

1 **Shaker Regional School Board**  
2 **Meeting Minutes**  
3 **August 6, 2009**  
4

5 IN ATTENDANCE:

6 **School Board:** Vice-Chairman: Diane O’Hara; Pret Tuthill, Heidi Hutchinson, Tom  
7 Goulette, Roy Roberts; Student Representative: Michael Farkas

8 **Regrets:** *Sumner Dole*

9 **Administration:** Superintendent Mike Cozort; Business Administrator Debbie Gay;  
10 Director of Student Services Tonyel Mitchell-Berry; Director of Buildings & Grounds  
11 Doug Ellis; Principals: Emily Spear, Mary Morrison; Assistant Principals: Dan Clary,  
12 Tim Saunders

13 **Guests:** Jennifer Gagnon  
14

15 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

16 School Board Vice-Chairman, Diane O’Hara, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.  
17

18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

19 The Meeting Minutes from the July 9, 2009 Shaker Regional School Board meeting were  
20 accepted as presented. The July 23, 2009 meeting minutes will be presented to the Board  
21 for approval at the next meeting. There was some question if minutes were necessary due  
22 to the fact that there was not a quorum present. This was an officially posted meeting, so  
23 meeting minutes are required.  
24

25 RESIGNATION FROM THE BOARD:

26 Mike Cozort stated that the District received a letter from Bill Hart with his resignation as  
27 a Shaker School Board member. The Board accepted the letter with regret and thanked  
28 Mr. Hart for his years of outstanding service.  
29

30 ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR:

31 *A motion was made by Roy Roberts, and seconded by Tom Goulette, to*  
32 *nominate Diane O’Hara as the Chairman of the Shaker Regional School Board. The*  
33 *motion passed unanimously.*  
34

35 *A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded by Tom Goulette, to nominate*  
36 *Roy Roberts as the Vice Chairman of the Shaker Regional School Board. The motion*  
37 *passed unanimously.*  
38

39 Mike Cozort asked the Board how they wanted to proceed with filling the open Board  
40 position. In the past the Board has asked the Superintendent to advertise the position in  
41 the local papers. The Board will interview the candidates and select someone to fill the  
42 seat until March when the position will be decided by a vote of the residents.  
43

44 *A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded by Roy Roberts, to direct the*  
45 *Superintendent to advertise the Board position vacancy, in the appropriate*

1 *publications. The deadline will be September 3, 2009, to submit a letter of interest to*  
2 *the Superintendents office. The motion passed unanimously.*

3  
4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

5 Nothing to report.

6  
7 ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORTS:

8 *Administration:* Dan Clary, from BHS, shared that the summer school worked out very  
9 well and the Physical Education class went well also. He is very excited about the new  
10 employees that have been hired. The Guidance Department had put together 15 packets  
11 for new registration of students and all of them have been picked up and he is waiting to  
12 see how many are returned for new students to begin. Mike Cozort added that there are  
13 145 students in this year’s freshman class. Tom Goulette asked if the high school knows  
14 of how many high school drop outs will be returning and if there is a re-emersion  
15 program in place. Mike said that all the students that dropped out at the age of 16 and are  
16 not yet 18 will be required by law to be in school. The Laconia Adult Ed program is an  
17 option if they are of a junior or senior age.

18  
19 Mary Morrison, from CES, shared that Terry Minogue received the Elementary Science  
20 Award. She will be going to Washington. Mary handed out a fact sheet with more  
21 information about this award. She thanked Doug Ellis for all his help this summer, the  
22 building is looking great.

23  
24 Emily Spear, from BES, said that the elementary school is starting to look really good.  
25 All the summer programs have ended, as of today. BES has received a small grant from  
26 the Tilton and Gilford Lowes stores. They will be using this grant to install a “Buzzer  
27 Entry Door System” because the main office cannot see any of the entry doors, to see  
28 when a visitor is entering the school.

29  
30 Tim Saunders, from BMS, added to the report that was submitted to the Board, that the  
31 summer maintenance crew is ahead of schedule. The summer school program was very  
32 successful. Only one student did not attend summer school, which was needed to be  
33 promoted to the high school.

34  
35 *Superintendent of Schools:* Mike said that he has sent a lengthy report to each Board  
36 member on the Right to Know Law. He encouraged that the members look through it,  
37 when they have a chance. Mike also shared, that the distribution of board packets would  
38 be electronic beginning in September.

39  
40 OLD BUSINESS:

41 *Appoint Deputy Treasurer:* Debbie Gay stated that Melody Crockett has been nominated  
42 by the Treasurer for the position of Deputy Treasurer.

43  
44 *A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded by Roy Roberts, to approve*  
45 *the nomination, by the Treasurer, of Melody Crockett to be the Deputy Treasurer of the*  
46 *Shaker Regional School District. The motion passed unanimously.*

1 *Approval of Elementary Handbooks:* Heidi Hutchinson asked if the First Student Bus  
2 Company number could be included in the handbooks. Both CES and BES have  
3 included them in the books.  
4

5 ***A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded by Roy Roberts, to approve***  
6 ***both the Canterbury Elementary and Belmont Elementary handbooks for the 2009-***  
7 ***2010 school year. The motion passed unanimously.***  
8

9 *Federal Stimulus Bill:* Mr. Cozort reported that the District is prepared to move forward  
10 with the ARRA applications, based on what he has shared with the Board and public at  
11 board meetings in June and July and a forum on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a handout  
12 distributed to the Board breaking down the Federal Stimulus funds and where it will be  
13 spent. The school district is getting updates at all times on how this money can be spent.  
14 There are several, time consuming, reports that need to be filed to reflect this spending.  
15 The plan, if allowed, is to reserve 50% of the ARRA IDEA funds and apply them to  
16 existing budget items. Mr. Cozort also stated that there will be two full time School  
17 Psychologists, one will be for CES and BES and the other will service BMS and BHS.  
18 Tom Goulette asked if there is a push to have four years of math at the high school. Mr.  
19 Cozort said that is a great idea and it has been considered. With the size of the incoming  
20 freshmen class and the staff that is currently in the math department, it is not possible to  
21 accommodate four years of math. It should be considered for the future, just as we have  
22 a required four years of English. Mr. Goulette also stated that he feels there should be  
23 some more public relations before acting on the American Recovery and Reinvestment  
24 Act of 2009. Mr. Roberts shared that the Board has done a good job to notify the public  
25 by the recent forum in Canterbury and the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting that was held. Mr. Cozort  
26 also stated that if the Board doesn't act on the funds that the Title I and Special Education  
27 Assistants cannot be hired.  
28

29 ***A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded by Roy Roberts, to accept the***  
30 ***proposal of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Funds. The motion passed with***  
31 ***a 4 to 1 vote.***  
32

33 *"On the Horizon":* Mr. Cozort stated that the agenda items are in good shape. We can  
34 push the August 20 items to the first September meeting, if the Board decides that the  
35 second August meeting would not be necessary. The second September meeting will be  
36 reserved for meeting with the Belmont Town Officials. Mr. Cozort will extend an  
37 invitation to them. The Board was in agreement not to have the second August meeting.  
38

39 *Buildings and Grounds Report:* Doug Ellis gave a handout showing the projects that  
40 have been completed and some that are still being worked on. Everything is coming  
41 together. He is getting a little nervous because school is starting soon.  
42

43 Pret Tuthill explained that the cooler at BMS cannot be replaced without replacing the  
44 freezer as well because they share a compressor in the wall.  
45

1            ***A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded by Tom Goulette, to amend***  
2 ***the June motion to replace the BMS cooler. The Board agrees to expend \$16,750.00***  
3 ***from the unexpended and unencumbered funds, to replace both the BMS cooler and***  
4 ***freezer. The motion passed unanimously.***

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6 The Buildings & Grounds committee met to review all projects and decided that they  
7 should be categorized as maintenance or capital improvement projects. They will give  
8 the Finance committee a three year picture of what needs to be replaced.

9  
10 Mr. Cozort explained that the Town of Canterbury will be closing a section of Intervale  
11 Rd., after school begins, for a couple of weeks. There was some discussion about  
12 changing bus routes to accommodate this closing. It was suggested that the  
13 Transportation committee should meet to discuss this issue and to talk with the Town of  
14 Canterbury.

15  
16 ***Other: A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded by Roy Roberts, to accept the***  
17 ***Grant of \$1,200.00 from Lowe's in Gilford and \$1,200.00 from Lowe's in Tilton, to be***  
18 ***used at Belmont Elementary School for a buzzer entry system.***

19  
20 **NEW BUSINESS:**

21 ***Substance Abuse Program Report:*** Mr. Cozort introduced Mrs. Jen Gagnon, our  
22 Substance Abuse Program Provider. Mrs. Gagnon's report was included in the Board  
23 packet. She also had a handout that shows the caseloads and Challenge Course numbers  
24 for BMS and BHS. She does a Challenge Course with the middle school 6<sup>th</sup> graders and  
25 the high school 9<sup>th</sup> graders, which is an educational prevention program. She also meets  
26 with several students together to assist in the mediation of a conflict with their peer  
27 group. Mrs. Gagnon also discussed her areas of concern that were highlighted in her  
28 report for the Board. It was asked if the staff at the schools have had any Professional  
29 Development on knowing the signs of students under the influence. The Administrators  
30 said that it has been discussed at staff meetings by school nurses, but there has not been  
31 any formal courses taken. Mrs. Gagnon stated that she has had a few students that are so  
32 involved with drugs that she has referred them to ATI, which is an Adolescence  
33 Treatment Initiative. It is a division of Child and Family Services and it is a granted  
34 program. In reality, this is the only program for kids to get help with drug abuse. Mrs.  
35 Gagnon shared that the students are involved in other substances other than alcohol and  
36 marijuana. Currently, things that are being used are Salvia (a plant that many have  
37 growing in their gardens), huffing is also something being experimented with. It was  
38 suggested that the school district put out some information to help educate parents on the  
39 drug issue, maybe the Shaker newsletter. The need to strengthen the Drug and Alcohol  
40 policy was also noted and Pret Tuthill shared that the committee has already been in  
41 discussion on this matter.

42  
43 ***Home Schooling Report:*** The number of home schooled students is included in the Board  
44 packet. This is provided annually, to the Board. It is included for information only.

1 *Policy Development:* Mr. Tuthill said that there are two policies in the Board packet.  
2 Code BBBA Board Member Qualifications, is included for a first reading. It describes  
3 the qualifications to run for a school board position. They included the work that is  
4 expected of a Board Member, because this may be the first place that a prospective  
5 member may look for information. There was some discussion of including the amount  
6 of time that may be expected during the time in this position.  
7 Code GBEBD Employee Use of Networking Websites is included for a second reading.  
8 There were no significant changes. Mr. Cozort stated that the policy committee had  
9 originally wanted more information from staff on how they are using the internet as an  
10 educational tool. There was a presentation at a previous meeting. The intent is to hold  
11 employees to the same standard of behavior in the classroom as when representing the  
12 Shaker Regional School District. There was some discussion about the wording of the  
13 policy. The title of the policy should read: Employee Use of Social Networking Websites  
14 *and Internet*. The wording in line 14 should have the first word of educational removed  
15 from the sentence.

16  
17 ***A motion was made by Heidi Hutchinson, and seconded by Roy Roberts, to***  
18 ***amend the title of Code GBEBD to read – Employee Use of Networking Websites and***  
19 ***Internet and to remove the first word of educational from line 14. The motion passed***  
20 ***unanimously.***

21  
22 *Budget Development Calendar Draft:* Included in the Board packet for the members to  
23 review.

24  
25 *Other:* Mr. Tuthill recommended that the district move ahead with putting in new  
26 sprinklers in the BES main office and to purchase them from the Capital Reserve fund.  
27 He stated that the Building and Grounds Committee would ask that this be an action item  
28 for the next board agenda.

29  
30 Debbie Gay informed the Board that she received a letter from the Local Government  
31 Center asking for support of a lawsuit regarding the shift of the state's share of retirement  
32 funding. They are looking for the Board to donate \$1,785.33 to help support this  
33 litigation. Tom Goulette recommended the Public Policy Committee draft a letter in  
34 support of the litigation, but not authorize financial support at this time.

35  
36 **ADJOURNMENT:**

37 *At 8:21pm, Diane O'Hara, adjourned the meeting, accompanied by a motion from Pret*  
38 *Tuthill, and by unanimous roll call vote (5 yeah, 0-nay), entered into non-public session,*  
39 *in accordance with RSA 91-3:II(a)(b)(c).*

40  
41 Respectfully Submitted,

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43  
44 Stacy S. Kruger  
45 School District Clerk

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