

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 10, 2008

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Nessacus Regional Middle School, Dalton, MA on Thursday, January 10, 2008, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members J. Chivers, L. Chivers, Farley, Goddard, Gordon (7:05 p.m.), Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Les, Morton, Welts, and Carroll-Lombardi.

Absent: Member Bantjes.

Also Present: Superintendent Donna Harlan, Assistant Superintendent James Stankiewicz, Business Manager Robert Tensel, CBEA Executive Secretary Joanne Dowling, Student Representative Michael Wilson, Recording Secretary Mary Jo Keiper, and Members of the Audience.

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

ARTICLE 9351 RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Courtney Quinn, president of the eighth grade class at Nessacus, read a petition encouraging the Committee to negotiate a fair contract with teachers in order to restore canceled field trips for students. The signed petition was presented to Chair Carroll-Lombardi. (Member Gordon arrived.)

Berkshire Trail Principal Laura Dumouchel reported on two competitive grants recently awarded to the district to explore extended day learning and gifted and talented learning. Committees have been formed to study the possibilities for implementing the two grants together in district schools. Mrs. Dumouchel was very pleased to get the grants and to have the support of willing staff and community members.

Former Wahconah Principal Tom Callahan spoke in support of reaching a fair contract for negotiating staff units, noting the importance of the historical family attitude between the school and community. He suggested the salary offer is too low, particularly for those who will retire at the end of the current school year.

Wahconah senior Mike Wilson reported the student attitude at Wahconah is slipping because of the ongoing debate between the teachers and the School Committee. He asked that the Committee help all students to be the best they can be and to speed up the negotiations process. He thanked Committee members for their dedication.

Parent Mark Wellihan commented on parent support for the schools, the desire for a positive educational experience in district schools, and the recent raises for central office administrators. He urged the Committee to make a fair offer to those who deserve the very best.

Committee member Mike Hopper spoke as a parent of a fifth grader at Craneville. Regarding the recommendation for an additional fifth grade teacher at that school, he asked that his daughter not be moved from her current class. He felt it would be detrimental to students at this point in the school year.

Parent Laura Quinn stated that a petition with many signatures, outlining various parent concerns had been presented to the Committee in the spring. She felt those parents had not received answers regarding their concerns and asked the Committee to respond.

MOVED BY MEMBER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY MEMBER WELTS

To extend the thirty minute period for responses from the audience by 15 minutes.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

The period for responses was extended to 7:45 p.m.

Parent Dave Pugh stated teachers have been offered a major cut in benefits, pointing out that they need to provide for their families. He also reported his fifth grader at Craneville does not want to leave her class. He urged the Committee to settle the contract quickly, saving benefits, and not to add a fifth grade class at Craneville.

Nessacus teacher Amy Gelinis spoke regarding the benefits of extra curricular activities, such as field trips. She described her time spent planning for the Gettysburg trip, the responsibility of supervision during that trip, and the personal time sacrificed for activities that occur on top of a teacher's regular day. She noted the volunteer time given by Committee members as well, asking that they show their appreciation in offering a fair contract.

Craneville fifth grade teacher Peter Bachli reviewed the reasoning behind the request for a class size committee, noting nearly half of the fifth graders at Craneville scored in the "needs improvement" or below category; paraprofessional support has been cut at Craneville; not all students would be moved; if a teacher cannot be provided paraprofessional support would be helpful. He believes smaller classes are better.

The Committee took a brief recess.

ARTICLE 9352 STUDENT AFFAIRS

A. Wahconah Report

Student representative Michael Wilson reported on sports, drama, and the VHS program at Wahconah. He noted the latter needs dedicated teachers and made a plea to the Committee to "bring the family back to Wahconah".

ARTICLE 9353 SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 8, 2007

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 8, 2007, as printed.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9354 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve warrant no. 2008-19, in the total amount of \$703,202.72, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-19, dated November 15, 2007 (Previously signed)

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$491,611.07
Berkshire Trail Preschool Revolving	\$1,796.23
Craneville Homework Revolving	\$154.32
School Lunch	\$16,482.27
Federal Funds	<u>\$53,697.44</u>
Sub-total	\$563,741.33
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$6,198.95</u>
Total Payroll	\$569,940.28
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$133,262.44</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$703,202.72

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve warrant no. 2008-20, in the total amount of \$621,185.08, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-20, dated November 21, 2007 (Previously signed)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$122,287.97	
Insurance Payment	<u>\$315,689.72</u>	
		\$437,977.69
Transfers		\$68,828.97
Federal Funds		\$20,441.21
School Lunch		\$34,855.62
Circuit Breaker		\$18,286.77
Athletic Independent Games		\$3,069.79
WRHS Student Activity Fund		\$2,992.93
NRMS Student Activity Fund		\$1,000.00
WRHS Girls' Soccer Revolving		\$298.75
WRHS Football Revolving		\$428.75
WRHS Cross Country Revolving		\$141.25
WRHS Cheerleading Revolving		\$85.00
Berkshire Taconic Foundation		\$326.50
CBRSD Gift Revolving		\$3,999.85
Capital Expense FY-2008		<u>\$28,452.00</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$621,185.08

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

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve warrant no. 2008-21, in the total amount of \$845,256.59, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-21, dated November 29, 2007 (Previously signed)

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$482,297.52
Berkshire Trail Preschool Revolving	\$1,796.23
Athletic Independent Games	\$770.00
Craneville Homework Revolving	\$338.84
School Lunch	\$12,448.21
Federal Funds	<u>\$50,490.31</u>
Sub-total	\$548,141.11
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$6,081.50</u>
Total Payroll	\$554,222.61
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$294,033.98</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$848,256.59

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

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve warrant no. 2008-22, in the total amount of \$393,489.69, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-22, dated December 13, 2007 (Previously signed)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$348,321.49
Insurance Payment	<u>\$1,040.33</u>
	\$349,361.82
Transfers	\$178.06
Federal Funds	\$14,426.10
Circuit Breaker	\$3,876.56
School Lunch	\$5,083.83
Athletic Independent Games	\$2,723.30
WRHS Student Activity Fund	\$7,474.69
WRHS Boys' Soccer Revolving	\$542.50
WRHS Football Revolving	\$761.25
WRHS Cross Country Revolving	\$846.58
WRHS Cheerleading Revolving	\$93.75
Maturing Debt - Interest Craneville	<u>\$8,121.25</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$393,489.69

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

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve warrant no. 2008-23, in the total amount of \$676,775.23, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-23, dated December 13, 2007 (Previously signed)

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$475,449.25
Berkshire Trail Preschool Revolving	\$1,796.23
Craneville Homework Revolving	\$272.25
School Lunch	\$14,197.10
Federal Funds	<u>\$48,571.86</u>
Sub-total	\$540,286.69
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$5,971.04</u>
Total Payroll	\$546,257.73
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$130,517.50</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$676,775.23

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

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve warrant no. 2008-24, in the total amount of \$2,751,525.01, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-24, dated December 27, 2007 (Previously signed)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$290,706.80
Insurance Payment	<u>\$310,175.12</u>
	\$600,881.92
Transfers	\$68,005.26
Federal Funds	\$7,763.72
Circuit Breaker	\$18,285.48
School Lunch	\$33,544.86
Athletic Independent Games	\$4,272.00
WRHS Student Activity Fund	\$6,633.18
NRMS Student Activity Fund	\$1,000.00
WRHS Student Fees Revolving	\$207.44
WRHS Boys' Soccer Revolving	(\$542.50)
WRHS Football Revolving	\$1,056.50
WRHS Cross Country Revolving	\$468.00
WRHS Swimming Revolving	\$152.50
WRHS Cheerleading Revolving	\$142.50
Academic Decathlon	\$1,047.03

RAN's	\$2,000,000.00
Interest on Temporary Loans	<u>\$8,607.12</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$2,751,525.01

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

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve warrant no. 2008-25, in the total amount of \$774,536.34, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-25, dated December 27, 2007

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$475,038.17
Berkshire Trail Preschool Revolving	\$1,796.23
Craneville Homework Revolving	\$210.53
School Lunch	\$13,805.91
Federal Funds	<u>\$45,824.30</u>
Sub-total	\$536,675.14
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$5,925.06</u>
Total Payroll	\$542,600.20
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$231,936.14</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$774,536.34

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

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve warrant no. 2008-26, in the total amount of \$332,864.08, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-26, dated January 10, 2008

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$289,423.08
Insurance Payment	<u>\$1,039.61</u>
	\$290,462.69
Transfers	\$171.13
Federal Funds	\$6,008.36
School Lunch	\$9,749.56
Athletic Independent Games	\$3,281.84
WRHS Girls' Soccer Revolving	\$600.00
WRHS Swimming Revolving	\$317.50
WRHS Boys' Basketball Revolving	\$146.50
WRHS Girls' Basketball Revolving	\$464.00
WRHS Hockey Revolving	\$206.50
Capital Expense FY-2008	<u>\$21,456.00</u>

TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE \$332,864.08

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

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve warrant no. 2008-27, in the total amount of \$625,798.32, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-27, dated January 10, 2008

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$458,722.07
Berkshire Trail Preschool Revolving	\$1,796.23
Craneville Homework Revolving	\$80.94
School Lunch	\$7,817.99
Federal Funds	<u>\$28,831.65</u>
Sub-total	\$497,248.88
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$5,380.32</u>
Total Payroll	\$502,629.20
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$123,169.12</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$625,798.32

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

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve corrected warrant no. 2008-09, in the total amount of \$603,408.92, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-09, dated September 6, 2007 - CORRECTION

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$431,449.66
School Lunch	\$2,075.62
Federal Funds	<u>\$41,618.69</u>
Sub-total	\$475,143.97
FICA (Operating)	<u>\$4,989.15</u>
Total Payroll	\$480,133.12
Transfers (Deductions)	<u>\$123,275.80</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$603,408.92

Operating expenses lowered; federal funds increased; all other figures remain the same.

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

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER FARLEY

To approve warrant no. 2008-98, in the total amount of \$1,885.66, as printed.

Warrant No. 2008-98, dated December 4, 2007 (previously signed)

PAYROLL

Operating Expenses	\$1,528.89
Sub-total	\$1,528.89
FICA (Operating)	\$22.17
Total Payroll	\$1,551.06
Transfers (Deductions)	\$334.60
TOTAL PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS	\$1,885.66

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9355 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reported she had received an email from Southern Berkshire Committee Chair Abilow announcing a Division VI MASC meeting on Monday, January 21st, at 5:30 p.m. Legislators will be in attendance.

The Chair has spoken with Mr. Ostresh of Dalton Community Cable regarding video taping of school committee meetings and he assured her they will endeavor to tape all meetings in their entirety. DVD's will be provided to the district at no cost.

A letter addressed to the Chair from the Dalton Town Manager, stating the town will accept no more than a 3% increase in the FY-2009 budget, was distributed.

The Chair will speak with Mr. Koocher at the Committee workshop on January 14th regarding establishing a publicity subcommittee. Member Welts also has offered to look into this possibility.

B. Resignation of Washington Representative Joann Shugrue

1. Letter from District Secretary, Re: Filling the Vacancy

The Chair remarked on Mrs. Shugrue's dedication to the Committee and noted she will be missed.

C. Discussion with Wahconah SAC

The Chair reported in accordance with district policy the Wahconah SAC had requested space on the agenda. Present and representing the SAC were Lee Watroba, John Kirchner, Kay Klem, and Dawn Foster.

Mr. Kirchner asked for an explanation of the recent administrative raises, in light of public perception and the affect it may have on the budget vote. The Chair stated salaries were adjusted for central office personnel based upon the need to increase the high school principal base to attract qualified candidates. The business manager's salary was raised for experience and certification. She noted Mr. Tensel has saved the district well over \$100,000 in fuel oil this year. Administrative salaries must be competitive and comparable in order to attract the best candidates.

Mrs. Watroba asked what causes the freezing of budgets for classroom expenditures so early in the year. Mr. Tensel responded the budget is frozen in anticipation of expenses such as plowing, fuel oil, and emergencies; the district cannot go into a deficit situation. School choice and charter school receipts are short \$228,000 and Chapter 70 funds came in \$240,000 lower than anticipated. Substitute costs are much higher than in previous years. The Chair noted most classroom supplies are purchased prior to the first day of school. If extreme expenses do not occur, the funding is returned to the accounts. \$200,000 was available for textbooks at the end of the last fiscal year.

Mrs. Klem asked for an explanation of the negotiations process. The Superintendent provided a brief history, beginning with the collaborative trainer, the actual dates of bargaining sessions, and the agreement to go to arbitration. Neither side may discuss what is said during negotiations.

Mrs. Foster asked how the district will retain qualified teachers, given the fact the district has gone to mediation for the last two contracts. The Superintendent responded there is no lack of candidates; the district received 230 applicants for 21 jobs in 06-07 and 162 applications for 17 openings in 07-08. It was also noted that between 15 and 20% of contracts go to arbitration.

Mrs. Watroba asked what parents can do to help; they support both sides. Suggestions included supporting the school district budget at town meetings and contacting state legislators to increase state funding.

Also noted: The budget process has created animosity between the towns and the school district; towns are reaching their limits under Proposition 2 ½ ; the word “fair” needs to be defined; the insurance issue is not going away. CBEA Executive Secretary Joanne Dowling asked that the two sides return to the table to look at the hard issues. She also stated information on the district website regarding teachers’ seven-hour work day and step/salary increases, which are costly to achieve, are insulting to staff.

ARTICLE 9356 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education

Member J. Chivers distributed an overview of a report the subcommittee heard on the district’s resource officer(s). The group also discussed infectious illnesses (sars and merca). Another meeting will be scheduled soon.

2. Finance

Prior to the subcommittee report, Member Henderson asked that the School Committee set aside fifteen minutes on the January 24th agenda for a report by the Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee. Their funding request has been reduced below \$2 million.

a. Craneville Grade 5 Class Size

Member L. Chivers reported a fifth grade class size committee had recommended the addition of a teacher at Craneville and the finance subcommittee was making that recommendation to the full Committee. The Chair, Members Hopper and Harvey recused themselves from the discussion and the vote. Business Manager Tensel stated it would be an unfunded position, in that school choice and charter school reimbursements were down significantly and the cost of the position would be approximately \$30,000 including health insurance. Reasons for splitting and not splitting the classes were discussed, as were the possibilities of grant funding for the position and additional paraprofessional support if the teaching position was not approved.

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the addition of a grade 5 teacher at Craneville School, effective January 28, 2008, as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee.

Ayes: Members Farley, Gordon, Henderson, Welts.

Nays: Members J. Chivers, L. Chivers, Goddard, Grallert, Les, and Morton.

Motion defeated.

MOVED BY MEMBER FARLEY, SECONDED BY MEMBER HENDERSON

That the Committee authorizes a general paraprofessional for the fifth grade at Craneville School.

Ayes: Members Farley, Gordon, and Henderson.

Nays: Members J. Chivers, L. Chivers, Goddard, Grallert, Les, Morton, and Welts.

Motion defeated.

3. Policy Review

Member J. Chivers reported there is no meeting set.

a. First Reading Adoption of Policy 5230, Alternative Programs

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading adoption of Policy 5230, Alternative Programs, as shown (in the agenda packet) and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. First Reading Adoption of Policy 5240, English Language Learners

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading adoption of Policy 5240, English Language Learners, as shown (in the agenda packet) and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. First Reading Adoption of Policy 6110, Equal Educational Opportunities

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HARVEY

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading adoption of Policy 6110, Equal Educational Opportunities, as shown (in the addendum) and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.

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

d. First Reading Adoption of Policy 6140, Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading adoption of Policy 6140, Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services, as shown (in the agenda packet) and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.

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

4. Personnel

Member Les reported the subcommittee had approved a request to let teachers and paraprofessionals donate sick time to a paraprofessional with ten years of service. That request was referred to the finance subcommittee.

a. Ratification of Cafeteria Workers' Contract

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

To move the ratification of the cafeteria workers' contract to the end of the meeting.

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

b. Grievance Hearings

The Chair reported the grievance hearings had been postponed.

B. Others

1. Craneville Short-Term Capital Bonding Committee

The Chair reported the short-term bonding for carpeting at Craneville School had been defeated by the town of Dalton. She thanked Dick Lacatell, Mike Jamrog, Debbie Bevan, Billie Henderson and Ken Pease for the efforts and those parents who had offered assistance.

2. Wahconah Building Needs Study Committee

Member Henderson reported the Building Needs Committee has organized the proposed Wahconah projects for presentation to the public as follows: Safety issues, accreditation issues, immediate repair issues, and engineering for future projects. Member Hopper suggested a program on the local cable channel could be very helpful in publicizing the needs at Wahconah. The Chair thanked Principal Bevan and Mr. Lacatell for going to Dalton. She stated information from the Building Needs Committee will be available in advance of January 24th.

ARTICLE 9357 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

Superintendent Harlan reported the finance subcommittee would review the FY-2009 budget at its meeting on January 17th.

Becket Town Manager Richard Furlong, who deferred his representation on the negotiations team to Terry Williams, has declined to designate anyone to replace Mr. Williams on that committee.

B. Recommendations

1. Dates and Locations of Upcoming Meetings

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the following dates and locations of meetings, as recommended by the Superintendent.

<i>January 10, 2008</i>	<i>Nessacus Regional Middle School</i>
<i>January 24, 2008</i>	<i>Nessacus Regional Middle School</i>
<i>February 7, 2008</i>	<i>Nessacus Regional Middle School</i>
<i>(Tentative FY-2009 Budget Adoption)</i>	
<i>February 14, 2008</i>	<i>Nessacus Regional Middle School</i>
<i>(Public Hearing on FY-2009 Budget)</i>	
<i>March 6, 2008</i>	<i>Nessacus Regional Middle School</i>
<i>(Final FY-2009 Budget Adoption)</i>	
<i>March 27, 2008</i>	<i>Nessacus Regional Middle School</i>

The by-laws set meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays in these months; February 7 and March 6 are first Thursdays.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Other

The Chair reminded Committee members of the January 14th workshop with MASC representative Glenn Koocher. An agenda and other information will be emailed in advance.

ARTICLE 9358 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

The following personnel changes were reported. All salaries are set in accordance with current contracts.

- Dorothy Beebe has been appointed assistant cafeteria cook (early morning), approximately 2 hours/day at Kittredge School, effective October 31, 2007.
- Helena Durso has been appointed paraprofessional at Kittredge School, 3 hours/day, effective November 5, 2007.
- Frances Major has been appointed assistant cafeteria cook (early morning), approximately 2 hours/day at Craneville School, effective December 3, 2007.

- Josephine Fanelli has been appointed district-wide .3 FTE school nurse, effective December 4, 2007, at step B-1 (pro-rated for part-time and late start).
- Frank G. Brown, Jr., custodian at Nessacus Regional Middle School, initially appointed October 7, 1996, has retired effective January 1, 2008.
- Carol Darby, paraprofessional at Wahconah Regional High School, initially appointed September 14, 1992, has resigned effective January 4, 2008.
- Robert Berube, grade 5 teacher at Kittredge School, initially appointed September 1, 1974, will retire on June 30, 2008.
- Christine Kwasny, grade 5 teacher at Craneville School, initially appointed September 1, 1973, will retire on June 30, 2008.
- Beverly Favreau, grade 3 teacher at Craneville School, initially appointed September 1, 1972, will retire on June 30, 2008.
- Ellen Kelly, grade 2 teacher at Kittredge School, initially appointed September 4, 1991, will retire on June 30 2008.
- Karen West, physical education teacher at Nessacus Regional Middle School, appointed September 7, 1982, will retire on June 30, 2008.

ARTICLE 9359 OLD BUSINESS

Member Grallert reported briefly on her attendance at the MASC/MASS Annual Conference. She found it very interesting and exciting to be with other school committee members from the state. She participated in a crash course on Chapter 70, had a discussion with Southern Berkshire Collaborative people, and learned about the articles and the process for voting. Dr. Harlan offered to duplicate handouts from the major presentations she attended during the conference.

ARTICLE 9360 NEW BUSINESS

None.

ARTICLE 9361 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hopper reported he had spoken with lots of fifth graders. The kids are worried about missing out on end of year activities. Parents would like to donate time to do smaller things and will start planning. It was noted the current seniors are the same students who missed activities in eighth grade during the last round of negotiations.

Member Les commented teachers working outside of our district have stated it is their dream to work at Central Berkshire.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi noted the Division IV meeting will be held at Nessacus on January 21st, not Wahconah as stated in their publicity.

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. LES

To go into executive session at 9:46 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, paragraph 3, "to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining..."

The Chair stated the Committee would reconvene in open session following the executive session.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members J. Chivers, L. Chivers, Farley, Goddard, Gordon, Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Les, Morton, Welts and Carroll-Lombardi

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee came out of executive session at 9:58 p.m.

a. Ratification of Cafeteria Workers' Contract

WHEREAS, the cafeteria unit of AFSCME Council #93, Local 24, AFL-CIO voted on October 31, 2007 to ratify the 2007-2010 agreement between the Central Berkshire Regional School District Cafeteria Workers and the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, it was

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBERS L. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee ratifies the 2007-2010 agreement between the School Committee and the Central Berkshire Regional School District Cafeteria Workers, as recommended by the Committee's negotiating team.

Ayes: Twelve members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Chair asked that the Committee begin the process of looking at past executive session minutes to determine if any could be made public. The CBEA has requested copies of minutes from prior years.

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GORDON

To continue the meeting 20 minutes past 10:00 p.m.

Ayes: Eleven members.

Nays: Member Welts.

Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

To go into executive session at 10:02 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, paragraph 3, "to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining..."

The Chair stated the Committee would not reconvene in open session following the executive session.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members J. Chivers, L. Chivers, Farley, Goddard, Gordon, Grallert, Harvey, Henderson, Hopper, Les, Morton, Welts, Carroll-Lombardi

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Note: The meeting adjourned in executive session at 10:22 p.m.