

1 **Shaker Regional School Board**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **April 23, 2009**
4

5 IN ATTENDANCE:

6 **School Board:** Diane O'Hara, Roy Roberts, Preston Tuthill, Sumner Dole, Heidi
7 Hutchinson

8 **Administration:** Superintendent Michael Cozort; Buildings and Grounds Doug Ellis

9 **Regrets:** Bill Hart, Tom Goulette
10

11 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

12 School Board Vice Chair Diane O'Hara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
13

14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

15 The Board discussed the Meeting Minutes from April 9, 2009. The minutes were
16 accepted as presented.
17

18 OLD BUSINESS

19 **Federal Stimulus Bill Ideas:** Mike Cozort provided an update on the Federal Stimulus
20 Bill (ARRA), explaining that he would like to keep this item on the agenda for each
21 meeting until a plan for the District has been finalized. Mr. Cozort has been meeting with
22 the administration and faculty of each school to explain the parameters of the bill, how it
23 will affect the District, and to determine the needs at each facility that this money can
24 fund. Conversations have shown that the majority of Title 1 funds have been utilized for
25 literacy and this would be a good opportunity to focus on areas of math. The faculty at
26 the elementary schools have discussed the impacts of relocating the preschool program to
27 Canterbury, and faculty at all schools are in agreement that additional psychological
28 services are needed. The amount to be received by the District over a two year period for
29 IDEA will be \$359,000.
30

31 Discussion ensued regarding the available funds. Sumner Dole suggested that a public
32 hearing be held to discuss the funds for Title I and IDEA, explain their usage and that the
33 these funds cannot be utilized to offset the tax base. Mike Cozort stated that the payout
34 schedule would be 50% of funds to be received in May, with the remainder to be issued
35 in October. Mr. Dole suggested earmarking some of these funds for restoration of the
36 Gale School for the purpose of housing preschool or administrative offices, since this is
37 not a project that the residents are likely to provide funds to complete. Mr. Cozort
38 explained that this is not possible out of IDEA or Title 1 funds. However, he explained
39 that 18% of the State Stabilization funds might provide some funds for repairs and
40 renovations. However, he was quick to point out that those funds are to be used at the
41 discretion of the Governor, and there has been no indication that they will be available to
42 schools.
43

44 **On the Horizon:** The Board reviewed the outlined On the Horizon Calendar. Mike
45 Cozort stated that a joint meeting with the Town of Belmont Planning Board and the

1 District would be held on May 11th. May meetings will cover reports, the financial
2 policies that have been reviewed, and year end financial projections.
3

4 NEW BUSINESS

5 *Reaffirm Board Vision Statement:* A copy of the Board Vision Statement was included
6 with the Board packet. Roy Roberts distributed two drafts of wording he would like to
7 have included in the Vision Statement, which described the Board’s view on athletics,
8 fitness, and health. Mr. Roberts explained that he felt this item needed to be addressed,
9 and provide a positive note on the Board’s position and expectations. Several board
10 members stated that they thought the statement provided by Mr. Roberts was too specific,
11 but that a more generalized statement might be appropriate. Mr. Cozort pointed out one
12 of the belief statements in the Shaker Strategic Plan and suggested that he could work
13 with Mr. Roberts to draft a statement to be presented to the Board at a later date.
14

15 *A motion was made by Sumner Dole, and seconded, to reaffirm the Board’s*
16 *Vision Statement. The motion passed.*
17

18 *District Report Card:* The draft District Report Card was included in the Board packet.
19 Mike Cozort explained that the assessment data had been included in its own separate
20 section. Sumner Dole requested an executive summary to be included with the Report
21 Card, stating that it is better to get out as much information as possible in a short
22 statement. Pret Tuthill questioned page 12, asking about the large drop from 9th grade to
23 10th grade for the number of children being home schooled. Mr. Cozort replied that due
24 to state laws, parents do not need to report home schooled children to the District after
25 they turn 16 years of age. Mr. Tuthill also questioned the rise of suspensions in some
26 schools, and Mr. Cozort explained that this is due to the increased use of in-school
27 suspensions and children with more challenging behaviors.
28

29 *Building and Grounds Update – Energy Efficiency:* Pret Tuthill reported that the
30 Building and Grounds Committee had met with the Jordan Group to attain a proposal for
31 assessment of all of the District buildings for energy efficiency. The Board discussed the
32 Jordan Group, stating that this company was a non profit and looked at all alternative
33 energy sources. Doug Ellis stated that due to conservation efforts, the District had
34 utilized 31,000 kilowatts less than last year at this time, resulting in a \$5,000.00 savings.
35 It was suggested that the Board publicize the date of the proposal to be given by the
36 Jordan Group, inviting the residents of Belmont and Canterbury to join in on the
37 discussion.
38

39 *Policy Development – IHBA –* Pret Tuthill reviewed policy IHBA, Evaluation
40 Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities, presenting it to the Board
41 for a first reading. Board members were asked to send feedback to Mike Cozort or Mr.
42 Tuthill.
43

44 *Policy Development – Social Networking Websites:* The Board briefly discussed the use
45 of social networking websites such as Facebook and MySpace, relaying negative
46 experiences by colleagues due to the use of faculty and students. Diane O’Hara pointed

1 out several of the positive aspects of these sites, and the Board agreed that further
2 discussion and input from the administration would be necessary before a policy could be
3 developed.

4
5 *French Class Foreign Exchange Program:* Mike Cozort stated that the new French
6 teacher had received rave reviews, and was looking into a student exchange program with
7 a group from France. He stated that the program would include a two week visit by
8 Shaker students to France, followed by a two week visit of French students to Shaker.
9 Mr. Cozort explained that the program had a highly academic purpose, and that a
10 proposal would be forthcoming.

11
12 *At 6:55 p.m., Diane O'Hara adjourned the meeting, accompanied by a motion by Pret*
13 *Tuthill, and, by unanimous roll call vote (5-yeah, 0-nay), entered into non-public session,*
14 *in accordance with RSA 91-3:II(c).*

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16
17 Respectfully Submitted,

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19 Robin M. Schofield
20 School District Clerk
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