

1 **SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**  
2 **Meeting Minutes**  
3 **October 30, 2008**

4  
5 IN ATTENDANCE  
6

7 ***School Board:*** Bill Hart; Pret Tuthill; Tom Goulette; Sumner Dole; Diane O’Hara;  
8 Carolyn French-Witham

9 ***Administration:*** Superintendent Mike Cozort; Business Administrator Debbie Gay  
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11 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL  
12

13 Bill Hart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm  
14

15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING  
16

17 ***October 9, 2008 School Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed and accepted as***  
18 ***presented.***

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20 ***October 9, 2008 Non Public Meeting Minutes were reviewed and accepted as presented.***  
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22 SENATE BILL 2

23 Discussion ensued regarding the potential petitioned warrant article proposing Senate Bill  
24 2 and how the Board would respond. Consensus was that the Board would take a  
25 position against SB2. Debbie suggested that information (Fact Sheet) be ready for the  
26 February 4<sup>th</sup> public hearing in case the petitioned warrant article was received that day,  
27 which is the last day they can be presented. Sumner suggested the Priscilla Lockwood  
28 and Ron Mitchell be the ones contacted to speak about it, since they did a very good job  
29 last year.  
30

31 RESPONSE TO SUDDEN CHANGES/REQUESTS/COMPLAINTS

32 Discussion ensued regarding the practice of some parents contacting school board  
33 members to circumvent the “chain of command” when they want to get a particular  
34 response. Mike shared that it is not uncommon in present times for people to jump the  
35 chain of command to get action on their concern. Pret said there is a policy (KE) that  
36 outlines the proper channels an individual needs to follow. Tom stated that Board  
37 members must first remind constituents to follow the steps, but added that, as an elected  
38 official, he feels it is important to hear what people have to say. There was discussion  
39 about the importance to listen, but resist the temptation to offer too much comment, as it  
40 may compromise the process of a board hearing if it reaches that level.  
41

42 It was suggested that it might be time well spent to have NH School Boards Association  
43 come in and do a training session on roles and responsibilities for the Board. It was also  
44 suggested that we might want some “customer service training” for administrators and  
45 teachers to help them deal with parents/community members who come in insisting on  
46 their demands or concerns be acted upon.  
47

1 **ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS – CLASS SIZE**

2 Mike distributed the enrollment projections and pointed out that the Kindergarten  
3 numbers are always subject to change, as are the numbers for the fifth grade in  
4 Canterbury. He suggested the Board may want to discuss the Canterbury fifth grade, as it  
5 is always looming as an issue of equity in class size. Specifically, do we continue to  
6 allow Canterbury fifth graders the option of attending CES or BMS? Mike pointed out  
7 that this was a determination made years ago, when the District committed to a middle  
8 school concept. Mike explained that it makes sense to offer the option, as long as it did  
9 not make the class sizes larger at BMS than CES. Carolyn stated that some Canterbury  
10 parents would be upset if the option was not offered.

11  
12 The Board discussed the impact that the low income housing complex on Route 107 will  
13 have. The difficulty, Mike said, is the unknown of what grades the students from the  
14 housing project will land. Mike said if they are spread over the 12 grades that is fine, but  
15 if they are concentrated in one or two grades it would push class sizes up too high. Bill  
16 Hart will try to find out when occupancy is expected.

17  
18 Tom asked what the impact of English as a Second Language (ESL) might have in the  
19 future. Mike explained that we presently have few students to serve, but that the numbers  
20 in Laconia are increasing and that it will be a matter of time before we see the same.

21  
22 **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

23 Mike distributed the list of the projects that are currently being considered. Doug and  
24 Debbie will be contacting Bernie Davis to see which ones may qualify for building aid  
25 (52% this year) and will also determine which projects could be funded from the  
26 Expendable Trust (currently about \$200,000). Pret said once that information is available  
27 he would like Doug to call a B&G Committee meeting.

28  
29 **SPECIAL SERVICES**

30 Mike provided a brief overview of the Special Education and 504 requirements. The  
31 board discussed the fact that there is ancillary space requirements for many of these  
32 services, and there is not space currently available to use. Diane O’Hara said the services  
33 provided now are much better than they had been in the past. Mike said the process of  
34 fully integrating the students has had many positive effects, but it also requires more  
35 differentiation by the teacher – some of whom have welcomed the challenge and some  
36 who have been resistant. Sumner suggested it would be a good idea to have Tonyel make  
37 a presentation to the Board regarding the numbers of students, the case loads, the type of  
38 services, etc.

39  
40 Mike said the Special Education Staff at each of the schools has viewed the DVD,  
41 *Including Samuel*. There is a study guide that can be used as well. Diane said it is a very  
42 good program and highly recommends all board members watch it. Diane indicated she  
43 would like Tonyel to show snippets of the program when she meets with the board.  
44 Board members agreed to bring the DVD home and view it.

1 **BOARD MAKEUP**

2 Mike asked if the board wanted information about potential board members to replace  
3 any who may not be running for re-election. Tom said he didn't feel it was the Board's  
4 place to determine the makeup of the board and that anyone interested in public service  
5 could run. Mike clarified that he was not talking about supporting specific candidates,  
6 but rather insuring that we have candidates.

7  
8 Carolyn shared that the NHSBA resolutions were daunting in their complexity. She was  
9 assured that all new board members, and many of those who have served for awhile, find  
10 the resolutions overwhelming.

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12 The Board determined that the remaining retreat topics were worth discussion at a future  
13 meeting.

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15 The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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17 Respectfully Submitted,

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20 Debbie D. Gay  
21 Clerk pro temp