

1 **Shaker Regional School Board**  
2 **Meeting Minutes**  
3 **September 11, 2008**  
4  
5

6 IN ATTENDANCE:

7 **School Board:** Diane O'Hara, Roy Roberts, Tom Goulette, Preston Tuthill, Carolyn  
8 French Witham

9 **Administration:** Superintendent Michael Cozort; Business Administrator Debbie Gay;  
10 Principals Emily Spear, Mary Morrison, Russ Holden, and Aaron Pope; Building and  
11 Grounds Director Doug Ellis; Director of Student Services Tonyel Mitchell-Berry;  
12 Substance Abuse Counselor Jen Gagnon

13 **Guests:** Town of Belmont Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti, SRO Richard Bryant;  
14 Belknap County Citizen's Council: Alan Robichaud; Partners in Prevention: Katy Shea;  
15 Belknap County CoRe Coalition: Jena Vincent

16 **Regrets:** Sumner Dole, Bill Hart. Student Representative: Katlyn Van Horne  
17

18 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

19 Vice-chairman Diane O'Hara called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.  
20

21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

22 *The Board discussed the August 21, 2008 draft meeting minutes. The minutes were*  
23 *accepted as presented.*  
24

25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

26 *Belknap County Citizen's Council:* Alan Robichaud of the Belknap County Citizen's  
27 Council, in conjunction with Katy Shea of Partners in Prevention and Jena Vincent of  
28 Belknap County CoRe Coalition, presented a power point presentation and handout to the  
29 Board about the challenges facing youth in Belknap County. Mr. Robichaud provided an  
30 overview of the main issues, including substance abuse, family violence, mental disorders  
31 and the juvenile justice program. He stated that information regarding individual towns is  
32 not available at this time, however methods of extracting this data are being researched.  
33 Overall, the majority of kids are doing fine, but it is the smaller number of troubled kids  
34 that raise concerns. Mr. Robichaud reviewed the community response programs in place,  
35 the recorded costs associated with child placement for judicial requirements, and stressed  
36 that the best course of action for all challenges facing today's youth is early prevention.  
37

38 Katy Shea of Partners for Prevention provided a brief overview of this program, stating  
39 that the program serves residents of both Belknap and Carroll counties. The focus of this  
40 program is prevention and education regarding young adult binge drinking and underage  
41 drinking. The main contributing factors to these issues are social availability/access, retail  
42 availability/access, retail pricing and promotions, and social norms.  
43

44 Jena Vincent of the Belknap County CoRe Coalition provided the Board with preliminary  
45 survey results regarding youth risk behavior and attitudes towards substance abuse. The  
46 survey, which focuses on grades 9-12, compares state results with local and school results.  
47 Ms. Vincent stated that the data reveals regional issues, not school district issues. She  
48 stated that the most influential years are grades 6 and 9.

1 The Board had several questions regarding the information presented. Alan Robichaud  
2 provided theories for why the number of court diversions for the Town of Tilton was  
3 relatively low for such a large community, stating that many of the youths in that area are  
4 sent through the Franklin Court System and not Laconia, and that they are working on  
5 other prevention programs within the Town. Jen Gagnon, the Substance Abuse Counselor  
6 for Shaker Regional School District explained her program, focusing on prevention at the  
7 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade levels. Tom Goulette asked why issues were being addressed at a county  
8 wide level and not a school district level. Mr. Robichaud explained that with the  
9 increased mobility of youth, with transportation, etc., it was more beneficial to reach a  
10 larger population regarding these issues. Mr. Robichaud also explained how the county  
11 was looking at family trends, with a pilot program for sharing confidential information  
12 with associated programs for better tracking and administration of services.

### 13 REPORTS

14 *Administrators:* Administrators' reports were included in the Board Packet. Each of the  
15 principals stated that the opening of the school year went smoothly, and that teacher  
16 training with Smart Boards, etc. was in process. Emily Spear added that the largest class  
17 size at Belmont Elementary is 23 students. Mary Morrison stated that the theme for  
18 Canterbury Elementary is "Write On!", and an author/writer/musician had created and  
19 performed a theme song for the school. Aaron Pope stated that the integration of Belmont  
20 and Canterbury students was off to a great start, with the theme for the month of  
21 September being "Belonging." He stated that NWEA testing had been completed, and  
22 NECAP preparations were underway for October. Russ Holden stated that for the first  
23 time, the school was able to bring in freshmen for a half day orientation before the start of  
24 classes. A freshmen seminar program has been created to aid with this transition. Tonyel  
25 Mitchell-Berry stated that she had received 10 calls regarding preschool and five  
26 preschool referrals.

27  
28  
29 *Superintendent:* Mike Cozort echoed the positive start to the school year. The Building  
30 Walk-about had been conducted this past week, and it was gratifying to see how much had  
31 been completed. He stated that the teachers are hungry for learning and using the Smart  
32 Board technology that is available. He noted that enrollment numbers are still a concern,  
33 and particularly next year at BHS when another large freshman class comes in.

34  
35 *Board Members:* Roy Roberts thanked the Belmont Police Department and the  
36 administration for their proactive activities at Belmont High School, with regards to the  
37 recent situation. Pret Tuthill noted that although the list created from the school building  
38 walk-about is always long, the types of items on the list have changed.

### 39 FINANCIAL REPORT

40 Debbie Gay reported that the new financial management system was up and running.  
41 Mike Cozort thanked Ms. Gay and Diane Clary for their hard work in making the  
42 transition to the new software.

### 43 OLD BUSINESS

44  
45 *Building and Grounds Update:* Doug Ellis provided the Board with a listing of projects  
46 for each building that had resulted from the walk-about of the past week. He explained  
47 that these projects would be prioritized, in addition to the normal maintenance schedule.  
48

1 *Internal Policy – IK, IKAA, JI:* Pret Tuthill addressed the Board in regards policy IK,  
2 Earning of Credit, policy IKAA, Interdisciplinary Credit, and policy JI, Student Rights  
3 and Responsibilities. Mr. Tuthill explained that these policies are required as stand alone  
4 policies, and all wording had been extracted from existing policies.  
5

6 ***A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded, to adopt IK, Earning of***  
7 ***Credit, policy IKAA, Interdisciplinary Credit, and policy JI, Student Rights and***  
8 ***Responsibilities, as presented in drafts dated August 21, 2008. The motion***  
9 ***passed unanimously.***

10  
11 *On the Horizon:* The Board reviewed the outlined On the Horizon Calendar. The  
12 Technology Report was moved to the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Belmont town officials are  
13 scheduled to attend the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, with Canterbury town officials scheduled  
14 for October. Tom Goulette requested that the Board and Administrative Team discuss  
15 Alan Robichaud’s presentation in the near future.  
16

17 NEW BUSINESS

18 *SRO Committee Update:* Roy Roberts updated the Board regarding the issue of Student  
19 Resource Officers within the District. Mr. Roberts stated that there is currently an officer  
20 at the High School, as well as an officer with split time at the Middle School and Belmont  
21 Elementary School. Funding continues to be an issue, and the committee suggested  
22 outlining all of the duties of the SRO, with the possibility of joint funding from the School  
23 District and Police Department to cover costs associated with respective duties.  
24 Currently, both of the District’s SROs are tracking information and working with students.  
25 Roy Roberts suggested that it would be beneficial to have both SROs present the Board  
26 with their experiences and what they have learned about the District through these roles.  
27

28 *Private School Report:* Mike Cozort presented the Board with a handout showing the  
29 number of students enrolled in private schools, broken down by school and town of  
30 residence.  
31

32 *Annual Demographics Study:* Debbie Gay questioned the Board in regards to updating  
33 the demographics study. The Board agreed that they would like to continue the practice  
34 of updating this report annually.  
35

36 *At 8:03 p.m., Diane O’Hara adjourned the meeting, accompanied by a motion by Pret*  
37 *Tuthill, and, by unanimous roll call vote (5-yeah, 0-nay), entered into non-public session,*  
38 *in accordance with RSA 91-3:II(a)(b)(c).*  
39

40 Respectfully Submitted,  
41

42  
43 Robin M. Schofield  
44 School District Clerk  
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