

1 **Shaker Regional School Board**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **November 20, 2008**
4

5 IN ATTENDANCE:

6 **School Board:** Bill Hart, Diane O'Hara, Roy Roberts, Preston Tuthill, Carolyn French
7 Witham, Sumner Dole, Student Representative: Katlyn Van Horne

8 **Administration:** Superintendent Michael Cozort; Business Administrator Debbie Gay;
9 Principals: Emily Spear, Mary Morrison, and Aaron Pope; Assistant Principal Dan Clary

10 **Guests:** Jon White, Diana Harper, Brenda Seiferth

11 **Regrets:** Tom Goulette
12

13 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

14 Chairman Bill Hart called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
15

16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

17 *The Board discussed the October 30, 2008 draft meeting minutes. Mike Cozort suggested*
18 *amending the minutes with regard to Mrs. Witham's comments about the board makeup.*
19 *Specifically, her comments were about the complexity of the NHSBA resolutions. Minutes*
20 *were accepted with the requested edits.*
21

22 FINANCIAL REPORT

23 Debbie Gay reported that the District was in a good financial position, and that the budget
24 freeze enacted in October remains in effect.
25

26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

27 Diana Harper made a presentation on the Plato Lab at the High School. Ms. Harper
28 provided an overview of the program and the students that it serves. The program is
29 designed as a credit recovery program, providing students with an alternative method for
30 achieving their academic goals. The web based program offers self-paced online
31 programs in over 60 different concentrations, provides students with the opportunity to
32 work in a quiet, relaxed environment within the school or from their home, and tracks
33 each individual student's progress daily. Ms. Harper provided the Board with a
34 demonstration of Plato, and stated that it has become a huge success, with hopes of future
35 expansion.
36

37 REPORTS

38 **Administrators:** Administrators' reports were included in the Board Packet, with updates
39 provided by each administrator.
40

41 Mary Morrison stated that the Senior Citizen luncheon was a huge hit, with 33 guests in
42 attendance. She congratulated Terry Minogue for receiving the Presidential Award for
43 Mathematics and Science Teaching. Emily Spear acknowledged the accomplishments of
44 Carolyn Hemingway who was also awarded the Presidential Award for Mathematics and
45 Science Teaching. Aaron Pope reported that Middle School students had baked and
46 delivered pies to the Senior Center, Police Department and Fire Department. He proudly

1 announced that the Middle School had been designated a Follow the Child School by the
2 NH Department of Education. Dan Clary informed the Board that the High School
3 presidential debate program was a success, concluding with a mock election for students.
4 He stated that 500 pounds of pennies had been collected for Red Ribbon Week, the Cross
5 Country Team had won the State Championship, and that Randy Wormald's Bridge
6 Team placed 1st at the State Competition.

7
8 *Superintendent:* Mike Cozort reported that he was impressed with the amount of student
9 preparedness for the presidential debate. He reminded the Board that the Gobble Wobble
10 would be held the following week, and that a volunteer was still needed to be the Turkey.
11 Mr. Cozort stated that he had been meeting with the Commissioner for the Department of
12 Education and other superintendents regarding adequacy numbers and NHIAA
13 regulations.

14
15 *Board Members:* Katlyn Van Horne stated that she learned a lot from the presidential
16 debate. Carolyn French Witham stated that she had enjoyed the *Including Samuel* DVD,
17 and encouraged other Board members to watch it. Diane O'Hara congratulated the High
18 School Drama Program for their success with the recent production of *Shakespeare in 30*
19 *Minutes*. Bill Hart shared a thank you card addressed to the Board from Ralph Dixon.

20 21 OLD BUSINESS

22 *NHSBA Resolutions:* Carolyn French Witham reported that the NHSBA Board had met
23 to discuss all proposals for NHSBA resolutions, with no decisions at this time for which
24 items would be brought forward. She stated that the NHSBA Board will have a packet of
25 information distributed to all school districts in the near future for further consideration.

26
27 *NHIAA Resolution:* Mike Cozort and Roy Roberts stated that they had reviewed the
28 proposed NHIAA Resolution, and that the proposed resolutions do not have any
29 suggestions that the Board would be against. Mr. Roberts stated that the resolution is
30 general, referring to cost saving efforts for all districts while maintaining competitive
31 play for all districts. Mr. Cozort reiterated that each district is allowed to play up to 40%
32 of their games outside of their class, allowing for considerable regional play.

33
34 *Recommendation from Ice Hockey Study Committee:* The Ice Hockey Committee
35 distributed a handout outlining their position on the request for team support. Sumner
36 Dole stated that the Committee recommended providing funding for the program, with
37 the stipulation that the Gilford School District match this funding.

38
39 ***A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded, to accept the Ice Hockey***
40 ***Committee recommendation that the Shaker Regional School District***
41 ***contribute funds to the ice hockey program, limited to one-half of the coaching***
42 ***stipend, transportation and game officials, beginning in the year 2009-2010.***
43 ***This motion is contingent upon an equal contribution from the Gilford School***
44 ***District. This commitment is for a five-year period, but will be reviewed***
45 ***annually. It is further understood that the Belmont-Gilford Hockey Booster***

1 ***Club will ensure that no student-athlete is denied an opportunity to play hockey***
2 ***due to an inability to pay a participation fee. The motion passed unanimously.***
3

4 *Appendix B - Co-Curricular Requests:* Mike Cozort stated that he recommended that the
5 Board approve the Dance Team, Equestrian Team, and the Kids on the Go Health Club,
6 with no sponsor stipend. Mr. Cozort recommended that the National Jr. Honor Society at
7 the Belmont Middle School be approved with an advisor’s stipend. He further explained
8 that the Honor Society has been operating successfully for three years.
9

10 ***A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded, to grant the National Jr.***
11 ***Honor Society at Belmont Middle School status as an official organization***
12 ***under category DD in Appendix B. The motion passed unanimously.***
13

14 Carolyn French Witham inquired to the number of weekly meetings for the Kids on the
15 Go Health Club at Canterbury Elementary School, stating that with childhood obesity on
16 the rise, the number of meetings should be increased. Mary Morrison agreed it would be
17 nice to increase to twice per week, but that it depends on the time the advisor has to offer.
18

19 ***A motion was made by Roy Roberts, and seconded, to recognize the formation***
20 ***of the Dance Team, Equestrian Team, and the Kids on the Go Health Club,***
21 ***with no sponsor stipend, under Appendix B. The motion passed unanimously.***
22

23 *On the Horizon:* The Board reviewed the On the Horizon Calendar. Mike Cozort
24 recommended that the Board consider having two meetings in December due to the full
25 schedule. The Board decided to maintain the scheduled December 11th meeting, with a
26 tentative work session scheduled for December 18th at 4 p.m., to be held at the SAU
27 office.
28

29 **NEW BUSINESS**

30 *Annual Guidance Report: Guidance Director,* Brenda Seiferth described the District
31 wide initiatives for the current year. She stated that the Guidance Team had created five
32 goals, to streamline and assimilate the 504 plans, to explore transition programming, to
33 review all referral agencies, methods to increase community work and involvement, and
34 to continuously review the guidance curriculum.
35

36 To achieve these goals, the Guidance Team has met and created a parent manual, had
37 discussions regarding 504’s and IEP’s, as well as discussing services for students who do
38 not qualify for a 504 or IEP, but still require services. The Guidance Team sponsored a
39 movie night, with 70 attendants, Martha Madison has been working with PTO’s to have a
40 presentation with a speaker about parent anxiety and student stress, and Jen Gagnon has
41 completed her work with the 6th and 9th grade for the drug and alcohol program. Ms.
42 Seiferth reported that the school-to-career program, led by Ralph Dixon, was going well,
43 and that the focus for high school programs was around the college selection and
44 admissions process.
45

1 *Annual Technology Report:* Jon White presented the Annual Technology Report,
2 reviewing highlights to his submitted report and explaining the new equipment that had
3 been purchased for this current year. Mr. White explained that the Technology
4 Department was working on a wireless network for Canterbury Elementary School, and
5 reviewing fiber optic capabilities for networking Belmont Elementary, Middle School,
6 High School and the SAU office.

7
8 *2009-2010 Calendar Draft:* Mike Cozort explained the Draft #3 version of the proposed
9 school calendar for 2009-2010. He explained that this is one draft of many and that he
10 would receive input from other area superintendents and the Shaker faculty. He stated
11 that the District would maintain the tradition of a gradual school opening, and would look
12 to hold classes on Columbus Day. The Board expressed concern for not providing
13 Columbus Day as a holiday, and discussed the reasoning behind this proposal. The
14 Board decided that Columbus Day would remain a holiday, and suggested alternative
15 methods for the addition of classroom time.

16
17 *Internal Policies Committee:* Pret Tuthill stated that the Internal Policy Committee did
18 not meet, and had nothing new to report. He commented that the packet of new policies
19 looked intimidating.

20
21 *Heating Oil Contract:* Debbie Gay stated that due to the decrease in heating oil, Fred
22 Fuller had offered the District an opportunity to cancel the current contract and create a
23 new contract at a lower price. The current contract is locked in at a rate of \$4.295 per
24 gallon, and the new contract would offer a price of market value plus \$0.50. Ms. Gay
25 stated that as long as the price of oil remained under \$3.80 per gallon, this would be a
26 good deal.

27
28 ***A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded, to renegotiate the heating oil***
29 ***contract with Fred Fuller at a rate of market value plus \$0.50 per gallon. The***
30 ***motion passed unanimously.***

31
32 *SRO Update:* Roy Roberts reported that a formal request from the Town of Belmont to
33 partially fund an SRO position had not been received at this time. In preparation for any
34 future request, Mr. Roberts requested that Debbie Gay review the tax impact that this
35 would have on the District.

36
37 *At 7:23 p.m., Bill Hart adjourned the meeting, accompanied by a motion by Pret Tuthill,*
38 *and, by unanimous roll call vote (6-yeah, 0-nay), entered into non-public session, in*
39 *accordance with RSA 91-3:II(c).*

40
41
42 Respectfully Submitted,

43
44 Robin M. Schofield
45 School District Clerk