

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee

Regular Meeting

Thursday, December 8, 2022

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held in-person and remotely at Kittredge Elementary School, on Thursday, December 8, 2022, was called to order by Chair Peters at 7:00 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Alpert, Case, DiTomasso, Emerson, Farella, Gelinas, Lacatell, Lattizzori, Lounsbury, Peters, and Stuart.

Absent: Members Craft-Reiss, Eberwein and Tucker.

Also Present: Superintendent Leslie Blake-Davis, Assistant Superintendent Michael Henault, Director of Finance & Operations Gregory Boino, Recording Secretary Michelle White, and Members of the Audience.

Chair Peters stated the meeting was being audio and video recorded.

ARTICLE 12501      RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Liz Jackson, CBEA Vice President, spoke of her appreciation for what the School Committee does and how the committee represents the district. Ms. Jackson commented that she thought a long time about what she was going to say; how staff appreciates the paraprofessionals; we need to value what is important; the paraprofessionals feel undervalued. Ms. Jackson asked the appreciation of the paraprofessionals be shown in negotiations.

Sarah Suriner, a former paraprofessional, spoke of her resignation was due to financial issues; many paraprofessionals work multiple jobs just to pay their bills.

ARTICLE 12502      STUDENT AFFAIRS

A. Student Reports

1. High School Representative – Sheffield Drewry

Sheffield Drewry reported on the first ever career fair held of many career opportunities; winter sports have started.

B. Other

ARTICLE 12503      FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

Vice Chair DiTomasso reviewed the warrants previously signed.

<b>Warrant No. PR23-10</b>		<b>November 10, 2022</b>
<b>PAYROLL</b>		
<b>General Fund: Operating Expenses</b>		
<b>Employee Wages</b>		<b>\$ 643,310.35</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>		
<b>Revolving Accounts</b>		<b>\$ 4,388.32</b>

Grants	\$ 83,484.38
School Lunch	\$ 15,136.67
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$ 103,009.37</b>
 <b>Total Payroll</b>	 <b>\$ 746,319.72</b>
 <b>Employer Medicare</b>	 <b>\$ 10,189.26</b>
 <b>Total Payroll and Taxes</b>	 <b>\$ 756,508.98</b>

<b>Warrant No. PR23-10D</b>	<b>November 10, 2022</b>
<b>PAYROLL DEDUCTION</b>	-
	-
<u><b>Accounts Payable from Agency Accounts</b></u>	
<b>Payroll Deductions</b>	
403B (Various Companies)	\$ 16,379.48
457 (Various Companies)	\$ 60.00
Wage Garnishments	\$ 52.00
Union Dues	\$ 6,654.64
Federal Income Tax	\$ 67,064.35
Berkshire County Retirement	\$ 14,473.72
Mass Teachers Retirement	\$ -
OBRA Retirement	\$ 3,552.74
Medicare Employee Contributions	\$ 10,189.13
Massachusetts Income Tax	\$ 33,017.82
Employee Contributions to Insurances	\$ 116.92
 <b>Total Payable</b>	 <b>\$ 151,560.80</b>

<b>Warrant #AP23-09</b>	<b>November 18, 2022</b>
<b>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE</b>	-
	-
<b>Operating Expenses: General Fund</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 358,891.78
Employee Life, Health & Dental Insurance District Share	\$ 288,182.37
Retiree Health & Life Insurance District Share	\$ 126,486.66
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 773,560.81</b>
 <b>Operating Expenses: Other Funds</b>	
Agency: Employee Share Life, Health & Dental Insurance	\$ 80,355.43
Agency: Retiree Share Life & Health Insurance	\$ 27,015.74
Prior Year Encumbrances	\$ 26,796.07
Grants	\$ 31,315.45
<b>Total Other Funds:</b>	<b>\$ 165,482.69</b>

<b>Revolving</b>	
School Lunch	\$ 29.88
CBRSD Gift Account	\$ 623.56
WRHS Cross Country	\$ 220.00
WRHS Football	\$ 4,311.95
WRHS Soccer - Boys	\$ 2,101.64
WRHS Soccer - Girls	\$ 2,406.64
WRHS Student Activity	\$ 8,685.57
WRHS Swimming	\$ 600.00
WRHS Volleyball	\$ 546.00
<b>Total Revolving Funds</b>	<b>\$ 19,525.24</b>
<b>Total Authorization for Payment</b>	<b>\$ 958,568.74</b>

<b>Warrant #APW23-08</b>	<b>November 18, 2022</b>
<b>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE</b>	-
	-
<b>Capital Expenses: Other Funds</b>	
WRHS Building Project	\$ 18,176.38
<b>Total Other Funds:</b>	<b>\$ 18,176.38</b>
<b>Total Authorization for Payment</b>	<b>\$ 18,176.38</b>

<b>Warrant No. PR23-11</b>	<b>November 23, 2022</b>
<b>PAYROLL</b>	
<b>General Fund: Operating Expenses</b>	
<b>Employee Wages</b>	<b>\$ 572,551.86</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>	
Revolving Accounts	\$ 4,388.32
Grants	\$ 81,200.42
School Lunch	\$ 14,438.00
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$ 100,026.74</b>
<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$ 672,578.60</b>
<b>Employer Medicare</b>	<b>\$ 9,128.53</b>
<b>Total Payroll and Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 681,707.13</b>

<b>Warrant No. PR23-11D</b>	<b>November 23, 2022</b>
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**PAYROLL DEDUCTION****Accounts Payable from Agency Accounts****Payroll Deductions**

403B (Various Companies)	\$ 17,617.94
457 (Various Companies)	\$ 60.00
Wage Garnishments	\$ 52.00
Union Dues	\$ 6,578.61
Federal Income Tax	\$ 52,424.36
Berkshire County Retirement	\$ 13,567.51
Mass Teachers Retirement	\$ 109,929.37
OBRA Retirement	\$ 1,301.94
Medicare Employee Contributions	\$ 9,128.53
Massachusetts Income Tax	\$ 29,396.25
Employee Contributions to Insurances	\$ 4,452.64

<b>Total Payable</b>	<b>\$ 244,509.15</b>
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**Warrant #AP23-09S****December 2, 2022****ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

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**Operating Expenses: General Fund**

Accounts Payable \$ 84,519.32

**Total General Fund \$ 84,519.32****Operating Expenses: Other Funds**

Grants \$ 1,100.00

**Total Other Funds: \$ 1,100.00****Revolving****Total Revolving Funds \$ -**

<b>Total Authorization for Payment</b>	<b>\$ 85,619.32</b>
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**B. Gifts and Donations****1. Approval of National Honor Society Fundraising Event****MOVED BY MEMBER DITOMASSO, SECONDED BY MEMBER EMERSON**

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves an Empty Bowl fundraising event for by the Wahconah National Honor Society to benefit food pantries and service projects.*

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Eleven Members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

2. Acceptance of Student Council Fundraising Event

MOVED BY MEMBER DITOMMASSO, SECONDED BY MEMBER STUART

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves a Craft & Small Business fair at Wahconah Regional High School on May 6, 2023, to raise funds for the Student Council fund.*

In response to what was used to advertise the fair, Superintendent Blake-Davis said it was on flyers and lawn signs, and the Eagle.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Eleven Members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

3. Approval of Class of 2024 Fundraising Event

MOVED BY MEMBER DITOMMASSO, SECONDED BY MEMBER STUART

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves a Holiday Movie Event by the Class of 2024.*

Superintendent Blake-Davis explained there would be a fee to see the movie.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Eleven Members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

4. Acceptance of Donation from the College Club

MOVED BY MEMBER DITOMMASSO, SECONDED BY MEMBER ALPERT

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts a donation of \$436.42 from the College Club, to be awarded to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade civics current event mural project at Nessacus Regional Middle School, as recommended by the District Treasurer.*

Superintendent Blake-Davis stated 8<sup>th</sup> graders are required to do a civics project. Nessacus Principal Vosburgh said the new mural will consist of nine bricks with year and pictures of current events of 2022 and past events; the location has not been determined yet.

Ayes: All Members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

ARTICLE 12504 SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 10, 2022

MOVED BY MEMBER PETERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER CASE

*To accept the minutes of the regular meeting of November 10, 2022, as printed.*

Member Lacatell stated members Eberwein and Gelinas were not present during the teachers' contract vote.

*To accept the minutes of the regular meeting of November 10, 2022, as corrected.*

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER CASE

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Eleven Members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

ARTICLE 12505 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Report

1. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Blake-Davis' report can be found filed with the minutes. Member Stuart asked that since the organization who donated Max is in legal issues who is paying for the costs. Superintendent Blake-Davis said the veterinary care is being donated; the Berkshire Humane Society provides training. The owner pays for training and food; the district has not incurred any costs. Member Gelinas suggest a survey to get feedback on whether having a comfort dog is worthy. Superintendent Blake-Davis said students are happy to see him.

2. School Improvement Plans (SIPs)

Superintendent Blake-Davis said the elementary presentation will be in January; administration has been sick.

Nessacus Principal Vosburgh reviewed the SIP presentation. In response to the different academic achievement chart presented versus the one emailed to members, Principal Vosburgh said the 2021 column was added for comparison; it was year of the pandemic. Principal Vosburgh reviewed WINN blocks to the members; some WINN blocks are used to prepare for MCAS. Principal Vosburgh added instructional rounds are now being used.

Wahconah Principal Robb and Vice Principal Messina reviewed their SIP presentation. Principal Robb said he, Assistant Superintendent Henault and necessary stakeholders will work on revising on the handbooks. Vice Principal Messina stated it is difficult to measure the effectiveness of restorative practices; Open Architects allows them to look at if incidents have decreased. Chronic absentee during Covid at 29%; the current rate is 24%; Superintendent Blake-Davis added there were many Covid cases at the beginning of the school year.

B. Recommendations

C. Other

ARTICLE 12506 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

1. Approval for the Chair to Vote in a Subcommittee

MOVED BY MEMBER DITOMASSO, SECONDED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves Chair Peters to be a voting member on the Policy Subcommittee.*

Chair Peters said that with all the policies that need to be reviewed, he would like to have an active role in Policy.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Ten Members.

Nays: Member Stuart.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries.

2. Public Relations Discussion

Chair Peters reported Member Gelinas has been researching public relations; Chair Peters suggested reaching out to the Select Boards with a press release that has been crafted as the first step of public relations; he also suggests School Committee members attend Select Board meetings.

3. Town of Dalton School Committee Vacancy

Chair Peters asked members to reach out to any potential candidates. Member Stuart said there is a municipal representative vacancy; Member Lacatell said there has not been a representative in some time; state law allows the Select Board to elect a representative; the role is to participate in collective bargaining; the School Committee decides whether the representative can participate in collective bargaining. Member Lacatell told members it is a hard role to fill; he is hoping to have a representative by next month.

4. Subcommittee Assignments

Chair Peters stated that all members got their first and second choices for subcommittees.

5. Subcommittee Chair Meeting

Chair Peters will arrange a meeting with the subcommittee chairs to go over the roles and responsibilities of a chair.

ARTICLE 12507 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Curriculum

a. Report

Member Lattizzori reported the subcommittee met November 15: teacher Brian Rabuse presented the district's art and music program called ABCDE (Art, Band, Choir, Drama, Extra) and more discussion on the equity audit.

b. Approval of Overnight Cheer Field Trip to Disney

MOVED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI, SECONDED BY MEMBER STUART

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves an overnight field trip for the Wahconah Cheerleading Team to Orlando, FL, February 8 – February 13, 2023, as recommended by the Curriculum Subcommittee.*

In response to how much school the students will miss, Coach Nicki DiMassimo said the students will be out three days; she also added that \$14,000 out of \$18,000 has been raised; some students have gone before.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Eleven Members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

Member Lattizzori said at the other meeting held, Becket Washington teacher Colleen Trager presented the Investigating History pilot program; Member Alpert added how impressed he is with the pilot.

2. Policy  
a. Report

Moved up in the meeting. Member Stuart reported the subcommittee has not met; with all the work the subcommittee has to do, he would like to set the agendas for the term. Member Stuart said he is asking other subcommittees to help review policies; the first project will be the strategic plan. Assistant Superintendent Henault added for the next meeting all policies that touch on discipline will have the updated laws and ready for the subcommittee to review.

Member Stuart left at 9:06 p.m.

3. Finance  
a. Report

Member DiTomasso reported the subcommittee has not met. The initial budget will be discussed on December 13.

b. Certified Excess and Deficiency (Informational Only)

Director Boino stated the excess will be used to offset the FY24 budget minus \$250,000.

4. Personnel  
a. Report

Member Lacatell reported the subcommittee has not met; a paraprofessional negotiation meeting is next week.

b. Approval of Position of Additional Paraprofessional

Member Lacatell said this is for a student who has moved into the district.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER ALPERT

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves an additional paraprofessional due to student need.*

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Ten 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 this week; topics included the latest illness updates; continuation on Policy 6330: Wellness with Kerry Mason, Physical Education teacher, in attendance. The next meeting is January 10 to complete the policy, discuss school walkthrough reports. Police Chief Strout has been invited to update them on school safety measures, and Family and Community Coordinator Wendy Provencher to talk about her programs.

B. Others

6. Wahconah Building Project  
a. Report

Member Peters reported the track project is moving along; bids are going out soon; the button on the handicapped door is being worked on.



7. Regional Agreement Ad Hoc  
b. Report

Member Emerson reported the subcommittee has not met. The next meeting is December 14.

ARTICLE 12508 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

- Annmarie Garland, Paraprofessional at Craneville Elementary School, appointed effective November 21, 2022.
- Mark Lemrise, Student Services van driver, appointed effective October 31, 2022.
- Jennifer Durfee, Assistant Cafeteria Cook at Craneville Elementary School, appointed effective November 8, 2022.
- Sarah Suriner, Paraprofessional at Wahconah High School, initially appointed August 30, 2021, resigned effective November 18, 2022.
- Kurt Card, Custodian at Craneville Elementary School, appointed effective December 5, 2022.
- Brandon Schneid, Custodian at Becket Washington Elementary School, initially appointed September 14, 2022, resigned effective November 21, 2022.
- Dakota Keith, Title I Tutor at Wahconah High School, appointed November 15, 2022.

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

ARTICLE 12509 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 12510 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 12511 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

MOVED BY MEMBER LATTIZZORI, SECONDED BY MEMBER CASE

*To adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.*

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Ten Members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carries unanimously.

**The following were given as handouts or used during the meeting & are filed with the official minutes**  
CBRSD District and School Improvement Plans Presentation

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

Superintendent's Report

Cheer Field Trip

Investigation History Presentation

Certified Excess and Deficiency