

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 28, 2008

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Berkshire Trail Elementary School, Cummington, MA, on Thursday, August 28, 2008, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members J. Chivers, L. Chivers, Farley (7:15 p.m.), Gordon, Grallert, Henderson, Hopper, Morton, Yates, and Carroll-Lombardi.

Absent: Members Bantjes, Goddard, Harvey, Les, and Welts.

Also Present: Superintendent Donna Harlan, Assistant Superintendent James Stankiewicz, Business Manager Marge Foster, CBEA Executive Secretary Joanne Dowling, Recording Secretary Mary Jo Keiper, and Members of the Audience.

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

ARTICLE 9496 RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Berkshire Trail Principal Laura Dumouchel welcomed those in attendance and invited them to walk around the building to see the improvements made over the summer.

CBEA Executive Secretary Joanne Dowling reported earlier in the day teachers had ratified the Memorandum of Understanding covering successor agreements for the period August 31, 2007 through August 30, 2011, by a vote of 160 to 8. She also asked to begin a conversation with the School Committee and the member communities to educate the public about question #1 on the state ballot, stating that repeal of the state income tax could devastate local services, including education.

Dalton select board member Bill Chabot presented the Committee with a verbal request to amend the regional agreement. The town voted at their annual town meeting in May, “to adopt a proposal for amendment of SECTION V. TRANSPORTATION of the Central Berkshire Regional School District Agreement as follows: School transportation shall be provided by the regional school district and the cost thereof shall be apportioned on the basis of the actual cost of transporting students in each town.” He outlined the process for amending the agreement, noting $\frac{3}{4}$ of the towns must accept the proposal by majority vote. The Chair asked that the request be made in writing and Mr. Chabot stated a formal written request would be made.

ARTICLE 9407 STUDENT AFFAIRS

A. Wahconah Report

There was no student present.

ARTICLE 9498 SECRETARY’S REPORT

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 24, 2008

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

To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 24, 2008.

Ayes: Seven members voting.
Nays: None.
Abstention: Member Grallert.
Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9499 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

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

To approve Warrant No. 2009-6 (previously signed), in the total amount of \$271,687.41, as printed.

Warrant No. 2009-6, dated August 14, 2008 (previously signed)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expense	\$253,569.95
Federal Funds	\$13,327.90
School Lunch	\$785.76
Summer Drama Revolving	\$3,707.80
Berkshire Trail Preschool Revolving	<u>\$296.00</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$271,687.41

Ayes: Nine members voting (including the Chair).
Nays: None.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

To approve Warrant No. 2009-8, in the total amount of 224,437.01, as printed.

Warrant No. 2009-8, dated August 28, 2008

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expense	\$201,463.79
Federal Funds	\$16,569.52
School Lunch	<u>\$6,403.70</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$224,437.01

Ayes: Nine members voting (including the Chair).
Nays: None.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

To approve Warrant 2009-5, Payroll, dated August 7, 2008, in the total amount of \$123,286.19.

Ayes: Eight members (including the Chair).
Nays: None.
Abstention: Member Hopper.
Motion carried.

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

To approve Warrant 2009-5D, Payroll Deductions, dated August 7, 2008, in the total amount of \$26,623.67.

Ayes: Eight members (including the Chair).

Nays: None.

Abstention: Member Hopper.

Motion carried.

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

To approve Warrant 2009-7, Payroll, dated August 21, 2008, in the total amount of \$106,797.82.

Ayes: Eight members (including the Chair).

Nays: None.

Abstention: Member Hopper.

Motion carried.

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

To approve Warrant No. 2009-7D, Payroll Deductions, dated August 21, 2008, in the total amount of \$41,281.00.

Ayes: Eight members (including the Chair).

Nays: None.

Abstention: Member Hopper.

Motion carried.

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

To approve Warrant No. 2009-9, Payroll, dated September 4, 2008, in the total amount of \$448,196.92.

Ayes: Eight members (including the Chair).

Nays: None.

Abstention: Member Hopper.

Motion carried.

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

To approve Warrant No. 2009-9D, Payroll Deductions, dated September 4, 2008, in the total amount of \$106,586.97.

Ayes: Eight members (including the Chair).

Nays: None.

Abstention: Member Hopper.

Motion carried.

B. Gifts and Contributions

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

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the following gifts and contributions to the William Manning Scholarship, as recommended by the district treasurer:

\$100.00 in memory of Marion Manning from Douglas and Susan Edwards
\$100.00 in memory of Marion Manning from Catherine Moursi
\$100.00 in memory of Marion Manning from Stephen and Karan Cutler
\$100.00 in memory of Marion Manning from Bonnie Arbuckle
\$100.00 in memory of Marion Manning Ronald and Arlene Komar
\$100.00 in memory of Marion Manning from Constance Kehler and Joyce Hill
\$100.00 in memory of Marion Manning from Robert and Jane Franklin
\$100.00 in memory of Marion Manning from Margaret Ellice
\$100.00 in memory of Marion Manning from Donald and Patricia Kienholz
\$100.00 in memory of Marion Manning from Joseph and Mary Jane Craigo
\$1,000.00 in memory of Marion Manning from Nicholas and Ruth Boraski
\$675.00 in memory of Marion Manning from various donors

Ayes: Eight members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Chair noted the generosity of the donors and expressed her appreciation.

ARTICLE 9500 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report of the Chair

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reported she had spoken with MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher and he has accepted her invitation to attend the September 11th school committee meeting. He will discuss with the Committee what other districts are talking about, including regionalization, restructuring, legal, administrative and socioeconomic issues. Representative Denis Guyer has accepted an invitation to attend that meeting as well and Senator Downing hopes to visit the Committee on September 25th.

B. School Committee Self-Evaluation

Those members who have not returned the self-evaluation form were encouraged to do so. The Chair will tabulate the results as soon as possible.

ARTICLE 9501 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education

The subcommittee will meet on September 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office.

2. Finance

A meeting is posted for September 8th at 7:00 p.m. at Nessacus Regional Middle School.

3. Policy Review

Member J. Chivers reported the subcommittee had met prior to the school committee meeting.

a. Naming of Becket Washington Gymnasium

MOVED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HENDERSON

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee names the gymnasium at Becket Washington School the “Jackie Young Gymnasium”, in accordance with Policy 7580, as recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.

Retired physical education and health teacher Larry Moore was introduced and thanked the Committee for the privilege to speak to them regarding Jackie Young, long time supporter of youth in the towns of Becket and Washington. Mr. Young served on two building committees for the Becket Washington School and has been a member of the Becket Select Board, the town’s fire chief, and a major fundraiser over several years for the seven-town gymnastics team. Mr. Moore gave a history of the facility, noting the passage of the first bond issue was directly related to the addition of the beautiful gymnasium to the design. The gym was Mr. Young’s idea to make the school a hub for the two towns. Although he is retired, Mr. Young has abounding energy and is still involved in town issues. Mr. Moore urged the Committee to dedicate the Becket Washington School gymnasium to Jackie Young.

Mr. Farley arrived during Mr. Moore’s presentation.

Ayes: Nine members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. First Reading Revisions to Policy 5705: Eligibility for Co-Curricular Activities

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

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading revisions to Policy 5705: Eligibility for Co-Curricular Activities, as shown (in the agenda packet) and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.

Ayes: Nine members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Personnel

Chair Carroll-Lombardi stated the Committee would go into executive session under Old Business.

B. Others

1. Wahconah Building Committee

a. Resignation of Ed Richards, Peru Member

The Chair reported Mr. Richards found he did not have the time to commit to the building committee. She thanked Member Gordon who will assist in finding a replacement member from Peru.

b. Agreement with Paul Schroeder

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

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee votes to hire Paul Schroeder of Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative, according to the terms of his letter to James Huebner dated August 8, 2008, for writing specifications for the science lab project for a fee not to exceed \$3,000 and travel expenses not to exceed \$1,000, as recommended by the Wahconah Building Committee.

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

c. Purchase of Networking Equipment

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

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the purchase of 4 long haul GBIC (networking equipment) for up to \$1,500 for the High Speed Data Link project, as recommended by the Wahconah Building Committee.

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

The Chair reported the Building Committee continues to meet every other week.

2. GIC Committee

A meeting is posted for Tuesday, September 2nd at 4:00 p.m. in the Central Office. Member Hopper questioned the time, suggesting that 4:00 p.m. is early for working people who might want to attend.

ARTICLE 9502 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

Superintendent Harlan introduced Special Services Director Connie West who reported on the status of the Comprehensive Program Review. Her department will be addressing 22 areas, which need to be brought into compliance by midyear. Mrs. West met with teachers and paraprofessionals during the opening day meeting to share her plans for professional development in regard to CPR compliance issues. Dr. Harlan praised Mrs. West for a super job.

The Superintendent reported on a magnificent opening day, a beautiful breakfast, an inspirational slide show by Assistant Superintendent Stankiewicz, speeches by seniors Andrew Klem and Katherine Reed, and reports by several special education students on their summer experiences. New staff members were introduced and it was noted that 68 of 178 teachers, or 38%, have been with the district fewer than five years. Mr. Stankiewicz has produced a magnificent new handbook of procedures and policies which was available for staff members. Dr. Harlan thanked all those who contributed to the success of the day.

Dr. Harlan read a letter from Dalton Town Manager Ken Walto, regarding the elimination of two crossing guards because of budget reductions in that town. The Superintendent and Business Manager are working on replacement of the guards.

In response to a question at the last school committee meeting, the Superintendent reported Wahconah had made one or two calls last year to the Dalton police department, both times when the Resource Officer was not in the building. At Nessacus there were problems with the equipment, resulting in three false alarms and ten 911 alarms. These alarms were canceled before any action was taken. There were also 3 bomb threats and four calls to the police by administrators. Therefore, the total for last year was one or two calls from Wahconah and seven calls from Nessacus. The equipment has been repaired. A member asked if the SRO was replaced with another officer when he was absent. The answer was that Dalton did not supply a substitute.

Dr. Harlan thanked Mrs. Dowling of the CBEA and the two negotiations teams for their dedication and time over the past 19 months (referring to the ratification of the teachers' agreement).

Dr. Harlan reported she would present her District Improvement Plan first to education subcommittee, second to the finance subcommittee and finally to the full School Committee. The format will be revised as explained in the quarterly review on May 8, 2008.

B. Recommendations

1. Authorization for Kindergarten Paraprofessional – Kittredge School

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

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee authorizes a 6 hour/day paraprofessional at Kittredge School to assist the teacher and students in the second kindergarten class, as recommended by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent stated the funding would come from the operating budget; she could not say how many new students there were in the class, perhaps 22, but would bring the number to a future meeting. Member Farley remembered a denied request last year for an additional class at Craneville and asked where 22 new students came from.

Ayes: Eight members.
Nays: Member Farley,
Motion carried.

2. Authorization for Paraprofessional – Craneville School (Autism Class)

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

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee authorizes a 3.8 hour/day paraprofessional to assist the teacher and students in the autism class at Craneville School, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Member Henderson asked if the request was based on the CPR. Mrs. West replied it was not. She stated the autism class is exploding and putting a huge burden on Craneville. The paraprofessional will allow the autism teacher, who works primarily in inclusion classrooms, to service other schools. The authorization is not for funding; it is just to keep the Committee informed.

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

3. Locations of Upcoming School Committee Meetings

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

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee sets the following locations for meetings:

<i>September 11, 2008</i>	<i>Nessacus Regional Middle School</i>
<i>September 25, 2008</i>	<i>Nessacus Regional Middle School</i>
<i>October 9, 2008</i>	<i>Kittredge School</i>
<i>October 23, 2008</i>	<i>Becket Washington School</i>
<i>November 13, 2008</i>	<i>Wahconah Regional High School</i>

December 11, 2008

Craneville School

Ayes: Nine members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Other – None.

ARTICLE 9503 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent's Review of Personnel Changes

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

- Sallie Roos, assistant cafeteria cook at Becket Washington School, initially appointed September 18, 2006, has resigned effective August 4, 2008.
- Linda Farrell, paraprofessional at Berkshire Trail Elementary School, initially appointed September 8, 2006, has resigned effective August 18, 2008.
- Maggy Walto, paraprofessional at Craneville School, initially appointed November 28, 2005, has resigned effective August 19, 2008.
- Valerie Rose, paraprofessional at Craneville School, initially appointed October 24, 2005, has resigned effective August 20, 2008.
- Diana Ethier, district-wide paraprofessional (speech & language), initially appointed September 4, 1997, has resigned effective August 21, 2008.
- Joseph LaBarbera, special education teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, initially appointed November 12, 1996, has resigned effective August 11, 2008.
- Stephen Messina has been transferred from social studies teacher to dean of students at Wahconah Regional High School, effective the 2008-09 school year.
- Lindsey Shook has been appointed remedial reading teacher at Nessacus Regional Middle School, effective August 28, 2008, at step A-1.
- Jared Owen has been appointed physical education teacher at Craneville School, effective August 28, 2008, at step A-4.
- Catherine Grady has been reduced to 3/5 social studies teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, effective the 2008-09 school year, a one-year only accommodation to allow her completion of an internship in the Wahconah guidance office.
- Jared Shannon has been transferred from social studies teacher at Nessacus Regional Middle School to social studies teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, effective August 28, 2008.
- Allyson LaBelle has been appointed PAL program teacher at Nessacus Regional Middle School, effective August 28, 2008, at step A-3.
- Corey Walsh has been appointed language arts/reading teacher at Nessacus Regional Middle School, effective August 28, 2008, at step A-1.
- Caitlin Harrigan has been appointed .4 social studies teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, one year only, effective August 28, 2008, at step B-1.
- Ann Lucaroni has been appointed mathematics teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, effective August 28, 2008, at step E-12.
- Kathy Buckley has been appointed full-time, district-wide Title IIA teacher/coach, effective August 28, 2008. Mrs. Buckley formerly held the position half-time and taught grade 2 half-time at Craneville School.
- Colleen Leitch has been appointed school lunch van driver, approximately 10 hours/week, effective August 25, 2008.
- Edward Clark has been appointed district-wide paraprofessional (COTA), 6 hours/day, effective August 28, 2008.

- Meghan Gillespie has been appointed .5 elementary music teacher, effective August 28, 2008, at step (prorated at 50%).

MOVED BY MEMBER L. CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS
To move Article 9504, Old Business, to the end of the meeting.

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

ARTICLE 9505 NEW BUSINESS

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

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the addition of new business to the agenda.

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

A. Ratification of Teachers' Contract

WHEREAS, the Teachers' Unit of the Central Berkshire Education Association, on August 28, 2008 ratified the Memorandum of Understanding between that unit and the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, covering successor contracts for the period August 31, 2007 through August 30, 2008 and the period August 31, 2008 through August 30, 2011, it was

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

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee ratifies the Memorandum of Understanding between the Teachers' Unit of the Central Berkshire Education Association and the School Committee covering successor contracts for the period August 31, 2007 through August 30, 2008 and the period August 31, 2008 through August 30, 2011, as recommended by the Committee's bargaining team.

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

To go into executive session at 7:55 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, "to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining..."

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members J. Chivers, L. Chivers, Farley, Gordon, Grallert, Henderson, Hopper, Morton, Yates, and Carroll-Lombardi.
Nays: None.
Motion carried unanimously.

The Chair stated the Committee would return to open session following the executive session.

The Committee came out of executive session at 8:01 p.m.

Member J. Chivers stated he was aware of a situation in Florida where a school district had committed to a third year salary increase which they could not afford to pay. He believed our district could be in that

situation. Member Farley was also concerned about making cuts in the second and third years to pay for the salary increases.

Vote on the ratification:

Ayes: Eight members (including the Chair).

Nays: Member Morton.

Abstention: Member Hopper

Motion carried.

B. Purchase of Science Lab Furniture/Equipment

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER J. CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves the purchase of science lab furniture/equipment that was quoted by the Sargent-Welch company, as recommended by the Wahconah Building Committee.

Ayes: Nine members voting.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9506 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Member Henderson, who had asked the Committee in early spring to address the subject of financial concerns, was glad to hear that Glenn Koocher and Representative Guyer would attend the September 11th meeting. The Chair noted it is the first step to gathering information. Superintendent Harlan stated her District Improvement Plan will include a public relations component, a strategic plan component, and a leadership training component. The entire DIP will be presented to Education and Finance Subcommittees prior to presentation at a full school committee meeting.

Member Hopper reported he had seen an article while visiting Maine regarding a district that defeated a budget proposal because it was too low. The second attempt, with a somewhat higher figure, was defeated because it was too high.

ARTICLE 9504 OLD BUSINESS

Member Hopper expressed concern that the Craneville flag is pretty tattered. Member Henderson stated replacement of the flag is a line item in the PTO budget. The policy subcommittee was asked to determine whether or not there is a policy covering flag display. Also referred to policy subcommittee was the matter of dogs on school properties.

Member Hopper noted a very nice job by Dunham Landscaping in front of Craneville School.

A. Executive Session (Strategy Regarding Negotiations)

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

To go into executive session at 8:14 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, "to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining..."

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members J. Chivers, L. Chivers, Farley, Gordon, Grallert, Henderson, Hopper, Morton, Yates, and Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Chair stated the Committee would reconvene only to adjourn.

The Committee came out of Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

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

To adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Ayes: Ten members present

Nays: None.

Motion carried unanimously.