Central Berkshire Regional School District School Committee, Regular Meeting

Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Becket Washington Elementary School Becket, MA 01223

Join Zoom Meeting:

https://cbrsd-org.zoom.us/j/82423775978?pwd=b0FQT2ZHQzVOdWJRTkV6MmpRUktyZz09

Meeting ID: 824 2377 5978
Passcode: 469997
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+13126266799,,82423775978# US (Chicago)
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Central Berkshire's Mission

Central Berkshire Regional School District, in partnership with the community provides a rigorous, meaningful learning environment.

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee

Regular Meeting

Thursday, October 27, 2022

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held in-person and remotely at Becket Washington Elementary School, on Thursday, October 27, 2022, was called to order by Chair Craft-Reiss 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, DiTomasso, Emerson, Lacatell, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, Stuart,

Tucker and Chair Craft-Reiss.

Absent: Members DiFazio, Eberwein and Gelinas.

Also Present: Superintendent Leslie Blake-Davis, Assistant Superintendent Michael Henault, Director of Finance &

Operations Gregory Boino, Recording Secretary Michelle White, and Principal Mary Kay

McCloskey.

Chair Craft-Reiss stated the meeting was being audio and video recorded.

ARTICLE 12478 RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No members present.

ARTICLE 12479 STUDENT AFFAIRS

A. Student Reports

1. High School Representative

Chair Craft-Reiss reported neither student representative could in attendance. She read Sheffield Drewry's report: the senior trip to Salem had over 90 students attending; students learned about the history of the town and the people; CBRSD celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day; the volleyball team is number one seeded in Western MA; Tim Kaley represented Wahconah at the golf tournament; seniors attended the college fair at Berkshire Community College; the French Club held a cheese party; unified basketball had a nail biting game, but Wahconah's Liam Wheeler made the winning shot in the last few seconds.

B. Other

ARTICLE 12480 FINANCIAL REPORT

C. Warrants

Chair Craft-Reiss reported the warrants were previously signed by members of the School Committee.

Warrant #APW23-05	Septen	nber 23, 2022
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	-	
Capital Expenses: Other Funds	-	
WRHS Building Project	\$	60,104.56
Total Other Funds:	\$	60,104.56
Total Authorization for Payment	\$	60,104.56

Varrant #AP23-06	September 23, 2022	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	_	
	_	
Operating Expenses: General Fund		
Accounts Payable	\$	191,045.84
Employee Health & Dental Insurance District Share	\$	301,011.70
Retiree Health Insurance District Share	\$	130,523.41
Total General Fund	\$	622,580.95
Operating Expenses: Other Funds		
Agency: Employee Share Health & Dental Insurance	\$	84,347.05
Agency: Retiree Share Health Insurance	\$	28,505.19
Prior Year Encumbrances	\$	111,923.00
Grants	\$	24,337.05
Total Other Funds:	\$	249,112.29
Revolving		
School Lunch	\$	68,260.73
NRMS Student Activities	\$	2,726.52
WRHS Cross Country	\$	60.00
WRHS Soccer - Boys	\$	170.00
WRHS Soccer - Girls	\$	340.00
WRHS Volleyball	\$	195.00
Total Revolving Funds	<u>\$</u>	71,752.25
Total Authorization for Payment	\$	943,445.49

Warrant No. PR23-07	September 29, 2022
PAYROLL	

General Fund: Operating Expenses Employee Wages	\$ 565,952.95
Other Funds	
Revolving Accounts	\$ 5,542.17
Grants	\$ 79,999.66
School Lunch	\$ 13,528.69
Total Other	\$ 99,070.52
Total Payroll	\$ 665,023.47
Employer Medicare	 9,409.13
Total Payroll and Taxes	\$ 674,432.60

Warrant No. PR23-07D	September 29, 2022		
PAYROLL DEDUCTION	-		
	-		
Accounts Payable from Agency Accounts			
Payroll Deductions			
403B (Various Companies)	\$	15,552.56	
457 (Various Companies)	\$	60.00	
Wage Garnishments	\$	52.00	
Union Dues	\$	5,989.08	
Federal Income Tax	\$	56,927.25	
Berkshire County Retirement	\$	32,907.79	
Mass Teachers Retirement	\$	161,761.60	
OBRA Retirement	\$	993.79	
Medicare Employee Contributions	\$	9,409.03	
Massachusetts Income Tax	\$	30,646.54	
Employee Contributions to Insurances	\$	4,440.67	
Total Payable	\$	318,740.31	

Warrant No. PR23-08 PAYROLL	October 13, 2022		
General Fund: Operating Expenses			
Employee Wages	\$	567,023.74	
Other Funds			
Revolving Accounts	\$	5,542.17	
Grants	\$	79,104.00	
School Lunch	\$	14,090.15	
Total Other	\$	98,736.32	

Total Payroll	\$ 665,760.06	
Employer Medicare	\$ 9,034.59	
Total Payroll and Taxes	\$ 674,794.65	

Warrant No. PR23-08D	October 13, 2022		
PAYROLL DEDUCTION	=		
	-		
Accounts Payable from Agency Accounts			
Payroll Deductions			
403B (Various Companies)	\$	15,452.56	
457 (Various Companies)	\$	60.00	
Wage Garnishments	\$	52.00	
Union Dues	\$	5,989.08	
Federal Income Tax	\$	52,362.88	
Berkshire County Retirement	\$	-	
Mass Teachers Retirement	\$	-	
OBRA Retirement	\$	1,056.34	
Medicare Employee Contributions	\$	9,034.68	
Massachusetts Income Tax	\$	29,281.39	
Employee Contributions to Insurances	\$	116.92	
Total Payable	\$	113,405.85	

Warrant #AP23-07	October 14, 2022	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	-	
Operating Expenses: General Fund	-	
Accounts Payable	\$	410,152.14
Employee Health, Life & Dental Insurance District Share	\$	1,830.03
Retiree Health & Life Insurance District Share	\$	303.30
Total General Fund	\$	412,285.47
Operating Expenses: Other Funds		
Agency: Employee Share Health, Life & Dental Insurance	\$	164.42
Agency: Retiree Share Health & LIfe Insurance	\$	132.74
Prior Year Encumbrances	\$	20,042.39
Grants	\$	3,482.02
Total Other Funds:	\$	23,821.57
Revolving		
School Lunch	\$	-
WRHS Cross Country	\$	160.00
WRHS Football	\$	2,116.40
WRHS Soccer - Boys	\$	480.00

Total Authorization for Payment	*	439,488.84
Total Revolving Funds	<u>\$</u>	3,381.8
WRHS Unified Basketball	\$	145.40
WRHS Soccer - Girls	\$	480.00

Warrant #APW23-06	October 14, 2022
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	<u>-</u>
Capital Expenses: Other Funds	-
WRHS Building Project	\$ 7,383,022.41
Total Other Funds:	\$ 7,383,022.41
Total Authorization for Payment	\$ 7,383,022.41

D. Gifts and Donations

1. Acceptance of Donation from MindWise Innovations

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER CASE

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the donation of a suicide prevention software program from MindWise Innovations, worth \$300, as recommended by the District Treasurer.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

2. Acceptance of Donation to the Student Activity Account

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the donation of \$300 from the Wahconah Class of 1971 to the Renaissance Program, as recommended by the District Treasurer.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

3. Acceptance of Donation to the CBRSD Revolving Gift Account

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the donation of \$11,041.60 Feronia Forward LTD/Feronia Forests LLC to the General Revolving Gift Account for the CBRSD Scholarship Fund for the Nessacus Grade 6 field trip to Ramblewild, as recommended by the District Treasurer.

Director Boino explained this company has a partnership with Ramblewild.

ROLL CALL

Aves: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

4. Approval of Baked Sale Fundraising Events for Wahconah and Nessacus Student Activity Groups

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER CASE

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves fundraising events of selling baked goods, food and drink for the 2022-2023 school year to benefit the Wahconah and Nessacus Student Activity Groups.

In response to whether this is a policy violation; Superintendent Blake-Davis replied the events are held after school.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

5. Approval of Fundraising Event for the Student Council Fund

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI

BE IT RESOLVED that the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the fundraising events of selling t-shirts for the Nessacus Student Council.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

6. Approval of Fundraising Events for the France Field Trip

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the possible following fundraising events to offset costs of busing for the 2023 Wahconah field trip to France, as recommended by the District Treasurer:

- Family game night
- Chipotle Dining to Donate
- Church breakfast
- Corn maze or haunted trail
- Tag sale and scratch ticket raffle
- Selling flowers for a dance at Wahconah
- Spaghetti dinner at the Dalton VFW
- Pancake breakfast at the Dalton VFW

In response if the money was just for transportation, Superintendent Blake-Davis replied that Ms. Moquin is also applying for a grant to offset the trip cost for those they cannot afford it.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

7. Acceptance of Donation to the CBRSD General Scholarship Fund

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the following donations to the CBRSD General Scholarship Fund in memory of Patrick Muraca, as recommended by the District Treasurer:

\$25 from the Haddad family \$25 from the Stair family \$50 from the Bender family \$50 from the Benjamin family \$50 from the Cripps family \$50 from the Fields-Kasuba family \$50 from the Hoover family \$50 from the Lavalley family \$50 from the Perreault family \$50 from the West family \$100 from the Callahan family \$100 from the Deangelus family \$100 from the Garvey family \$100 from the Galliher family \$100 from the Glendon family \$100 from the Higgins family \$100 from the Poopor family \$100 from the Page family \$150 from the Whitestone family \$200 from the Miner family \$400 from the Lucaroni families \$500 from the Boraski family \$500 from the Greenwood family

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

ARTICLE 12481 SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 22, 2022

Member Lacatell referred to page 161 Wahconah Building Project section as to what committee it refers to; Member Peters and Superintendent Blake-Davis said it is the bi-weekly progress meetings; now the group meets to discuss change orders or other issues. Member Lacatell said to change 'other possible voting options' to 'debt approval vote' on page 163.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER CASE

To accept the minutes of the regular meeting of September 22, 2022, as amended.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

ARTICLE 12482 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Report

1. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Blake-Davis' report can be found filed with the official minutes.

2. MCAS Results

Superintendent Blake-Davis shared the PowerPoint presentation (filed with the minutes). In response to the poor results for 3rd grade, Superintendent Blake-Davis said the 3rd grade lost 1st grade due to the pandemic. Assistant Superintendent Henault added that PLCs worked well with the high school; the goal is to use them at the elementary schools; he added that the morning meetings at the elementary schools focus on Social and Emotional Learning and embedded throughout the day. Superintendent Blake-Davis said the district uses a data tracking system to measure accountability.

3. Superintendent's Goals

Superintendent Blake-Davis briefly discussed her goals (filed with the minutes).

B. Recommendations

1. Approval of Proposed FY2024 Budget Calendar

Director Boino stated most of the changes made to the calendar were date changes.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accept the FY24 Budget Calendar, as recommended by the Superintendent.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

2. Preliminary October 1, 2022 Enrollment

Superintendent Blake-Davis compared the enrollment numbers (filed with the minutes) from 2021 to 2022.

C. Other

ARTICLE 12483 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

1. School Committee Self-Evaluations

Member Peters reviewed the School Committee self-evaluations presentation (filed with the minutes).

2. Handicap Door Access at Wahconah Regional High School

Member Peters reported the quote for the handicap came in at \$15,000; Superintendent Blake-Davis will need to sign the change order. Member Peters added that someone would not be able to use that door to walk into the building; a person would have to be buzzed in when school is in session.

3. 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

Chair Craft-Reiss reminded members that Member Emerson is a write in.

4. School Committee Recognition

Chair Craft-Reiss recognized John Bartels, Jr. for his years of service to the committee. Member DiFazio was not present to receive his award.

5. Public Relations Discussion

Chair Craft-Reiss stated that since Member Gelinas is not in attendance; this will be on the next agenda.

6. MASC/MASS Joint Conference Resolutions

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee delegates to MASC/MASS Joint Conference vote to endorse Resolution #1: Regarding Sanctuary Laws for Transgender Students.

Some members commented that the resolution was vague; Chair Craft-Reiss read more of the resolution to the group.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee delegates to MASC/MASS Joint Conference vote to endorse Resolution #2: To Increase the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund.

In response to what this resolution was; members stated it is an increase to Circuit Breaker funds

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee delegates to MASC/MASS Joint Conference vote to endorse Resolution #3: Membership of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Members briefly discussed the pros and cons of having teachers on the board.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Eight Members.

Nays: Member Case, DiTomasso, Lacatell and Stuart.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER STUART

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee delegates to MASC/MASS Joint Conference vote to endorse Resolution #4: Preserving Local Governance of Massachusetts Schools.

Members discussed the length of time to allow DESE turn around a school in three years; five years may be more realistic. Members added that DESE has had these schools for years with no plan in place; let the schools take back their school. There also was a brief discussion of amending the resolution to allow five years to turn around a school. Members Peters and DiTomasso will make a motion to amend if not brought up by other members at the conference.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Eleven Members.
Nays: Members Lacatell.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER STUART

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee delegates to MASC/MASS Joint Conference vote to endorse Resolution #5: Personal Financial Literacy Education.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER STUART

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee delegates to MASC/MASS Joint Conference vote to endorse Resolution #6: Establishment of a Regional School Assessment Fund.

In response to what this resolution means, Member Peters likened it to how Washington was affected with five students going to vocational schools (0 in the past); it helps regional schools set up funds to offset costs.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

ARTICLE 12484 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. <u>Curriculum</u>

a. Report

Member Lattizzori reported the subcommittee met October 24 to discuss how National Honor Society selection and induction of students are done at Wahconah; Principal Robb was in attendance. Superintendent Blake-Davis presented the results of MCAS. The next meeting topics include the Equity Report and Art/Music classes.

2. Finance

a. Report

Member Peters reported the subcommittee met October 11. ESSER funding was presented; 20% needs to be spent between now and 1½ years. Rural aid funding was also discussed; that has to be spent by June; Superintendent Blake-Davis and Director Boino will share with the committee on what the money will be spent on.

b. Approval of FY24 Budget Guidelines & Instructions

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER CASE

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the FY24 Budget Guidelines and Instructions, as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

The next meeting will be November 8 to discuss Rural Aid, ESSER distribution and updates from the towns.

- 3. Policy
 - a. Report
 - b. <u>Approval of Second Reading Revision Appendix B: District By-Laws, Article III:</u> Organization, Officers, Meetings, Section 3

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER STUART

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the second reading to Appendix B: District By-Laws, Article III: Organization, Officers, Meetings, Section 3, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Eleven Members. Nays: Member Stuart.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

4. Personnel

a. Report

Member Lacatell reported the subcommittee met with the paraprofessionals this week; they will meet with the teachers next week.

b. Approval of Position of an Additional Assistant Cook at Craneville School

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the addition of an Assistant Cook (3 hours) for the 2022-23 school year at Craneville Elementary School.

Member Lacatell said three times more students are taking advantage of the free breakfast.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carries unanimously.

c. Executive Session - Negotiations

Not needed.

5. Safety and Wellness

a. Report

Member Lounsbury reported the subcommittee met October 26. Head Nurse Galliher reported there are sporadic Cove cases in the district; an increase of respiratory illnesses and the common cold. The rates of Covid have dropped to medium from high; the flu and RSV has not been seen in the schools. The subcommittee continued with the

Wellness policy. Director of Food Services Tranfaglia confirmed most standards are still the same; he will get nutritional information on the food items. Nutrition education curriculum, food incentives and continue with the Wellness policy will be discussed at the next meeting and food incentives. Members were impressed with Mr. Tranfaglia's knowledge of food service.

B. Others

- 6. Wahconah Building Project
 - a. Report
 - b. Town Meeting Updates for the Wahconah Track

Member Peters thanked members for voting. Berkshire Design will provide the design and then it will go out to bid; the work will begin in June of 2023.

7. Regional Agreement Ad Hoc

a. Report

Member Emerson reported the committee met October 12. MARS was in attendance via remote to present the DESE checklist, the recommended order of the agreement and their changes to Section 1 and 2; the agreement DESE has on file is from 1958, but will allow the committee to use the 1997 version. The next meeting will be November 9 to review Sections 3-5; this will then be submitted to DESE.

ARTICLE 12485 PERSONNEL

Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

- Keanna Rudd, Title I Tutor at Nessacus Middle School, appointed effective September 16, 2022.
- Barbara Moynihan, Assistant Cafeteria Cook at Nessacus Middle School, appointed effective September 28, 2022.
- Susie Ruiz, Paraprofessional at Craneville Elementary School, initially appointed October 9, 2008, will resign effective November 11, 2022.
- Christine Galeucia, Teacher at Kittredge Elementary School, appointed effective October 17, 2022.
- Alexander White, Paraprofessional at Nessacus Middle School, appointed effective October 12, 2022.

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

ARTICLE 12486 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 12487 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])

ARTICLE 12488 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Member Lacatell applauded Superintendent Blake-Davis for selling the track reconstruction project to all the towns. Member Alpert agreed.

MOVED BY MEMBER CASE, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTZZORI

To adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Twelve Members.

Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carries unanimously.

Member Lacatell mentioned that the play 'Clue' will be held at Wahconah on November 3rd and 5th.

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

CBRSD MCAS Analysis and Action Plan Presentation

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

Superintendent's Report Superintendent's Goals 2022-23 FY2024 Budget Calendar 2022-23 Preliminary October 1 Enrollment Numbers 2021-22 Final October 1 Enrollment Numbers MASC 2022 Resolutions Report FY2024 Guidelines and Instructions First and Second Readings Article III Organization