

1 **Shaker Regional School Board**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **May 14, 2009**
4

5 IN ATTENDANCE:

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

8 **Administration:** Superintendent: Michael Cozort; Business Administrator: Debbie Gay;
9 Principals: Mary Morrison, Emily Spear, Aaron Pope; Buildings and Grounds: Doug
10 Ellis; Director of Student Services: Tonyel Mitchell-Berry; Curriculum Coordinator:
11 Shannon Bartlett; Gifted and Talented Program: Karen Gingrich, Laura Dwyer

12 **Regrets:** Bill Hart
13

14 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

15 School Board Vice Chair Diane O'Hara called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
16

17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

18 The Board discussed the Meeting Minutes from April 23, 2009. The minutes were
19 accepted as presented. The Annual Meeting minutes were approved as presented in draft
20 dated April 23, 2009.
21

22 FINANCIAL REPORT

23 The financial report was included in the Board Packet. There were no questions
24 regarding this report.
25

26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

27 *Gifted and Talented Program – Elementary Level:* Karen Gingrich of the Gifted and
28 Talented program for Belmont Elementary and Canterbury Elementary provided a report
29 to the Board. The program consists of in classroom work one day per month in each
30 classroom at Belmont Elementary, and as needed in the classrooms at Canterbury
31 Elementary. This schedule also includes small group projects at each grade level. The
32 part time program provides two days at BES and one day at CES each week. Ms.
33 Gingrich explained the projects that are worked on at each school including the Robert
34 Frost Poetry Contest, the Bridge Building Project, the Young Inventor's Contest, and the
35 One-Room School House project in Canterbury. She further explained the One-Room
36 School House project, stating that this is a continuation of the project from the previous
37 year, undertaken in collaboration with the Canterbury Historical Society. Students have
38 the opportunity to visit the school house and experience what it was like to be a student
39 of a particular era. This year, the focus is on 1942, and students heard stories from World
40 War II veterans. Ms. Gingrich showed samples of projects that had been created, and an
41 animated video made by a group of second graders.
42

43 *Gifted and Talented Program – Middle School Level:* Laura Dwyer and student Andrew
44 Bragg addressed the Board regarding the Gifted and Talented program at the Middle
45 School. Ms. Dwyer reviewed the activities offered by the program, including Destination
46 Imagination, SCAT, SAT and PSAT practice exams, the School Newspaper, Crime

1 Investigators Program, Mock Courtroom project, stock market simulations, and Project
2 Citizen. She reviewed the events associated with these activities, including field trips and
3 competitions, and stated that one Destination Imagination team earned a slot at the
4 National Competition held in Tennessee. Andrew explained the Project Citizen Program,
5 which is sponsored by the NH BAR Association. This project allows students to choose
6 a perceived problem within their school, and report their findings and suggestions to a
7 mock legislature. This year's problem focused on school lunches, and how more variety
8 and healthier options could be available to students.

9
10 Roy Roberts asked how students were selected to participate in the Gifted and Talented
11 program. Ms. Dwyer explained that participants were selected based on their NECAP
12 results, with further conference with teachers to decide which students would most
13 benefit from the program.

14 REPORTS

15 *Administrators:* Administrators' reports were included in the Board Packet.

16
17
18 *Belmont Elementary:* Emily Spear stated that Governor Lynch had visited the school,
19 resulting in some very excited fourth graders. Ms. Spear updated the number of enrolled
20 kindergarten students for the upcoming year, stating that 67 had enrolled, and that class
21 sizes generally range from 17-22 students.

22
23 *Canterbury Elementary:* Mary Morrison updated the Board, stating that May is a very
24 busy month for Canterbury Elementary. NWEA testing has been completed, with
25 NECAP Science exams scheduled for the following week. The Spring Concert, school
26 play and field day are scheduled for the upcoming weeks. There are currently 19
27 kindergarten students registered for the fall.

28
29 *Belmont Middle School:* Aaron Pope reported that May is also a busy month at the
30 Middle School, with NWEA almost completed and NECAP Science to begin shortly.
31 Mr. Pope and the administration have been working closely with the Elementary Schools
32 and the High School to ensure a smooth transition of students moving up to their new
33 buildings. He reported that 80-100 students would be attending a Fisher Cats game to
34 celebrate their academic success, and that a Spaghetti Dinner, Mask Auction and Poetry
35 Slam would be held on Thursday to raise money to support the Hospice program.

36
37 *Superintendent's Report:* Mike Cozort reported that Russ Holden was currently on the
38 senior trip, which had close to 100% participation. Mr. Cozort had attended the state
39 Champions for Children ceremony to honor Graham P. Chynoweth as the Lakes Region
40 nominee. Jon White and Gerry Ryder put together a grant for Electronic Portfolios.
41 Mike and Jon met with Belmont Town officials and received \$10,000 from Metrocast and
42 the Town to network the Belmont facilities with fiber. Mr. Cozort stated that following
43 Senior Day, he had received a phone call from Mr. Rollins thanking the students who
44 volunteered to help him pile seven cords of firewood.

1 *Board Member Reports:* Heidi Hutchinson requested that student and faculty
2 achievements at all schools be reported in the Canterbury Church Newsletter. Since
3 many of the Canterbury residents do not receive the Lakes Region papers, this
4 information is not always passed on to them. Roy Roberts commented on the cleanliness
5 of the schools and that it makes a great impression on visitors to the District. Pret Tuthill
6 commented that the music and artwork at the High School was great.

7
8 OLD BUSINESS

9 *Policy Development:* The Public Policy Committee presented policy IHBAA, Evaluation
10 Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities, to the Board for a second
11 reading.

12
13 ***A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded, to accept policy IHBAA,
14 Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities, as
15 presented in draft dated May 14, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.***

16
17 *Proposed Revision to Vision Statement:* Mike Cozort stated that he had met with Roy
18 Roberts, and they had drafted a revision to the vision statement, and included it in the
19 Board packet.

20
21 ***A motion was made by Roy Roberts, and seconded, to adopt the revised Vision
22 Statement as presented in the draft dated May 8, 2009. The motion passed
23 unanimously.***

24
25 *Federal Stimulus Bill Ideas:* Mike Cozort reviewed the proposed figures that the District
26 expects to receive through ARRA. As it currently stands, the District will receive
27 \$359,495 for IDEA A, \$13,873.92 for IDEA Preschool, and an estimated \$213,000 from
28 Title I. Overall, the State of NH should receive \$200,787,230 for Fiscal Stabilization
29 funds. These funds have been earmarked by Governor Lynch to provide \$164,200,000 to
30 address educational adequacy issues throughout the State. Mr. Cozort explained that at
31 this time, there are more questions than answers regarding the funds, and that he is
32 awaiting a response to determine if any of the funds can be used to offset taxes. He has
33 been meeting with the faculty at each school to determine areas of need, and the general
34 consensus has shown a need for additional psychological services. Mr. Cozort has also
35 suggested utilizing 15% of the IDEA funds for children who are not identified as having
36 special needs but who struggle in our classrooms.

37
38 Debbie Gay stated that under the ARRA, the District had applied for a grant to be used to
39 replace the walk-in cooler at the Middle School, which has been in use since 1972. The
40 total project would cost the District approximately \$11,000 with 25% reimbursable under
41 the grant. Acceptance of the grant would not commit the District to the project, but
42 would help defer the costs should they move forward with the project.

43
44 Tom Goulette reminded the Board that they have a duty to review all funds before they
45 are accepted, and to report to the residents the amount of federal dollars received and
46 what they had purchased.

1 *On the Horizon:* The Board reviewed the outlined On the Horizon Calendar. Mike
2 Cozort stated that the Student Representative would be invited to join the June 11th
3 meeting and that a discussion of the Student Resource Officers would be added to the
4 agenda for May 28th.

5
6 NEW BUSINESS

7 *Joint Meeting with Town of Belmont:* Pret Tuthill stated that he and several board
8 members had attended a joint meeting with the Town of Belmont and other boards within
9 the town. He stated that the meeting was informative. He stated that he had discussed
10 that the Board may choose to propose a new bond project once the current (high school)
11 bond was retired, but that the District was not planning to present a bond issue before that
12 time.

13
14 Tom Goulette stated that the Board had never taken a public position on any future
15 projects for after the bond had retired. He stated that he does not agree with any decision
16 for any proposed project that has been discussed.

17
18 *Curriculum Development – Social Studies:* Shannon Bartlett provided a report on the
19 Social Studies Curriculum for the District. She reviewed the ten themes that are required
20 by the State, and the five strands of curriculum that cover each of these requirements.
21 Currently, the elementary and middle schools are working to develop the curriculum
22 within the grade levels, developing templates for each of the curriculum strands. At the
23 high school level, the curriculum is being aligned with the competencies. They are in the
24 last phases of creating the competency-out requirements, and they are creating more
25 authentic assessment. Future plans include having each of the schools work more closely
26 together in curriculum development to ensure that students are prepared for the next
27 grade level. In addition to this, the Middle School is working to align the curriculum
28 with the state GSE's and creating common grade level assessments. At the High School,
29 faculty are working to make the curriculum more rigorous and to delve deeper into
30 subjects. Work will continue to outline competencies and assessments, and to create
31 strategies to enhance student achievement.

32
33 *Discussion of Unencumbered/Unexpended "Surplus" Funds:* Debbie Gay distributed a
34 handout listing the budget areas with surplus funds. Expenditures of surplus funds need
35 to be decided by the first meeting in June, and a list of possible maintenance projects was
36 provided to the Board. Roy Roberts stated that a public forum should be held to discuss
37 expenditures with the residents prior to commitment to any projects. Sumner Dole
38 suggested that the Board focus the use of these funds on addressing life safety issues, and
39 that the Board should create trust funds in the future to handle surplus funds. Pret Tuthill
40 stated that the Building and Grounds committee was in the process of requesting bids for
41 an energy audit to be conducted, and that they did not know what the cost associated with
42 this project would total. Mike Cozort stated that historically, the building and grounds
43 budget item had been cut, and necessary projects completed at year end with surplus
44 funds. The Board will address this topic further at the next meeting.

1 *At 7:47 p.m., Diane O'Hara adjourned the meeting, accompanied by a motion by Pret*
2 *Tuthill, and, by unanimous roll call vote (5-yeah, 0-nay), entered into non-public session,*
3 *in accordance with RSA 91-3:II(b)(c).*

4

5

6 Respectfully Submitted,

7

8

9 Robin M. Schofield

10 School District Clerk

11

12