

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2009

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Nessacus Regional Middle School, Dalton, MA, on Thursday, January 8, 2009, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Chivers, Conner (7:12 p.m.), Farley, Goddard, Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Lacatell, Les, Wagner, Welts and Carroll-Lombardi.

Absent: Members Darby and Yates

Also Present: Superintendent Donna Harlan, Assistant Superintendent James Stankiewicz, Business Manager Marge Foster, Recording Secretary Diane Koch, and Members of the Audience.

For the record, Chair Carroll-Lombardi does not vote unless noted.

ARTICLE 9563      RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

ARTICLE 9564      STUDENT AFFAIRS

A.      Wahconah Report

None.

ARTICLE 9565      SECRETARY'S REPORT

A.      Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 13, 2008

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 13, 2008, with the omission of the reference to 2-0 on page 57 in regards to the Wahconah girls' soccer.*

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9566      FINANCIAL REPORT

A.      Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-22, in the total amount of \$785,262.02, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-22, dated November 26, 2008 (previously signed)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$263,642.41	
Insurance Payment	<u>\$334,753.58</u>	
		\$598,395.99
Transfers		\$80,595.51
Federal Funds		\$17,193.41
School Lunch		\$37,403.78
Circuit Breaker		\$34,290.42
Independent Gate		\$2,695.00
WRHS Student Activity		\$8,121.40
NRMS Student Activity		\$2,000.00
WRHS Boys' Soccer Revolving		\$550.50
WRHS Girls' Soccer Revolving		\$288.00
WRHS Football Revolving		\$1,008.56
WRHS Cross Country Revolving		\$507.75
WRHS Cheerleading Revolving		\$179.00
WRHS Volleyball Revolving		-\$198.50
WRHS Renovation		\$231.20
Kittredge Zipkin Fund		<u>\$2,000.00</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$785,262.02

Member Lacatell asked about the Circuit Breaker listed as an expense. Business Manager Foster stated that it was Special Education and that it exceeds the limits of the allowance.

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-23, in the total amount of \$812,660.96, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-23, dated November 26, 2008 (previously signed)

PAYROLL

<u>Operating Expense</u>	\$506,680.75
Federal Funds	\$42,287.88
Becket Revolving Account	\$1,455.15
Athletic Independent Games	\$400.00
Craneville Homework Club	\$202.58
School Lunch	<u>\$15,052.78</u>
Subtotal	\$566,079.14
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$6,754.64</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$572,833.78
Transfers & Deductions	<u>\$239,827.18</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$812,660.96

Ayes: Nine members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-24, in the total amount of \$674,000.66, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-24, dated December 11, 2008 (previously signed)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$236,164.00	
Insurance Payment	<u>\$321,957.19</u>	
		\$558,121.19
Transfers (Insurance: Employees & Retirees)		\$80,595.51
Federal Funds		\$10,125.37
School Lunch		\$8,868.76
Independent Gate		\$924.00
Becket Washington Pre-School		\$51.85
WRHS Boys' Soccer Revolving		\$445.70
WRHS Girls' Soccer Revolving		\$133.25
WRHS Football Revolving		\$810.25
WRHS Cross Country Revolving		\$468.00
WRHS Girls' Basketball Revolving		\$100.00
WRHS Cheerleading Revolving		\$100.00
WRHS Tennis Revolving		\$100.00
WRHS Golf Revolving		\$200.00
WRHS Girls' Track Revolving		\$100.00
WRHS Renovation		\$12,111.78
WRHS Science Lab		<u>\$745.00</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$674,000.66

Member Henderson asked what an Independent Gate was. Business Manager Foster was not sure, it is listed in the warrant packet and she will check with Justine Donovan, Accounts Payable Assistant to be sure.

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-25, in the total amount of \$699,498.13, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-25, dated December 11, 2008 (previously signed)

PAYROLL

<u>Operating Expense</u>		\$507,085.98
Federal Funds		\$38,746.72
Becket Revolving Account		\$1,455.15
Craneville Homework Club		\$150.95
School Lunch		<u>\$15,140.66</u>
Subtotal		\$562,579.46

FICA (Operating)	<u>\$6,608.11</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$569,187.57
Transfers & Deductions	<u>\$130,310.74</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	<u>\$699,498.31</u>

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

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-99, in the total amount of \$1,551.26, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-99, dated December 11, 2008 (previously signed)

PAYROLL

<u>Operating Expense</u>	\$1,108.46
Federal Funds	<u>\$238.08</u>
Subtotal	\$1,346.54
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$19.52</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$1,366.06
Transfers & Deductions	<u>\$185.20</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	<u>\$1,551.26</u>

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

Member Conner arrived.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-26, in the total amount of \$1,901,035.82, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-26, dated December 24, 2008 (previously signed)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$412,679.10	
Insurance Payment	<u>\$309,283.04</u>	
		\$721,962.14
Transfers (Insurance: Employees & Retirees)		\$75,970.13
Federal Funds		\$8,864.26
Circuit Breaker		\$20,886.00
School Lunch		\$39,341.91
Independent Gate		\$4,234.34
WRHS Student Activity		\$11,465.02
NRMS Student Activity		\$12,200.00
WRHS Girls' Soccer Revolving		\$532.00
WRHS Football Revolving		\$687.50
WRHS Cross Country Revolving		\$715.60

WRHS Swimming Revolving	\$264.00
WRHS Nordic Skiing Revolving	\$285.00
WRHS Boys' Basketball Revolving	\$54.00
WRHS Renovation	\$237.00
WRHS Science Lab	\$311.75
Kittredge Lipkin Fund	\$1,152.50
RAN'S	\$1,000,000.00
Interest on Temporary Loans	<u>\$1,872.67</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$1,901,035.82

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

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-27, in the total amount of \$787,656.68, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-27, dated December 24, 2008

PAYROLL

<u>Operating Expense</u>	\$496,912.95
Federal Funds	\$36,907.24
Becket Revolving Account	\$1,455.15
Craneville Homework Club	\$149.90
School Lunch	<u>\$13,416.66</u>
Subtotal	\$548,841.90
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$6,510.60</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$555,352.50
Transfers & Deductions	<u>\$232,304.18</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$787,656.68

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

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-28, in the total amount of \$310,543.04, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-28, dated January 8, 2009

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

<u>Operating Expense</u>	\$284,178.11
Federal Funds	\$9,173.50
School Lunch	\$5,769.79
Athletic Independent Gate Receipts	\$2,796.00
WRHS Student Activity Fund	\$6,185.80
Becket Washington Preschool	<u>\$51.85</u>
WRHS Boys' Soccer Revolving	\$80.00
WRHS Girls' Soccer Revolving	\$25.00

WRHS Football Revolving	\$764.00
WRHS Cross Country Revolving	\$742.74
WRHS Boys' Basketball Revolving	\$255.00
WRHS Girls' Basketball Revolving	\$255.00
WRHS Golf Revolving	\$100.00
WRHS Hockey Revolving	<u>\$166.25</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$310,543.04

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

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-29, in the total amount of \$546,492.20, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-29, dated January 8, 2009

PAYROLL /SALARIES

PAYROLL

<u>Operating Expense</u>	\$522,547.50
Federal Funds	\$19,458.19
Becket Revolving Account	\$1,455.15
School Lunch	<u>\$3,031.36</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$546,492.20

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

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To approve Warrant No. 2009-29D, in the total amount of \$109,416.11, as printed.*

Warrant No. 2009-29D, dated January 8, 2009

PAYROLL /DEDUCTIONS

Operating Expense

FICA EXPENSE	<u>\$5,690.98</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$109,416.11

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

B. Gifts and Contributions

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LES

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the gift of \$807.92 from Wahconah Regional High School Class of 2008 to the C.B.R.S.D. General Scholarship Fund, as recommended by the district treasurer.*

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

Chair Carroll-Lombardi thanked the Class of 2008 for their gift.

C. Authorization to Establish Activity Account

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee authorizes the following new activity account, as recommended by the district treasurer:*

*Destination Imagination, for the purpose of raising money to assist with the cost of national and state membership fees.*

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

ARTICLE 9567 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

Chair Carroll-Lombardi informed the Committee that the Regional Agreement Review Committee meeting was cancelled due to weather and that a date to reschedule has not been decided on. The committee now has represents from the towns of: Becket, Dalton, Peru and Washington. The other towns are being encouraged to designate a representative to attend the meetings.

ARTICLE 9568 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education

Member Henderson reported that the committee had met twice, once on December 4, 2008, and once on January 5, 2009. Two presentations were given to the subcommittee at the December 4, 2008, meeting and will be shared with the Committee tonight.

At the January 5, 2009, meeting Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz provided the subcommittee with a list of textbook purchases over the past two years, social studies all levels (\$52,000), biology, physics and chemistry for Wahconah (\$42,500) and math K – 6 (\$85,000). A reading and ELA program has been piloted and selected and will be purchased when the budget allows. The subcommittee also reviewed the District Textbook and Adoption Policy #5515 and the C.B.R.S.D. textbook review and purchase plan. There was discussion regarding the textbooks that have been purchased and those still needed to align with the Massachusetts Frameworks.

Also at the January 5<sup>th</sup> subcommittee meeting, Mr. Dery, Nessacus Regional Middle School principal, shared a program that is being piloted at Nessacus using teachers with dual certification to teach both general education classes and pull out for special needs classes. Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz reported that several districts had requested a waiver from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for days missed due to the December ice storm and that the request had been denied. In addition, a presentation on Virtual High School at Wahconah and other schools as well as two ideas on education that were being piloted in New Hampshire and Colorado was presented to the subcommittee.

Member Hopper asked if a recent article he had read about MCAS and a score of Needs Improvement no longer being sufficient for a student to graduate was accurate. Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz responded that it was. Discussion followed about MCAS and how the District is preparing students for success.

#### Presentation on Berkshire Trail Expanded Day Program

Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz introduced Berkshire Trail Elementary School Principal Laura Dumouchel who presented a proposal for an extended learning day at Berkshire Trail Elementary School to the Education Subcommittee on December 4, 2009.

Principal Laura Dumouchel with teachers Deb Fitzroy and Margaret Kelleher gave the Committee a handout that details the proposed Expanded Learning Time to Support Student Success program they have submitted as a grant application to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Principal Dumouchel spoke on some of the details of the program and answered questions from the Committee. The program will extend the school day at B.T.E.S. by 1 and ½ hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). Students will receive enrichment time with curricular ties to social studies and science as well as extra instructional time in all subjects.

Discussion followed the presentation and concerns about the limited time the Committee had to review the proposal; side bar agreement that is needed; students' attention spans and funding were addressed.

MOVED BY MEMBER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the request for the projected expanded day proposal and the side agreement for its implementation at Berkshire Trail Elementary School, subject to grant funding and maintaining the present or similar structure of Berkshire Trail Elementary School, as recommended by the Education Subcommittee.*

Ayes: Eleven members voting.

Nays: Member Lacatell.

Motion carried.

#### Presentation by Nurse Leader Barbara Westwood

Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz introduced Nurse Leader Barbara Westwood. Mrs. Westwood gave the Committee a handout of a PowerPoint presentation she presented and reviewed the number of students the nurses in the district had seen during the 2007 – 08 school year. The slide show encompassed numerous statistics on case management; student/staff encounters; health support and education; treatment and intervention as well as data on a client satisfaction survey. Mrs. Westwood extended a thank you to Walmart Vision Center for assisting C.B.R.S.D. nurses with vision screenings this year and to Kristie J. Ohman, RDO for coordinating it all. In response to a question on the number of nurses currently working for the District, Mrs. Westwood responded six.

## 2. Finance

Member Chivers reported the subcommittee has met and is working from last year's budget of approximately \$25,000,000 and adding \$1,000,000 to that to level fund the FY-10 budget. With the possible 10% reduction in state aid and a 2% assessment overall to the towns the subcommittee is developing a list of possible reductions in services in the amount of \$2,000,000. The subcommittee's budget proposal is in the very early stages and is not ready to be brought forward.

Member Hopper remarked that some cuts should be implemented this year such as travel expenses, postage, and energy conservation. Business Manager Foster commented that some of those have already been instituted. Member Lacatell asked if hiring new personnel was on hold. Superintendent Harlan responded yes. She also

shared with the Committee that Business Manager Foster had locked in a price of \$1.85/gallon for oil for FY-10, and informed the Committee that Central Office Administrators will be visiting Katherine Craven, M.S.B.A. in Boston on January 23, 2009.

a. FY-2009 First Quarter Financial Statements

Business Manager Foster gave the Committee a handout on FY09 First Quarter Budget vs. Actual Expenses through September 30, 2009 and explained what the figures represented, adding that many of the percentages were less than 25% because of salaries for instructional staff. The first quarter budget figures show no cause for concern.

b. FY-2009 Budget Freeze

Business Manager Foster reported that the FY-2009 budget had been frozen in December 2008. Staff has been asked to turn off electrical equipment when not in use and to conserve on heat when possible.

c. Authorization to Discontinue Hot Breakfast Program at District Schools

The Chair moved this item before Old Business to allow for an executive session.

3. Policy Review

Member Hopper reported the next meeting is Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

4. Personnel

Member Les reported the subcommittee has not met. The next meeting will be January 22, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at Nessacus. The Committee will review the side bar agreement for Berkshire Trail Elementary School's Expanded Learning Time to Support Student Success Program.

B. Others

1. Wahconah Building Committee

The Chair reported that Superintendent heard from Senator Downing's office that House Docket # 5152 validating the town elections in Dalton was enacted by the House of Representatives on January 5, 2009, and enacted by the Senate on January 6, 2009. The District should be able to secure a bond for the Wahconah renovations very soon.

The Chair shared that Jim Drawe received correspondence about a federal initiative on green energy and conservation. It has not passed through legislation yet, but applications are being invited. Discussion took place about green initiatives and it was said that geothermal heat pumps and solar panels had been looked at for Wahconah. Superintendent Harlan added that Business Manager Foster worked with Richard Furlong to put together a proposal for work that needs to be done on Becket Washington School and sent in an application as well.

Member Henderson reported that the lab stations ordered by SABIC were in and a workday was held at the SABIC lab to clean and paint the other stations that are being donated. It is planned that the installation and renovations of the science labs will happen over the February vacation.

Business Manager Foster reported that bids on the lab were opened today and the contract will be awarded in the near future.

2. Health Advisory Committee

a. Presentation by Nurse Leader Barbara Westwood

Nurse Leader Barbara Westwood gave a presentation earlier in the meeting under Education Subcommittee.

ARTICLE 9569 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Presentation by Physical Wellness Supervisor Kerry Ryan

Superintendent Harlan introduced District Physical Wellness Supervisor Kerry Ryan. Ms. Ryan reported on the state of physical/health education in the district beginning with a brief history of the services over the years and concluding by saying that students currently receive physical education, but only minimal health education. Budget reductions over the years as well as science classes spending less time on health education due to increased demands with MCAS testing have led to the diminish in health education. Ms. Ryan finished the presentation by giving a brief overview of her proposal on what is needed and how, over the next 4 years, the district could build the level of services to what it should be.

2. Fund-Raiser Approved

Wahconah Family and Consumer Science Krispy Kreme doughnut sale, November 24 – December 5, 2008. (Doughnuts will be distributed after school only.)

B. Recommendations

1. Dates and Locations of Upcoming Meetings

January 22, 2009	Nessacus Regional Middle School
February 12, 2009 (Tentative FY-2010 Budget Adoption)	Nessacus Regional Middle School
February 26, 2009 (Public Hearing on FY-2010 Budget)	Nessacus Regional Middle School
March 12, 2009 (Final FY-2010 Budget Adoption)	Nessacus Regional Middle School
March 26, 2009	Nessacus Regional Middle School

Superintendent Harlan told the Committee that plans are ready for the public meeting. She added that it is very important to encourage members of the Coordinating Council to attend the meeting.

C. Other

ARTICLE 9570 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent’s Review of Personnel Changes

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

Ctaci Jones, Title I paraprofessional at Nessacus Regional Middle School, initially appointed August 28, 2008, resigned effective November 26, 2008.

Patty O'Brien has been appointed paraprofessional at Kittredge School, six hours per day, effective November 4, 2008. (Mrs. O'Brien formerly held the position of Title I paraprofessional at Becket Washington School.)

Daniel Filiault has been appointed paraprofessional at Craneville School, five hours per day, effective November 6, 2008.

Pamela Filio has been appointed paraprofessional at Nessacus Regional Middle School, six hours per day, effective November 10, 2008. (Mrs. Filio formerly held the position of Title I paraprofessional at Kittredge School.)

Mary Holloway has been appointed paraprofessional at Berkshire Trail Elementary School, six hours per day, effective November 17, 2008. (This is an increase of three hours per day from her original assignment.)

Jennifer Bailey has been appointed paraprofessional at Berkshire Trail Elementary School, three hours per day, effective November 21, 2008. This is a grant-funded position.

Lauren Paro has been appointed Title I paraprofessional at Kittredge School, three hours per day, effective December 4, 2008. This is a grant-funded position.

Richard Stokmal has been appointed Title I paraprofessional at Becket Washington School, three hours per day, effective December 9, 2008. This is a grant-funded position.

Kiersten Touponce has been appointed grade 5 teacher at Craneville School, effective January 5, 2009, at step A-1.

Elizabeth Michel-Cleeve, guidance counselor at Wahconah Regional High School, initially appointed September 7, 1988, will retire on April 3, 2009.

ARTICLE 9568 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Item brought forward from Finance Subcommittee report given earlier in the meeting.

2. Finance

c. Authorization to Discontinue Hot Breakfast Program at District Schools

MOVED BY MEMBER HARVEY, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

*To go into executive session at 8:48 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, section 23B, "to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining ..."*

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Chivers, Conner, Farley, Goddard, Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Lacatell, Les, Wagner, Welts and Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED BY MEMBER HARVEY, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves to discontinue the Hot Breakfast Program at all schools in the district resulting in a reduction of force, as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee, effective January 23, 2009.*

The Chair stated that the Committee would return to open session to continue the meeting after the executive session.

Brief break was taken from 8:48 p.m. – 8:54 p.m. to allow members of the audience to leave the room.

The Committee returned to open session at 9:18 p.m. Member Les left the meeting.

Discussion followed in regards to the Hot Breakfast Program being discontinued, the resulting layoffs and the overall financial support of the cafeteria program. Business Manager Foster told the Committee that financial losses and low participation in the program were the reasons behind discontinuing it. Although hot items would no longer be served, cold breakfast items, cereal, fruit, juice and milk, would continue to be served. A net savings of \$9,000 would be seen for FY-09 and FY-10 would see that figure doubled.

Ayes: Ten members voting.

Nays: Member Conner.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9571 OLD BUSINESS

A. Executive Session – Grievance Hearing

Cancelled due to C.B.E.A. Executive Secretary Joanne Dowling not being able to attend. Will be rescheduled for January 22, 2009.

B. Executive Session – Strategy Regarding Negotiations

This was moved to the end of the meeting.

ARTICLE 9572 NEW BUSINESS

ARTICLE 9573 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Member Lacatell reported on the recent MASC/MASS conference he attended in Hyannis, MA. He told the Committee that it was a very good experience and encouraged others to go. Mr. Lacatell enjoyed Attorney General Martha Coakley's speech and shared a story she told.

Member Grallert also attended the MASC/MASS conference as a delegate. Saying for her the experience was energizing and it was intense to listen to others from across the Commonwealth express their views. Talking about how it was good to see how issues are larger than a school district and the issues are brought to the legislature.

Superintendent Harlan told the Committee that Berkshire County superintendents met Thursday and talked plan to meet regularly. The group talked about regionalization and the consensus was it is going to be pushed, to take a pro-active approach. The superintendents will be meeting with the Secretary of Education on January 21, 2009.

B. Executive Session – Strategy Regarding Negotiations

MOVED BY MEMBER HARVEY, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

*To go into executive session at 9:42 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, section 23B, “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining ...”*

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Chivers, Conner, Farley, Goddard, Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Lacatell, Wagner and Carroll-Lombardi.  
Nays: Member Welts.  
Motion carried.

The Chair stated that the Committee would not return to open session; the Committee would adjourn the meeting at the close of the executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 p.m.