

Central Berkshire Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 2009

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee, held at Wahconah Regional High School, Dalton, MA, on Thursday, December 10, 2009, was called to order by Chair Susan Carroll-Lombardi at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Chivers, Conner, Grallert, Hopper, Lacatell, Les, Stergis, Wagner, Welts and Carroll-Lombardi.

Absent: Members Farley, Goddard, Harvey, and Henderson.

Also Present: Superintendent James Stankiewicz, Acting Assistant Superintendent Deborah Bevan, Business Manager Marge Foster, CBEA President Kelly Markland, Recording Secretary Diane Koch, and Members of the Audience.

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

ARTICLE 9775 RESPONSES FROM THE AUDIENCE – None.

ARTICLE 9776 STUDENT AFFAIRS

A. Wahconah Report

Samantha Folan reported on recent staff changes at Wahconah: Jeffrey Pike, has been hired as a new business teacher, John Kovacs has been appointed as the Athletic Director, Jessica Kovacs finished the soccer season as the varsity girls' coach, Nick Cavalieri will be the varsity girls' basketball coach and June Blake will be the assistant girls' basketball coach. The 25th annual Latin trip to Rhode Island took place this week and was a great success. Several of the student clubs at Wahconah are participating in various charitable events. Turkeyfest was held last weekend and as always the event was well attended. Wahconah's winter concert will be December 15th.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi thanked Miss Folan and invited her to join the Committee at the table and participate in the meeting.

ARTICLE 9777 SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Minutes of Planning Session of October 29, 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To approve the minutes of the planning meeting of October 29, 2009, as printed.

Ayes: Eight members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Member Hopper.

Motion carried.

B. Minutes of Planning Session of November 5, 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To approve the minutes of the planning meeting of November 5, 2009, with the deletion of Member Hopper as in attendance and the addition of Member Grallert and Stergis in attendance..

Ayes: Eight members.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: Member Hopper.
Motion carried.

C. Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 12, 2009

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 12, 2009, as printed.

Ayes: Eight members.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: Member Hopper.
Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9778 FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Warrants

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To approve warrant No. 2010-21, in the total amount of \$694,310.41, as printed.

Warrant No. 2010-21, dated November 25, 2009 (PREVIOUSLY SIGNED)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$134,149.81
Insurance Payment (District Share)	<u>\$314,417.30</u>

	\$448,567.11
Transfers (Insurance: Employees & Retirees)	\$91,345.52
Federal Funds	\$20,719.37
Circuit Breaker	\$18,662.02
School Lunch	\$37,939.83
Reimbursable Property Damage	\$60.00
Gate Receipts	\$11,977.00
WRHS Student Activity Fund	\$8,545.20
NRMS Student Activity Fund	\$12,800.00
CBRSD Gift Fund	\$694.36
Wahconah Renovation	\$43,000.00
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$694,310.41

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

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To approve warrant No. 2010-22, in the total amount of \$588,733.68, as printed.

Warrant No. 2010-22 dated November 26, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	\$520,372.60
-------------------	--------------

Federal Funds	\$53,686.06
Berkshire Trail Preschool	\$137.16
Becket Washington Preschool	\$2,857.28
School Lunch	<u>\$11,680.58</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$588,733.68

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

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To approve warrant No. 2010-22D, in the total amount of \$222,225.78, as printed.

Warrant No. 2010-22D, dated November 26, 2009

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

Operating Expense	\$215,206.25
FICA Expense	<u>\$7,019.53</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$222,225.78

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

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To approve warrant No. 2010-23, in the total amount of \$334,066.28, as printed.

Warrant No. 2010-23, dated December 10, 2009

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Operating Expenses

Accounts Payable	\$259,192.74	
Insurance Payment (District Share)	<u>\$1,017.48</u>	
		\$260,210.22
Transfers (Insurance: Employees & Retirees)		\$175.92
Federal Funds		\$11,392.49
School Lunch		\$3,813.93
Gate Receipts		\$555.00
WRHS Student Activity Fund		\$6,350.11
NRMS Student Activity Fund		\$959.00
Becket Washington Preschool		\$1,112.57
NRMS Student Fees		\$499.51
CBRS D Gift Fund		\$603.65
Wahconah Renovation		\$48,393.88
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$334,066.28

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

MOVED BY MEMBER, SECONDED BY MEMBER

To approve warrant No. 2010-24, in the total amount of \$584,796.32, as printed.

Warrant No. 2010-24 dated December 10, 2009

PAYROLL

Operating Expense	\$521,457.11
Federal Funds	\$48,533.60
Berkshire Trail Preschool	\$137.16
Becket Washington Preschool	\$2,670.36
School Lunch	\$11,998.09
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$584,796.32

Ayes: Seven members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER, SECONDED BY MEMBER

To approve warrant No. 2010-24D, in the total amount of \$108,423.26, as printed.

Warrant No. 2010-24D, dated December 10, 2009

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

Operating Expense	\$101,616.40
FICA Expense	\$6,806.86
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	\$108,423.26

Ayes: Seven members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

B. Acceptance of Grants and Contributions

1. Acceptance of Grant – School to Career Project

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts a grant award in the amount of \$2,500 grant from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation for the School to Career project.

Ayes: Nine members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Acceptance of Grant – Kittredge School Literacy Project

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts a grant award in the amount of \$3,000 grant from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation for the Kittredge School Literacy project.

In response to Member Conner’s question regarding if the grant was for personnel, Superintendent Stankiewicz responded that it was a literacy project and the grant would be used to purchase books.

Ayes: Nine members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.
Motion carried unanimously.

3. Acceptance of Contributions

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the following contributions:

*\$200 to the Judith Farley Scholarship Fund from Cindy & Gail Goulart
\$100 to the Judith Farley Scholarship Fund from Suzanne Gonsalves
\$100 to the Judith Farley Scholarship Fund from Richard & Linda Eldridge
\$100 to the Judith Farley Scholarship Fund from Richard Farley
\$100 to the Judith Farley Scholarship Fund from Tim & Lauren Marks
\$40 to the Judith Farley Scholarship Fund from Bryan & Christine Lamontagne*

\$ 7,767 to the Wahconah Regional High School Athletic Fund in memory of Robert “Boog” Powell from various donors. (List of donations attached to official minutes)

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

Chair Carroll-Lombardi noted for the record the list of donors to the WRHS Athletic fund in memory of Mr. Powell will be attached to the official minutes.

Member Chivers remarked that it was nice to see the number of other schools’ athletic teams that had made a donation in memory of Mr. Powell.

C. Authorization to Establish New Activity Account

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee authorizes the following new activity account, as recommended by the District Treasurer:

NRMS Cooking Club, for the purpose of fundraising and supplies to teach students the basics of cooking by learning to follow recipes to prepare food for themselves.

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

ARTICLE 9779 COMMUNICATIONS

A. Wahconah Principal James Conro

Chair Carroll-Lombardi introduced James Conro, principal of Wahconah Regional High School.

Mr. Conro welcomed the Committee to Wahconah and told the Committee of his first visit to Wahconah during the principal search process and said he was very impressed then and is even more so today. Mr. Conro reported on the dean of students position created in 2008 and although adding the position meant losing the school resource officer, Mr. Conro believes the decision was the right one. Having a dean of students has allowed the assistant principal to take an increasingly proactive approach toward discipline.

Mr. Conro added that it also allows the principal to be the first in line to hear any appeals and to be free to observe more classes. Mr. Conro commented that all departments are in good shape, there is a nice mixture of experience among the staff and that new teachers are exceptionally strong. The five core subjects are doing very well academically and students have achieved very high SAT, AP, and MCAS scores. Mr. Conro reported that a new Master Schedule was developed a few years ago to accommodate students on work study, internships, and dual enrollment and that several programs such as: the learning center, credit recovery and most recently the Positive Options Program (POP) at Berkshire Community College have been developed to assist students to succeed. Future plans for the schedule include adding an advanced placement government course, increased electives that would run on alternating years and developing pathways in music and technology. Mr. Conro reviewed class sizes for the Committee and answered questions from members in regards to class size, budget constraints and expanding opportunities for students. Mr. Conro stated he has accompanied students on many field trips and most recently the Latin trip to Rhode Island and added that chaperones always receive compliments on the polite and mature behavior of students. Mr. Conro shared with members that the Latin trip concludes with a night of readings and caroling and this year, Charles Bradshaw, Modern and Classical Department Chair was honored by being chosen to give one of eight readings. In response to a question about Edline at the high school, Mr. Conro stated the plan is to add it for next year.

B. Report of the Chair

Chair Carroll-Lombardi informed members that page numbers will be added to all attachments in future agenda packets. The Chair stated there is a December 12th meeting in Marlborough on pending legislation and Ed Reform that she is unable to attend and will email information to about the meeting if anyone is interested in attending.

1. Subcommittee Reorganization

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reported that at the meeting of the chairs the document in the agenda packet titled, *Proposed Subcommittees and Charters* was developed and asked that someone make a formal motion to accept it. (Documents filed with official minutes.)

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER WELTS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the Proposed Subcommittees and Charters document as printed.

Discussion followed on the document and concerns that it does not leave the old model of subcommittees behind. The Chair clarified the expectations of the subcommittees, especially the Policy/Operations subcommittee. Further discussion followed on subcommittee's makeup of members, responsibilities, and that perhaps the document should be revisited and brought to the Committee at a later date. It was agreed that the document could be accepted as printed and if necessary changed later.

Ayes: Eight members.
Nays: Member Conner.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER WELTS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the Recommended Protocols and Procedures, A Living Document as printed.

Discussion on the Chair being a non-voting exofficio member of the Education, Finance and Personnel subcommittees took place and it was agreed that it would be added to the document as #9. Members also discussed having the subcommittees set regular meetings and adding that to the document as #10. In

response to a concern about #7 and giving 24 hours notice of information relevant to a motion, the Chair stated this would need to be discussed very soon due to the upcoming change in the Open Meeting Law.

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To amend the Recommended Protocols and Procedures document to include #9. The Chair is a non-voting exofficio member of the education, finance and personnel subcommittees and #10. That subcommittees will set regular meeting schedules whenever possible.

Ayes: Eight members.
Nays: Member Conner.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carried.

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee accepts the Recommended Protocols and Procedures, A Living Document with the addition of #9 That the Chair is an exofficio non-voting member of the education, finance and education personnel subcommittees and #10 That the subcommittees will set regular meeting schedules whenever possible.

Ayes: Eight members.
Nays: Member Conner.
Abstentions: None.
Motion carried.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi reminded members to complete the subcommittee signup sheets included in the agenda packet.

C. Vacancy – Washington Representative

1. Interview and Appointment of Washington Representative

Chair Carroll-Lombardi introduced Michael Case, candidate for School Committee representative from the town of Washington and asked members if there were any questions.

Member Chivers recused himself and disclosed that his wife works for Mr. Case's wife. Mr. Chivers left the room during the discussion.

Member Welts disclosed that his wife works with Mr. Case's wife. The Chair thanked Member Welts, but added that it would not be a conflict.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi told Mr. Case that serving on the Committee is a large commitment and asked if he was willing to make such a commitment.

Mr. Case disclosed that he plans to run for state office and if elected would have to step down, but at this time can make the commitment to the Committee. Mr. Case's belief is that the system is only as good as those that administer it and he looks forward to serving on the Committee. Mr. Case told members his children attended Central Berkshire and he feels the school system is the best in the County.

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER LES

That the Central Berkshire School Committee appoints Michael Case to the School Committee as a representative from the town of Washington.

Ayes: Eight members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Member Chivers returned to the meeting.

Superintendent Stankiewicz administered the oath to Mr. Case.

ARTICLE 9780 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

1. Education

a. Overnight Trip for Wahconah Music Students, May 14 – 16, 2010

MOVED BY MEMBER WELTS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves an overnight field trip for Wahconah Regional High School band and choral students to New York City May 14 – 16, 2010, to participate in a Band & Choral Festival & Competition, as recommended by the Education Subcommittee. (Filed with official minutes.)

Member Welts reviewed the details of the trip. Discussion followed on the cost of substitutes and Superintendent Stankiewicz reported that it would cost approximately \$300 for the day. Further discussion followed on the planned agenda for Friday, May 14, and questions were asked about the necessity for leaving early Friday verses leaving after school.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACATELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To postpone the discussion and approval.

Ayes: Eight members.

Nays: Members Welts and Wagner.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried.

a. Overnight Trip for Wahconah Girls' Basketball Team

MOVED BY MEMBER WELTS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves an overnight field trip for the Wahconah Regional High School girls' basketball team to Peabody, MA on December 28 – 29, 2009, to compete in a competition, as recommended by the Education Subcommittee.

Member Welts noted for members that the timing was somewhat short; the original document was in the late Mr. Powell's paperwork and had not been sent to the Committee. There will be no cost to the District for the trip.

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Member Welts reported on discussions at the subcommittee level regarding vocational education and its future. Member Welts invited members to attend the Education Subcommittee meeting on December 14th,

where the discussion would continue. In response to members' comments and questions, the Chair reminded members the discussion should be held at the subcommittee level.

Member Welts shared with members what he considered to be good news about MCAS and teaching to the test. Dr. Welts spoke to the Committee about the new Growth Model the Commonwealth has developed to evaluate students' progress and explained briefly how the model will assess student growth.

2. Finance

a. Recertification of FY 2010 Budget

1. Recertified Revenue

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER GRALLERT

Business Manager Foster reviewed the memo members received in their agenda packet in regards to the recertification of the FY 2010 budget.

WHEREAS, the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee on November 12, 2009 adopted an anticipated revenue budget for FY 2010 in the amount of \$10,480,073 and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2009 the Dept. of Revenue certified Excess & Deficiency funds in excess of 5% and

WHEREAS, the excess dollar amount of \$117,911 is to be used to reduce the FY2010 assessment to the member towns,

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee is increasing the appropriated Excess & Deficiency amount in "Other Revenue" and recertifies the anticipated revenue for FY 2010 in the amount of \$10,597,984, as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee.

Ayes: Eight members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

2. Recertified FY2010 Net Town Levies

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

WHEREAS, the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee on November 12, 2009 adopted a net town levy budget for FY 2010 in the amount of \$14,417,167 and

WHEREAS, the excess amount of \$117,911 in Excess & Deficiency funds is to be returned to the member towns as a reduction in their net town levy,

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee recertifies the anticipated net town levy budget for FY 2010 in the amount of \$14,299,256, as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee.

Ayes: Eight members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

In response to a question on regional transportation, Mrs. Foster commented there has been no change to report since the last meeting.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi noted that the next Finance Subcommittee meeting will be November 21st and some of the issues being discussed will be multi-grade classrooms and moving grade 5 to Nessacus Regional Middle School.

3. Policy Review

a. First Reading Adoption of Policy 3440, Employee Family and Medical Leave

Member Hopper reported there are several policies being brought to the Committee this evening. Legal counsel has given some of the policies to the subcommittee and the wording has been changed by the subcommittee before being brought to the Committee.

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading adoption of Policy 3440, Employee Family and Medical Leave, as shown on pages 25 – 36 and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.

Discussion took place regarding adding policies dealing with laws to the Policy Manual and that over the years the subcommittee has worked to remove such policies from the manual. In response to FMLA, Business Manager Foster and Superintendent Stankiewicz both commented on the policy noting that there are several ways to administer FMLA.

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. First Reading Adoption of Policy 3445, Maternity Leave

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading adoption of Policy 3445, Maternity Leave, as shown on page 37 and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. First Reading Adoption of Policy 3450, Small Necessities Leave Act

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading adoption of Policy 3450, Small Necessities Leave Act, as shown on pages 39– 42 and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. First Reading Adoption of Policy 6150, Observations of Special Education Programs

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

Discussion followed on the policy and in response to a question regarding parent input and disruption of class. Superintendent Stankiewicz reported the policy will set the limits and restrict the amount of disruption to class and that the building principal will decide issues regarding the observation.

In regards to item # 11 on the policy and no text next to it, the policy will be renumbered for the next reading.

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves first reading adoption of Policy 6150, Observations of Special Education Programs, as shown on pages 43– 44 and recommended by the Policy Review Subcommittee.

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Personnel

a. Executive Session – (Superintendent’s Contract)

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To move this item to the end of the meeting.

A brief discussion on moving the executive session took place.

Member Les retracted the motion to move the executive session as did Member Chivers.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To go into executive session at 8:47 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, 3, “To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, if an open meeting law may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, and to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Collective bargaining sessions encompass not only negotiations leading to an agreement but may also include the resolution of grievances pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement.

The purpose of the executive session was to discuss a contract for the superintendent.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Case, Chivers, Conner, Grallert, Hopper, Lacatell, Les, Stergis, Wagner, and Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Member Welts.

Motion carried.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi stated the meeting would return to open session following the executive session.

The Committee returned to open session at 9:38 p.m.

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

To offer the Superintendent of Schools a contract as printed for the term of October 2009 to June 2012 with total compensation of \$129,000.00 until June 2011 with no annuity, no long term disability, no group term life insurance, and no death benefit.

Ayes: Eight members.

Nays: None.

Recused: Members Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

B. Others

1. Wahconah Building Committee

a. Report

The Chair stated a written report was attached to the agenda packet. (filed with official minutes) The next meeting will be December 15, 2009.

2. Communication Task Force

The subcommittee has not met; a meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2009. Chair Carroll-Lombardi asked that the subcommittee to have a plan in place for budget season.

3. Strategic Plan Team

Superintendent Stankiewicz reported that the subcommittee has met and has been analyzing and discussing data, ideas, mission statements and goals. The next meeting is in January. Discussion followed on the SPT and similarities to the leadership program.

4. MASC/MASS Joint Conference

Members Lacatell and Wagner reported on their attendance at the joint conference. Both were inspired by the workshops they attended.

Member Lacatell's report included the resolutions and amendments that were voted on and the workshops he attended on school committee governance, regional school issues and district accountability. Mr. Lacatell spoke about "regional caucus" and that approximately 300 of the 351 school districts in Massachusetts are in some fashion affected by a regional school, that Denis Guyer is seen as a leader on regional transportation issues, and the organizational mess with respect to the makeup of school districts in Massachusetts such as conventional, regional vs. conventional regional (CBRS), vocational, superintendency unions, tuitioning out and charter. Mr. Lacatell concluded his report by talking about district accountability initiative and the direction it is heading with assessment standards, a central contract database, professional development and facilitating networking among districts. Mr. Lacatell mentioned that Donna Harlan is working with the Department of Education on this initiative.

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER LES

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

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Member Wagner reported on the workshops he attended, noting many are geared toward the “newbie”. Mr. Wagner reported on two workshops: school funding updates, and the economy and Chapter 70 funding. Mr. Wagner told members that he was very impressed with the keynote speaker, Clayton Christensen and suggested members read his book “Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns” as well as a book by Allen Odden of CPRE, “Reallocating Resources: How to Boost Student Achievement without Asking for More” .

ARTICLE 9781 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reports

Superintendent Stankiewicz shared dates for remaining town visits and invited members to join him. Dates are as follows:

Washington	December 14, 2009
Becket	December 17, 2009
Cummington	January 7, 2009
Dalton	January 11, 2009

Member Stergis shared with the Committee that Peru was very pleased with Mr. Stankiewicz’ visit.

In response to a question on what is discussed at the meetings, the Superintendent stated ideas are shared as well as answering/researching any questions town officials might have.

1. Assistant Superintendent Position

Superintendent Stankiewicz told members that Acting Assistant Superintendent Deborah Bevan will retire in early February. Mr. Stankiewicz commented on Mrs. Bevan’s years of service in the district and said he will miss her both personally and professionally.

The Superintendent is planning to advertise the position next week, reviewed the procedure for hiring an assistant superintendent and told the Committee that he is hoping to bring his recommendation to the January 14th meeting.

With Acting Assistant Superintendent Bevan’s retirement, the Superintendent also noted that a principal for Craneville School will be needed. Superintendent Stankiewicz informed members that he plans to do a full search for a new principal at Craneville and will meet with Craneville staff next week.

Acting Assistant Superintendent Bevan addressed the Committee and thanked them for the opportunity to serve as Acting Assistant Superintendent and told the Committee she will stay until a replacement is in place.

Members thanked Mrs. Bevan.

B. Recommendations

1. Employee Request for Extended Leave

MOVED BY MEMBER HOPPER, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves an employee’s request for an extended leave without pay from December 14, 2009, through January 11, 2010, as requested by the employee.

Superintendent Stankiewicz addressed the Committee on the leave noting that the contract dictates the request has to go before the School Committee. The Superintendent recommends the leave, but in the students’ best interest would like to extend the leave until the end of the first semester, making the leave December 14, 2009, through January 22, 2009.

MOVED BY MEMBER GRALLERT, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To amend the motion, that the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves an extended leave without pay from December 14, 2009, through January 22, 2010, as recommended by the Superintendent.

In response to a question of whether the extension would impact the substitute, Superintendent Stankiewicz responded no.

Ayes: Nine members.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: Member Welts.
Motion carried.

Chair Carroll-Lombardi stated the Committee now needs to vote on the leave.

That the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee approves an employee’s request for an extended leave without pay from December 14, 2009, through January 22, 2010.

Ayes: Nine members.
Nays: None.
Abstentions: Member Welts.
Motion carried.

In response to a comment, the Superintendent stated the leave was for medical reasons and that HIPPA restricts him from sharing any information. In addition, the Superintendent asked that the contract language be reviewed and changed to allow the superintendent to grant such leaves noting District’s legal counsel has also stated that the language should be changed to allow the Superintendent to grant such leaves.

C. Other

ARTICLE 9782 PERSONNEL

A. Superintendent’s Review of Personnel Changes

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

- John Kovacs has been appointed to the position of Athletic Director for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year, effective October 5, 2009.
- Nick Cavalieri has been appointed to the position of head girls’ basketball coach for the 2009 -10 season at Step 3.
- Tina Massaro, originally appointed March 9, 2004, has been appointed as Title I paraprofessional, 3.75 hours/day, at Nessacus Regional Middle School, effective October 26, 2009. This is grant funded position.
- Aimee Southard has been appointed to the position of assistant cook at Nessacus Regional Middle School 3 hours/day, effective November 6, 2009.
- Hector Pacheco has been appointed as student van driver 18.75 hours/week, effective November 24, 2009.
- Jeffrey Pike has been appointed business teacher at Wahconah Regional High School, effective November 30, 2009, at step B-1.
- Cynthia Horrigan, paraprofessional at Craneville School, initially appointed on April 15, 1985, will retire on June 30, 2010.

ARTICLE 9783 OLD BUSINESS

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

That Article 9783 Old Business be moved to the end of the meeting after Article 9785 Remarks for the Good of the Committee.

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9784 NEW BUSINESS

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER WAGNER

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

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Statement of Interest, Massachusetts School Building

MOVED BY MEMBER CHIVERS, SECONDED BY MEMBER HOPPER

Superintendent Stankiewicz explained that the November 12, 2009, vote did not include all 7 priorities and MSBA has asked that all 7 be voted on. Priority numbers 4 and 6 have been added.

That: Having convened in an open meeting on December 10, 2009, the School Committee of the Central Berkshire Regional School District, in accordance with its charter, bylaws, and ordinances, hereby votes to authorize and direct the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated as of November 12, 2009 for the Wahconah Regional High School located at 150 Old Windsor Road, Dalton, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority at some time in the future:

1 Replacement or renovation of a building, which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists. – The building has structural, mechanical and electrical problems due to age.

2 Elimination of existing severe overcrowding. – The building was constructed using the requirements for a school constructed in the 1950's. Today's educational needs require additional space for computers and mandated specialists.

3 Prevention of the loss of accreditation. – Additional handicap accessibility is needed. The science labs are in need to be completely refurbished. (One science lab has been updated.)

4 Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.

5 Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility. - An Oil Tank should be removed. The control system needs to be replaced. The windows are single pane with aluminum storms. The doors are not weather tight.

6 Short term enrollment growth.

7 Replacement or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements. - Our auditorium is in need of modernization.

Also see above.

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that submitting this Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Ayes: Ten members.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9785 REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Member Hopper spoke about a situation at Nessacus where at the end of the day handicap parking spots are being blocked by those picking up students parking their cars perpendicular to the spots.

Superintendent Stankiewicz will have the administration monitor the parking situation.

Member Les commented on a recent “60 minutes” show that was about a successful charter school in Harlem. President Obama is planning to commission other schools to model the one referenced in the show. Member Les noted that it might be the direction education is going in the future.

Member Conner shared two items with the Committee: 1) his thoughts on the parking situation at Nessacus that Member Hopper commented on earlier, and 2) that he has enjoyed serving on the Committee for the past year and looks forward to the new year.

ARTICLE 9783 OLD BUSINESS

A. Executive Session – (GIC)

MOVED BY MEMBER LES, SECONDED BY MEMBER CHIVERS

To go into executive session at 10:29 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, 3, “To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, if an open meeting law may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, and to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Collective bargaining sessions encompass not only negotiations leading to an agreement but may also include the resolution of grievances pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement.

The purpose of the executive session is to discuss GIC.

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

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Members Case, Chivers, Conner, Grallert, Lacatell, Les, Stergis, Wagner, and Carroll-Lombardi.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Member Hopper and Welts.

Motion carried.

The Committee came out of executive session at 10:45 p.m. and adjourned the meeting.