised for the day runs out.

B. Other

**ARTICLE 12419 FINANCIAL REPORT**

A. Warrants

Vice Chair Lacatell stated the four warrants were signed previously.

*Warrant No. PR22-22 dated April 28, 2022*

**Warrant No. PR22-22  
PAYROLL**

**General Fund: Operating Expenses**

<b>Employee Wages</b>	<b>\$ 558,330.73</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>	
Revolving Accounts	\$ 5,010.57
Grants	\$ 28,003.38
School Lunch	\$ 8,568.87
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$ 41,582.82</b>
<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$ 599,913.55</b>
<b>Employer Medicare</b>	<b>\$ 8,100.47</b>

<b>Total Payroll and Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 608,014.02</b>
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*Warrant No. PR22-22D dated April 28, 2022*

**Warrant No. PR22-22D**  
**PAYROLL DEDUCTION**

**Accounts Payable from Agency Accounts**

**Payroll Deductions**

403B (Various Companies)	\$ 15,647.18
457 (Various Companies)	\$ 760.00
Wage Garnishments	\$ 52.00
Berkshire United Way	\$ 48.00
Union Dues	\$ 6,505.46
Federal Income Tax	\$ 50,467.10
Berkshire County Retirement	\$ 22,117.18
Mass Teachers Retirement	\$ 104,312.90
OBRA Retirement	\$ 648.00
Medicare Employee Contributions	\$ 8,100.47
Massachusetts Income Tax	\$ 26,372.15
Employee Contributions to Insurances	\$ 4,815.66

<b>Total Payable</b>	<b>\$ 239,846.10</b>
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*Warrant No. AP22-18 dated April 29, 2022*

**Warrant #AP22-18**  
**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

**Operating Expenses: General Fund**

Accounts Payable	\$ 87,877.95
Employee Health & Dental Insurance District Share	\$ 265,382.35
Retiree Health Insurance District Share	\$ 126,273.16

**Total General Fund** **\$ 479,533.46**

**Operating Expenses: Other Funds**

Agency: Employee Share Health & Dental Insurance \$ 55,215.65

Agency: Retiree Share Health Insurance \$ 25,842.44

Grants \$ 50,584.36

**Total Other Funds:** **\$ 131,642.45**

**Revolving**

School Lunch \$ 142.35

WRHS Football \$ 82.86

WRHS Lacrosse - Boys \$ 15.00

WRHS Lacrosse - Girls \$ 15.00

**Total Revolving Funds** **\$ 255.21**

<b>Total Authorization for Payment</b>	<b>\$ 611,431.12</b>
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*Warrant No. APW22-16 dated April 29, 2022*

**Warrant #APW22-16**

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

**Capital Expenses: Other Funds**

WRHS Building Project \$ 344,365.82

**Total Other Funds:** **\$ 344,365.82**

<b>Total Authorization for Payment</b>	<b>\$ 344,365.82</b>
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*Warrant No. PR22-23 dated May 12, 2022*

**Warrant No. PR22-23**

**PAYROLL**

**General Fund: Operating Expenses**

**Employee Wages** **\$ 581,001.43**

**Other Funds**

Revolving Accounts \$ 7,578.27

Grants \$ 50,984.33

School Lunch \$ 14,311.55

**Total Other** **\$ 72,874.15**

**Total Payroll** **\$ 653,875.58**

**Employer Medicare** **\$ 9,236.68**

<b>Total Payroll and Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 663,112.26</b>
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*Warrant PR22-23D dated May 12, 2022*

**Warrant No. PR22-23D**  
**PAYROLL DEDUCTION**

**Accounts Payable from Agency Accounts**

**Payroll Deductions**

403B (Various Companies)	\$	16,397.18
457 (Various Companies)	\$	760.00
Wage Garnishments	\$	52.00
Union Dues	\$	6,505.46
Federal Income Tax	\$	56,198.17
OBRA Retirement	\$	1,556.53
Medicare Employee Contributions	\$	9,236.63
Massachusetts Income Tax	\$	30,023.49
Employee Contributions to Insurances	\$	101.92

<b>Total Payable</b>	<b>\$ 120,831.38</b>
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*Warrant AP22-19 dated May 13, 2022*

**Warrant #AP22-19**  
**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

**Operating Expenses: General Fund**

Accounts Payable	\$	313,726.19
Employee Health & Life Insurance District Share	\$	619.04
Retiree Health & Life Insurance District Share	\$	216.26
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>314,561.49</b>

**Operating Expenses: Other Funds**

Agency: Employee Share Life Insurance	\$	101.46
Agency: Retiree Share Life Insurance	\$	134.88
Grants	\$	36,215.49
<b>Total Other Funds:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>36,451.83</b>

**Revolving**

CBRSD Gift Fund	\$	152.56
CBRSD Pre-School	\$	55.00
WRHS Student Activities	\$	4,745.60
<b>Total Revolving Funds</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,953.16</b>

<b>Total Authorization for Payment</b>	<b>\$ 355,966.48</b>
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Warrant AP22-17 dated May 13, 2022

**Warrant #APW22-17**  
**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

**Capital Expenses: Other Funds**

WRHS Building Project	\$ 51,372.00
<b>Total Other Funds:</b>	<b>\$ 51,372.00</b>

<b>Total Authorization for Payment</b>	<b>\$ 51,372.00</b>
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B. Gifts and Donations

1. Acceptance of Donation to the Charles and Sadie Boraski Memorial Scholarship

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the donation of \$9,695 from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation for the Charles and Sadie Boraski Memorial Scholarship, as recommended by the District Treasurer.*

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Alpert, Bartels, Case, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Gelinas, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart and Tucker.  
Nays: None.  
Abstentions: None.  
Motion carries unanimously.

2. Acceptance of Donation to the Jane Casey Memorial Scholarship

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accept the donation of \$300 from David Casey and Craig Powell for the Jane Casey Memorial Scholarship, as recommended by the District Treasurer.*

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Alpert, Bartels, Case, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Gelinas, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart and Tucker.  
Nays: None.  
Abstentions: None.  
Motion carries unanimously.

3. Acceptance of Donation to the Wahconah Athletic Gift Account

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the donation of \$250 from Andrea and Patrick Wigington to the Wahconah Regional High Revolving Athletic Gift Account Fund to be used towards the girls' basketball program, as recommended by the District Treasurer.*

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Members Alpert, Bartels, Case, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Gelinas, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart and Tucker.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

4. Acceptance of Donation from Berkshire Health Group

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the donation of \$2,000 from the Berkshire Health Group to the BHG Employee Wellness Fund, as recommended by the District Treasurer.*

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Members Alpert, Bartels, Case, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Gelinas, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart and Tucker.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

5. Acceptance of Donation to the CBRSD Scholarship Fund

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the donation of \$11,433 from Feronia Forward LTD/Feronia Forests LLC to the General Revolving Gift Account for the CBRSD Scholarship Fund, as recommended by the District Treasurer:*

\$6,798 for Nessacus Middle School – Ramblewild Event

\$4,635 for Craneville Elementary School – Ramblewild Event

In response to the question of what the Ramblewild event was, Nessacus teacher Rebecca Neet., who organized the event, explained that Ramblewild is an outdoor education center that focuses on team building via different levels of rope courses.

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Members Alpert, Bartels, Case, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Gelinas, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart and Tucker.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

6. Acceptance of Donation to the CBRSD Scholarship Fund

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accept the following donations to the General Scholarship Fund, as recommended by the District Treasurer:*

\$500 from Sally Soluri, to be awarded in honor of James “Jim” Soluri Memorial Scholarship

\$300 from Christopher Quail for the Quail and Associates LLC Scholarship

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Alpert, Bartels, Case, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Gelinas, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart and Tucker.  
Nays: None.  
Abstentions: None.  
Motion carries unanimously.

ARTICLE 12420 SECRETARY’S REPORT

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 14, 2022

Member Stuart asked to strike the comment under the Superintendent’s Report “Mr. Diver interjected stating he did not agree with Superintendent Blake-Davis and left the meeting.” He reviewed Robert’s Rules: the minutes are record of what was done at the meeting, members of the audience are listed who they are in the subject; we should not give voice to people who are interrupting the meeting.

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER STUART

*To accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 14, 2022, as amended*

During Roll Call, five out of six members who cast their vote chose to abstain. Vice Chair Lacatell paused the Roll Call to explain that even if a member had not been present at the last meeting they can still vote in favor of the amendment and abstaining is as if the member is not present at this meeting and there would not be a quorum; Member Stuart added that abstain usually means a conflict of interest.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Bartels, Case, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Gelinas, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart and Tucker.  
Nays: Member Alpert.  
Abstentions: None.  
Motion carries.

ARTICLE 12421 COMMUNICATIONS

B. Report of the Chair

1. November 2022 School Committee Election

Members whose term expires November 2022

Becket	Dr. Barbara Craft-Reiss
Cummington	Todd Emerson
Dalton	John Bartels, Rob DiFazio, Dr. Amy Gelinas, Ellen Lattizzori
Hinsdale	David Stuart

2. Annual Town Meeting Dates

Peru - Confirmed	June 04, 2022 6:00 p.m.
Completed: Becket, Cummington, Dalton, Hinsdale, Washington, and Windsor	

Vice Chair Lacatell reported the budget has passed in six out of seven towns.

3. MASC Day on the Hill

Vice Chair Lacatell commented discussion on this will be postponed when Member Eberwein can speak about it.

4. Potential OML Complaint on Subcommittee Reports

Vice Chair Lacatell stated Member Eberwein asked for this to be on the agenda. Vice Chair Lacatell commented there is concern on how the subcommittee reports are listed on the agenda; this will be addressed when Mr. Diver can be present.

Member Bartels said the complaint should be in writing; Chair Craft-Reiss and Vice Chair Lacatell have been researching and plan to talk at the Policy Subcommittee meeting to address this.

Member Stuart commented the initial complaint was upheld in the Attorney General's office and feels there is more room for improvement on the agenda; he suggests tabling this to the next meeting.

## ARTICLE 12422 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Reports

1. Curriculum
  - a. Report

Member Lattizzori reported the subcommittee has met twice; the April meeting Wahconah Teacher Bryan Patton presented the civics projects that help students engage and find their voice – topics included student handbooks and how excused absences are addressed, copyright law, and ending MCAS tests. The May meeting discussion included an overnight field trip; Principal Robb presented the offerings of AP classes for over a decade – it started with 4 classes and now offer over a dozen; this gives students an opportunity to take college like courses that could be applied towards college credits. DESE has started tracking students who take AP courses on free or reduced lunches.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 13 to discuss inclusion and diversity curriculum at the high school.

- b. Approval of the Wahconah Cheerleaders Overnight Field Trip

MOVED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI, SECONDED BY MEMBER STUART

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the Wahconah Cheerleaders July 28 – July 31, 2022 overnight field trip to the USA Cheer Camp in Fitchburg, MA, as recommended by the Curriculum Subcommittee.*

### ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Alpert, Bartels, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Gelinis, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart and Tucker.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

2. Finance
  - a. Report

Member Peters reported the subcommittee met this week to review a PARS presentation on the finances, including OPEB; there is approximately \$2 million in OPEB; there was discussion on several housekeeping items as discussed next.

The next meeting will be June 14 to discuss the legal counsel retainer and the impact of the state passing the budget.

- b. Public Agency Retirement Systems (PARS) Review

- c. Approval of Revolving Account Name Changes

These are required to use the funds appropriately and by each school.

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER STUART



*That Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the name changes of the following District Revolving Accounts, as recommended by the finance subcommittee.*

*Change Account 27016: NRMS Summer School to NRMS Extra Curricular*

*Change Account 27032: Becket Childcare to BWES Extra Curricular*

*Change Account 27041: BTES Childcare to CES Extra Curricular*

*Change Account 27043: KES Afterschool to KES Extra Curricular*

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Members Alpert, Bartels, Case, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Gelinas, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart and Tucker.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

d. Approval of Revolving Account Transfers

This will transfer money from the old accounts to the new ones as listed above

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER STUART

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approve the Revolving Account Fund transfers in the amount of \$644.10, as recommended by the finance subcommittee.*

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Members Alpert, Bartels, Case, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Gelinas, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart and Tucker.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

e. Approval of Capital Account Transfers to the Wahconah Building Project Capital Fund

There are old capital accounts left and the projects are done; the money will be transferred into an active account

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER STUART

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approve the Capital Account Transfers to the Wahconah Building Project Capital Fund in the amount of \$18.23, as recommended by the finance subcommittee.*

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Members Alpert, Bartels, Case, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Gelinas, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart and Tucker.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

3. Policy

a. Report

Member DiFazio reported the subcommittee has not met; there are meetings scheduled for May 6 and June 9.

4. Personnel

a. Report

Member Lacatell reported the subcommittee has not met; negotiations are scheduled with both bargaining units.

b. Executive Session – Negotiations

Not needed.

5. Safety and Wellness  
a. Report

Member Lounsbury reported the subcommittee had to reschedule the meeting in May; the discussion at the next meeting will include Covid metrics and the results of the family SEL survey.

B. Others

1. Wahconah Building Project  
a. Report

Member Peters reported the mountain of dirt still there; seed will happen by end of the month

2. Regional Agreement Ad Hoc  
a. Report

Member DiTomasso reported the subcommittee has not met; the next meeting will review draft changes.

ARTICLE 12423 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Report

1. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Blake-Davis’ report can be found attached to the official minutes.

2. Update on the Assistant Superintendent and Craneville Principal Hires

Superintendent Blake-Davis introduced Rebecca Neet as the new Craneville Principal. There have been Assistant Superintendent interviews and the finalist had a site visit yesterday. A final decision will be made next week.

3. Family Survey SEL Data Presentation

Superintendent Blake-Davis presented the results of the survey; there were 1/3 family responses. The results are broken down by schools; the survey responses are anonymous.

Member Alpert commented on students asking for help; Member Peters added that most comments are positive.

Superintendent Blake-Davis reported students had a chance to respond; the surveys included grade level; Member Lattizzori mentioned the student responses should be telling. Member Stuart asked if the student survey questions would be more specific; Superintendent Blake-Davis responded the student survey questions were changed; these answers will be reviewed and there may be a second survey to drill down on certain areas.

In response to the question if there is teacher input, Superintendent Blake-Davis said teachers provide input at student support team (SST) meetings.

4. Senior Activities (Informational Only)  
Sunday, May 29, 2022      Senior Prom  
Thursday, June 2, 2022      Class Night, 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, June 3, 2022      Senior Assembly  
Sunday, June 5, 2022      Graduation, 1:00 p.m.

B. Recommendations

C. Other

ARTICLE 12424 PERSONNEL

Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

- Arrin Barnes, Assistant Principal at Craneville Elementary School, initially appointed July 1, 2021, resigned effective May 10, 2022.
- Annie Leonard, Principal at Craneville Elementary School, initially appointed August 11, 2021, will resign effective June 30, 2022.

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

ARTICLE 12425 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 12426 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 items])*

Member Stuart reminded Vice Chair Lacatell to add an item to the next agenda regarding Policy 1205: Powers and Duties on how to improve community and public relations.

ARTICLE 12427 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Lacatell is hopeful an Assistant Superintendent will be recommended to the School Committee and expects a special meeting to facilitate this. He also thanked all members for submitting the Superintendent evaluations; Member Alpert will process the evaluations and the Personnel Subcommittee will summarize the results.

Member Lattizzori asked parents and/or guardians not send students to school if they are not feeling well.

MOVED BY MEMBER STUART, SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERS

*To adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.*

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Alpert, Bartels, Case, DiFazio, DiTomasso, Emerson, Gelinis, Lacatell, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart and Tucker.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

**The following were given as handouts or used during the meeting & are filed with the official minutes**

**The following documents were emailed to members and are filed with the official minutes**

MASC Issues and Lobbying Guide

OML Clarification

Cheer Field Trip

Superintendent's Report

CBRSSEL Family Survey