

1 Shaker Regional School District
2 Meeting Minutes
3 December 30, 2010
4

5 **PRESENT**

6 **Board:** Diane O'Hara, Board Chair; Tom Goulette, Sumner Dole, Pret Tuthill, Sean
7 Embree, Heidi Hutchinson, Gretta Olson-Wilder

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

13 **Public:** Richie Bryant
14

15 **CALL TO ORDER**

16 Diane O'Hara called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
17

18 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

19 The minutes of December 9, 2010 were accepted as presented.

20 The minutes of December 13, 2010 and December 16, 2010 were accepted as adjusted.
21

22 **BUDGET WORK SESSION**

23 Diane O'Hara outlined the process for the budget work and said all personnel discussions
24 would be held for non-public and would be addressed at one time rather than going into
25 and out of non-public.
26

27 Diane turned the meeting over to Sumner Dole, Chair of the Finance Committee. Sumner
28 said the Finance Committee will review the feedback from the board from tonight's
29 meeting and the budget work session scheduled for January 6th. The committee will meet
30 on January 12th and made a final budget recommendation to the board at its meeting on
31 January 13th.
32

33 Heidi asked what it means to go intramural with athletics. Heidi said athletics are part of
34 the curriculum and are tied in to district policies. Sumner said he doesn't deny the value
35 of athletics but given situation the cuts needed to be made and Administration put those
36 cuts on.
37

38 Heidi asked if sports offerings could be combined and perhaps reducing the number of JV
39 sports games?
40

41 Diane said it would be helpful to see how many participants there are in the different
42 sports.
43

44 Pret asked what the philosophy was for the Administrator Meetings when they were
45 working on the cuts. Mark said the team looked at the district's Strategic Plan and tried
46 to maintain the core programs.

1 Pret asked if there was discussion about increasing class size. Mark said the Finance
2 Committee did not ask the Administrative Team to pursue that avenue. Sumner said
3 there was a look at increasing class size and the option of reducing credit hours.

4
5 Sumner said if the board wanted to switch cuts around they could look at the level 2 and
6 level 3.

7
8 Pret asked the Administration what the affect is of keeping class sizes small and losing
9 enrichment program. Mary said keeping class sizes as small as possible is good
10 academic practice since the education component is the core mission of the district.
11 Enrichment is nice but those programs can't replace the impact of a classroom teacher.

12
13 Sumner said the Finance Committee worked on the premise that the budget increase
14 should be less than 2%. Sumner said the board has not determined that increase and the
15 Finance Committee needs to know what the board will support.

16
17 Tom said a 2% budget increase doesn't mean anything – the issue is the tax rate. Tom
18 said the mission of Shaker Regional School District is to educate children and that means
19 we start in the classroom.

20
21 Diane said she is concerned with cuts at the Middle School since that is a School In Need
22 of Improvement.

23
24 Pret asked if the transportation contract has been reviewed relative to the fuel adjustment
25 amount. Pret also asked if the fuel oil budget has been reviewed.

26
27 Pret asked about the \$4,000 cut to Plato and asked Aaron if this cut would eliminate that
28 program. Aaron and Debbie explained that the program is not going to be cut but that by
29 combining the license with the High School there is a savings in Professional
30 Development requirements.

31
32 Mark said the Administration was trying to aim for a balance. Mark said if the board
33 wanted to pursue Pret's question about increasing class size the Administrators can look
34 into that option. Pret said the board has fought to keep smaller class sizes. Tom said
35 there is value in looking at increasing class size at the High School level.

36
37 Tom asked about freezing all hard equipment purchases in the proposed budget. Sumner
38 said that has been done.

39
40 Sumner said the proposed budget is requiring us to look at cutting special program and/or
41 classroom assistants. Sumner said if the economy doesn't recover we have to look at the
42 lost resources needed to keep class sizes at what they are. Last year we avoided people
43 cuts but we can't continue.

44
45 Pret asked what would happen if a motion was made from the floor to add money to the
46 budget. Pret was wondering if the board would support that type of a motion.

1 Sumner said the proposed budget still doesn't address the CBA – if there is any
2 settlement.

3
4 Diane asked to recap what the administrative Team is to prepare for the board. Debbie
5 said the items to review are (1) contractual changes; (2) impact of athletic cuts; (3) sport
6 team participation and (4) fuel oil & heating oil budgets.

7
8 Sumner said he appreciates the perspective of the Administrative Team in the budget
9 development process and would not want to second guess their work.

10
11 Pret asked Aaron how the cuts impact the Middle School, which is a SINI school. Aaron
12 said the school is SINI due to the Special Education population.

13
14 Gretta asked if the board has considered pay-to-play. Tom and Pret said that has been
15 discussed many times. Gretta said if the athletic cuts were totaled (Heidi said it's
16 \$73,000) could fundraising could be done. Sumner said fundraising could be done and
17 the funds would have to be specified for a specific purpose. Tom said fundraising can be
18 done but it takes an incredible amount of time and dedication.

19
20 Tom asked if the base budget model could be developed with the budget less one-time
21 expenditures and the required additions so the board can see and explain where the
22 budget total is coming from.

23
24 Sumner said the warrant articles are not included in this budget yet, and since the special
25 education expendable trust is going to be exhausted funds need to be put into the budget
26 and into warrants to replenish that fund. Tom asked that as few warrant articles as
27 possible be presented.

28
29 Diane said there was discussion about closing the Gale School Expendable Trust. Pret
30 said it might be worthwhile to look at closing the land purchase trust as well.

31
32 **At 7:24 pm, Diane O'Hara adjourned the meeting, accompanied by a motion from**
33 **Pret Tuthill, and seconded by Heidi Hutchinson, and by unanimous roll call vote to**
34 **enter into non-public session, in accordance with RSA 93-3:II(a)(b)(c)**

35
36 Respectfully submitted,

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38
39
40 Debbie D. Gay
41 Clerk pro temp