

1 **Shaker Regional School Board**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **September 10, 2009**
4

5 IN ATTENDANCE:

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

8 **Administration:** Superintendent Mike Cozort; Business Administrator Debbie Gay,
9 Director of Student Services Tonyel Mitchell-Berry; Director of Buildings & Grounds:
10 Doug Ellis; Principals: Emily Spear, Mary Morrison; Aaron Pope, Russ Holden; Director
11 of Technology: Jon White
12

13 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

14 School Board Co-Chairman, Diane O’Hara, called the meeting to order at 5:14pm.
15

16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

17 The meeting minutes from the July 23, 2009 Shaker Regional School Board meeting were
18 accepted as presented. The meeting minutes from the August 6, 2009 Shaker Regional
19 School Board meeting will be accepted with the correction on page 4, line 7 to say:
20 categorized as maintenance or capital improvement projects.
21

22 MEET WITH BOARD CANDIDATES:

23 There were three applicants for the vacant position of School Board Member from
24 Belmont. The first applicant introduced by Mr. Cozort was Sean Embree. The second
25 applicant was Gretta Wilder and the third applicant was Rich Bryant. Each applicant
26 introduced themselves and stated why they were interested in the position as well as why
27 they would be a good candidate for the position. The Board Members each had several
28 questions for the candidates during the interview process.
29

30 FINANCIAL REPORT:

31 Debbie Gay stated that things were off to a good start. Tom Goulette asked if the finances
32 were where they were projected to be after all the summer projects were completed. Mrs.
33 Gay replied that everything worked out accurately.
34

35 ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORTS:

36 **Administrators:** Mary Morrison said that CES had a great opening. The building looked
37 great. There were two classrooms with new Smartboards and the teachers are all
38 collaborating. Emily Spear stated that BES had a smooth opening and they are preparing
39 for their Open House on September 15 & 16. The fall soccer program is beginning soon
40 and there are about 200 students signed up for the program. Russ Holden, from BHS,
41 shared that there were a lot of new students that registered over the summer. The
42 incoming freshmen class seems to be a great group of students, all 145 of them. There are
43 currently 507 students at the high school. Mr. Holden wanted to let the Board know that
44 the seniors are currently planning their class trip and they are gathering all the information
45 to present to the Board, for a trip to Florida. The Board asked how the high school
46 contacts the 18 year olds that have dropped out. Mr. Holden said they mail letters, call

1 parents and talk to the friends of these kids. Aaron Pope shared that BMS had a good
2 opening as well. Even though a large class went up to the high school, this year the
3 enrollment number remains consistent with last year. Mr. Pope stated that the staff at
4 BMS has been looking at student data, using Performance Tracker and working with
5 students. The middle school has implemented an “at risk program” called P.A.S.S – Plan
6 to Achieve Success in Schools.

7
8 *Superintendent of Schools:* Mr. Cozort has been working on two issues. The first was the
9 reaction prior to President Obama’s speech to students about the importance of education.
10 The high school was given the choice to show the speech live to the students, knowing
11 that they have the ability to discuss the speech after and this could be a great topic for
12 debate. The middle and elementary schools previewed the speech first, then decided if
13 appropriate for the ages in the schools. The other important issue is the flu. The H1N1
14 flu is now being referred to as having influenza-like-illness (ILI). Doctors and hospitals
15 will not be testing to see what specific type of flu people have, but are going to treat the
16 flu-like symptoms of the patients. There have been a lot of meetings and discussions on
17 this year’s flu season.

18
19 *School Board Members:* Roy Roberts shared that he enjoyed watching the volleyball
20 game at the high school. The girls have a great balance of intensity and team spirit. Mike
21 Farkas wanted to inform the Board that he and Mr. Craigie had a recent conversation
22 about the band going on a trip to Canada. They have a question regarding the district
23 policy that states the need for a Passport when entering Canada. The Board informed
24 Mike Farkas that it is not a Board Policy and that is required by Canada for all students
25 entering to have a Passport. The Board recommended that Mr. Craigie and Mike Farkas
26 do some research into this trip and find out all the details before presenting to the Board.

27
28 OLD BUSINESS

29 *Policy Development:* The 2nd Reading of Policy BBBA “Board Member Qualifications”.

30
31 ***A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded by Roy Roberts to accept***
32 ***Policy BBBA, “Board Member Qualification” as presented for a second reading on***
33 ***September 10, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.***

34
35 *Buildings and Grounds Report:* The Buildings and Grounds Committee met with Mike
36 McCormick, who had submitted a proposal for the Energy Audit at \$25,231. The
37 committee would like to recommend to use the \$8,000 that was reserved for this project
38 and use \$16,231 from the Expendable Trust fund. Tom Goulette requested some time to
39 read the proposal through. There would need to be a Public Hearing to discuss the use of
40 the funds out of the Expendable Trust. The BES sprinkler system needs to be looked at by
41 the Building and Grounds Committee. If the committee feels it needs to be replaced, it
42 will then need to be turned over to the Finance Committee. It was stated that there is
43 \$257,000 in the Expendable Trust, that is designated for buildings and grounds
44 maintenance. Also, the condition of part of the BMS roof is in question. The Buildings
45 and Grounds Committee needs to meet on that. Doug Ellis stated that the roof could last
46 another 4 or 5 years with some patching.

1 “*On the Horizon*”: The Building and Grounds action for the Energy Audit will be moved
2 to the September 24 meeting. The Belmont Town Administrators have been invited to the
3 September 24 meeting and the Canterbury Town Administrators will be invited to the
4 second October meeting. This will be a work session with the town officials. The
5 Instructional Time Schedule is moved to the September 24 meeting also. The Board has a
6 few suggestions of items to discuss with the town officials.

7
8 *Other:* Mr. Tuthill asked if the cameras and buzzer are being used for entrance into BES.
9 Mrs. Spear said that it is being used and it is working well. She said that a few parents
10 have commented, positively, on the use of the new system.

11
12 The construction on Intervale Road in Canterbury began on Tuesday of this week. First
13 Student Bus Company was very helpful in making an alternative route. Some students are
14 on the bus for quite awhile, but this is only temporary. Thanks very much to Joyce from
15 First Student for her assistance.

16
17 NEW BUSINESS:

18 *Special Education Report:* Mrs. Mitchell-Berry presented a slide show. The Preschool
19 Program has added an afternoon program. The enrollment has increased in the program.
20 There are smaller class sizes with the addition of the afternoon program, which is working
21 well. The Special Ed Program is now in compliance with the addition of a Psychologist
22 for BES and CES and another for BMS and BHS. This will help us meet evaluation
23 deadlines and support counseling. She also showed the large increase of identified
24 Special Education students over a 5-year period. There are currently 5 out of district
25 placements. Also, Mrs. Mitchell-Berry is currently working with the high school on
26 getting the identified kids, that are part of the 18 year old dropouts, on a plan to graduate.
27 She also informed the Board that for the 2010-2011 budget, she is working on including a
28 transition coordinator. This person would help the 18-21 year olds that are identified find
29 working positions in the community.

30
31 *English-as-a-Second Language (ESOL) Update:* Mrs. Mitchell-Berry included that there
32 are currently 4 students at BES, 1 student at BMS, and 1 student at BHS receiving
33 services through this program. The primary languages spoken by these students are
34 Chinese, Dinka, Spanish and German.

35
36 *Technology Report:* Jon White recapped the information included in his written report
37 included in the Board packet. The Technology Department spent a great deal of time
38 working on infrastructure improvements, which included the Fiber Network installed
39 between the three schools in Belmont. The process of getting the new email system up
40 and running took 4 weeks instead of 2. All of the projects that were planned have been
41 completed. The Board asked how often a computer is replaced or recycled in the district.
42 Mr. White stated that it is done every 6 years. Mr. Cozort stated that they would like to
43 get that number down to every four years because six years is a long time, with the speed
44 that Technology is always updating.

1 *Private School Report:* This was included in the Board packet for information only. Mr.
2 Cozort shared that Jacqui McGettigan tries to put this information together as accurately
3 as possible. It is difficult because no one is required to let the public schools know when
4 someone goes to private school. It was asked if students ever come back to the public
5 system after going to private school. Occasionally they do, for different reasons. It could
6 be for financial reasons during the current economy.

7
8 *Math Curriculum:* Shannon Bartlett presented a slide show to the Board explaining the
9 math curriculum being used throughout the district. The program is Everyday Math and it
10 matches the new alignment with the New Hampshire State Frameworks. The program
11 identifies appropriate overlaps, determines ways to eliminate gaps, creates K-5 pacing
12 guide which helps to make sure that the district is hitting time frames to move along in
13 teaching. They are creating benchmarks for K-8, data is being entered into Performance
14 Tracker and this helps to identify the needs of each student. BMS is creating core math
15 maps for grades 5-8 which includes content, skills and state standards. Once this is up and
16 running at the middle school, it can be expanded into the other schools.

17
18 *Other:* Tom Goulette distributed the letter that was drafted and mailed by the Public
19 Policy Committee to send to the New Hampshire Retirement System. The letter is in
20 response to the request for a donation toward a lawsuit regarding the shift of the state's
21 share of retirement funding. The Shaker Regional School District is not in favor of this
22 change and was not happy to send this money to the NH Retirement System and it was
23 expressed in this letter.

24
25 *At 7:25pm Diane O'Hara recessed the meeting, accompanied by a motion from Pret*
26 *Tuthill, seconded by Roy Roberts, and by unanimous roll call vote (6 yeah, 0-nay),*
27 *entered into non-public session, in accordance with RSA 91-3:II(a)(b)(c).*

28
29 At 8:15 p.m. the Board re-entered public session.

30
31 The Board elected Sean Embree to fill the vacancy on the Shaker Regional School Board.

32
33 The Board received a letter of intent to retire, effective June 30, 2010, by Superintendent
34 of Schools Michael Cozort.

35
36 ADJOURNMENT:

37 *At 8:25pm Diane O'Hara adjourned the public session. A motion from Pret Tuthill to*
38 *enter non-public session, in accordance with RSA 91-3:II(a)(b)(c)., was seconded by Roy*
39 *Roberts. By unanimous roll call vote (6 yeah, 0-nay), the Board entered into non-public*
40 *session.*

41
42 Respectfully Submitted,

43
44 Stacy S. Kruger
45 School District Clerk