

1 **Shaker Regional School Board**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **April 9, 2009**
4

5 IN ATTENDANCE:

6 **School Board:** Bill Hart, Diane O'Hara, Roy Roberts, Tom Goulette, Preston Tuthill

7 **Administration:** Superintendent Michael Cozort; Business Administrator: Debbie Gay;
8 Principals: Russ Holden, Mary Morrison, Emily Spear, Aaron Pope; Buildings and
9 Grounds Director Doug Ellis; Director of Student Services Tonyel Mitchell-Berry;
10 Curriculum Coordinator Shannon Bartlett

11 **Regrets:** Heidi Hutchinson, Sumner Dole
12

13 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

14 School Board Chair Bill Hart called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
15

16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

17 The Board discussed the Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2009. Mike Cozort stated that
18 Sumner Dole had requested clarification regarding the reference to a rolling stop, stating
19 that this is being done at the stop sign by the cafeteria. The minutes were accepted as
20 amended.
21

22 FINANCIAL REPORT

23 The financial report was included in the Board Packet. Pret Tuthill questioned function
24 1210 for special education tuition. Debbie Gay stated that she has scheduled a meeting
25 with Tonyel Mitchell-Berry to review this account, which funds students who are in
26 placement outside of the District.
27

28 Tom Goulette questioned the impact that the District could anticipate due to the State
29 Budget. Mike Cozort replied that no firm numbers had been provided at this time.
30

31 REPORTS

32 **Administrators:** Administrators' reports were included in the Board Packet. Emily Spear
33 updated the number of enrolled kindergarten students for the upcoming year, stating that
34 67 had enrolled compared to 30 at this time last year. Should this trend continue, Ms.
35 Spear stated that this could be a cause for concern. Russ Holden reported that the Math
36 Team had placed third for the state class M meet and that the High School's electric
37 motorcycle had been featured in a magazine. Mr. Holden stated that the TRAC team had
38 three teams who were participating at the National Competition. Aaron Pope reported
39 that Travis Akerstrom had placed 50 out of 100 at the state level Geography Bee. The
40 Destination Imagination team had received 2nd place at the state meet, which earned them
41 a place at the national competition being held in Tennessee.
42

43 **Superintendent's Report:** Mike Cozort reported that he had been attending several
44 webinars related to ARRA, and that the funds for this are moving slowly. He stated that
45 on Monday, Lori Bresnahan would be honored as a Teacher of the Year nominee, and

1 that two members of the Future Business Leaders of America from the District had been
2 elected as officers at the state association.

3
4 *Board Member Reports:* Diane O’Hara reported that she had attended the National
5 School Board Association Annual Conference. She stated that it was a wonderful
6 experience and that she would have more information for the Board at a later date.

7
8 OLD BUSINESS

9 *2008-2009 Calendar – Make Up Day/Graduation:* Mike Cozort discussed the school
10 calendar in relation to snow days and the last day of the year. He suggested that May 8th
11 be used as an instructional day, and allow for the faculty of each school to make up the
12 workshop day based on what works best for each school. This would make June 19th the
13 last day of the year for students and establish June 12th as the date for graduation. Mr.
14 Cozort explained that due to power outages, the High School had missed one additional
15 day of class time. He suggested that the Board seek a waiver from the State requesting
16 that this day not be made up. Seniors would meet the minimum days (175) of instruction
17 necessary for graduation by participating in a required a Saturday Community Service
18 day.

19
20 *A motion was made by Preston Tuthill, and seconded, to utilize May 8th as an*
21 *instructional day with faculty to makeup the workshop day at a later date, to*
22 *establish June 12th as the date of graduation, and to seek a waiver from the*
23 *State of NH Department of Education to not make up the missed instructional*
24 *day at the High School. The motion passed on a vote of 3 to 1.*

25
26 Russ Holden asked that if anyone knew of community service opportunities for seniors to
27 forward these to him. Tom Goulette stated that he felt that the District is contracted with
28 the Towns to require students to go 180 days. He felt that by requiring seniors to only
29 attend 175 class days, and then to seek a waiver from the State is violating this contract.
30 Pret Tuthill stated that the Board is obligated to follow state and federal laws, and this is
31 being done.

32
33 *On the Horizon:* The Board reviewed the outlined On the Horizon Calendar. Mike
34 Cozort stated that the Board is remaining on schedule, and he reviewed the agenda for
35 April 23rd. Roy Roberts requested that a reaffirmation of the vision statement be included
36 within the agenda for April 23rd, and asked that a co-curricular and athletics clause be
37 added to this vision statement.

38
39 NEW BUSINESS

40 *Vocational Program Update – Ag Ed Center:* Maria Vanderwood, the Student Services
41 Coordinator of the Winnisquam Regional Agricultural Education Center, provided the
42 Board with a brochure on their vocational programs. Ms. Vanderwood reviewed the
43 areas of study within the program, stating that they offer more than just farming, contrary
44 to student perception. The programs are designed for both college bound students and
45 those not planning to attend post secondary education, and has membership within the
46 Future Farmers of America. She stated that the program is looking to add an animal

1 science program, but that changes to the building are required before the program can
2 begin. Ms. Vanderwood explained how the courses fit into a student’s schedule and the
3 credits that can be received, stating that there are currently three Belmont students in
4 attendance. Mike Cozort stated that he has visited the facilities, and that he feels this
5 program is underutilized by students within the District.
6

7 *Vocational Program Update – Huot Center:* Scott Davis, Director of the Huot Center for
8 the Laconia School District, presented a video to the Board on the various programs
9 offered at the Center. Mr. Davis explained that the goal of the program is to give
10 students a “jumping off point” so that they are able to enter the work force while
11 attending college courses or instead of college courses. Kathy Waggell of the Health
12 Science and Technology program reviewed this area of study, stating that high school
13 courses could count as college credits or towards certification, such as the License
14 Nursing Assistant (LNA) program. Huot program students shared their experiences with
15 the Board and how the programs will help them in their future. Mr. Davis stated that
16 overall the program works with 400 students, 40 of which are from Shaker Regional. He
17 stated that the program is looking to expand several programs including alternative
18 energy and creating a computer technician program.
19

20 *Adequate Yearly Progress Report:* Curriculum Coordinator Shannon Bartlett reviewed
21 the results of the Adequate Yearly Progress Report (AYP) for the areas of reading and
22 math. She stated that all four district schools made their target index at the whole school
23 level and that is great news. Belmont and Canterbury Elementary Schools made AYP in
24 all groups, including the disaggregated groups. Although Belmont Middle School did
25 well as a whole school, it did not make AYP because of the performance of two
26 disaggregated groups (economically disadvantaged and educationally disabled). The
27 High School made AYP in both language arts and math, although were saved by the “safe
28 harbor” provision. With a power point presentation, Ms. Bartlett reviewed the scores for
29 the schools in each area. She stated that each faculty is looking at the data, and
30 determining areas in need of improvement at each school and planning way of improving
31 these areas, especially at the middle school level. With the aid of Performance Tracker
32 and NWEA results, the administration is able to see if the AYP results are consistent with
33 other test results for each student. Ms. Bartlett reminded the Board that the target scores
34 will increase for the next year, and that overall, the District did very well on the state
35 assessment.
36

37 *Curriculum Development – Language Arts:* Shannon Bartlett reviewed the language arts
38 curriculum at each school. Lori Bresnahan explained the program being used at Belmont
39 Elementary School, called the Literacy Café and the Daily Five, and provided handouts
40 on each. The programs were designed to explain to students the needs for these skills,
41 provide meaningful practice instead of busy work, and can focus on the needs of each
42 child. The program is tailored to allow a student to advance at their own pace and use
43 reading materials that are appropriate for their age level and skills. Ms. Bresnahan stated
44 that the program requires all teachers to be on the same page, sharing student data from
45 one year to the next.
46

1 Ms. Bartlett reviewed the progress being made at the Middle School and High School.
2 Each is working to align the curriculum with the required frameworks, creating consistent
3 student expectations throughout all disciplines, and analyzing NECAP data to find areas
4 in need of improvement. Russ Holden added that the schools are moving away from
5 teaching what they want to teach to teaching what they are required to teach.
6

7 There was a general discussion about how students might demonstrate competency
8 without taking a course. Russ Holden shared that students must have prior knowledge of
9 the subject to competency out, and that this process can either speed up or slow down
10 depending upon the length of time required to demonstrate a competency. Instructors
11 intentionally make the process challenging.
12

13 *Dropout Data:* Mike Cozort reported on the drop out rate data which was included in the
14 Board Packet. He stated that the rate had dropped from 15% last year to 10.7% this year,
15 which is better than the State average of 11%. Mr. Cozort contributed the lower rate to
16 the alternative education programs offered by the District. He and Russ Holden shared
17 how important it is for the district to have a menu of several options which would help
18 students who are not succeeding in the traditional classroom. A GED program will be
19 added to the High School for the upcoming school year, and these students are not
20 counted towards the dropout rate.
21

22 *Federal Stimulus Bill Ideas:* Mike Cozort distributed and reviewed a handout of
23 suggested uses of federal stimulus (ARRA) Title I and IDEA funds. He suggested
24 expanding the extended-day kindergarten program to help identified students be better
25 prepared for the first grade. In order to accomplish this, more space would be needed at
26 BES. He stated that the administration is considering the possibility of moving the
27 preschool program to Canterbury Elementary School, since this building had space
28 available. Doing so would raise the issue of transportation, but provide the space
29 necessary to increase the kindergarten program at BES. Ideally, the District would like to
30 have a preschool program at each elementary school. Mr. Cozort explained that CES had
31 the required infrastructure to hold the preschool program, and stated that the majority of
32 available Title I funds are for Title I students only.
33

34 Tom Goulette questioned the use of funds for temporary positions, such as a school
35 psychologist. Mike Cozort acknowledged that these positions would eventually require
36 funding from the district and the need for the positions has already been determined. Roy
37 Roberts suggested that a public hearing to discuss the plans for the funds be held prior to
38 any expenditure. Pret Tuthill wanted to make it clear that residents understood that
39 neither of these funding sources could be used for tax relief due to federal regulations.
40 Diane O'Hara asked where PLATO labs would be located at the Middle School. Mr.
41 Cozort replied that the District is looking at all options, such as portable labs. Tom
42 Goulette expressed his concern that by moving the infrastructure of the preschool
43 temporarily to Canterbury, this would displace other programs at BES once the program
44 was relocated to Belmont. Mike Cozort stated that he is awaiting finalized numbers and
45 regulations to be received by the District before moving forward with any proposals.
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1 *At 8:35 p.m., Bill Hart adjourned the meeting, accompanied by a motion by Pret Tuthill,*
2 *and, by unanimous roll call vote (5-yeah, 0-nay), entered into non-public session, in*
3 *accordance with RSA 91-3:II(c).*

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6 Respectfully Submitted,

7

8 Robin M. Schofield

9 School District Clerk

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