

**Shaker Regional School Board
Annual Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2010**

IN ATTENDANCE:

School Board: Diane O’Hara, Preston Tuthill, Thomas Goulette, Sumner Dole, Roy Roberts, Heidi Hutchinson, Sean Embree

Administration: Superintendent: Michael Cozort; Business Administrator: Debbie Gay; School District Attorney: Patrick Wood; Moderator: Thomas Garfield

Belmont Ballot Clerks:

Brenda Paquette
Diane Marden
Donna Shepherd
Nikki Wheeler

Canterbury Ballot Clerk

Mary Kerwin
Brenda Murray
Lisa Carlson

At 6:00pm Moderator Tom Garfield declared the polls open for voting on Article I. Richard Pitchford verified that the ballot machine was empty.

At 7:00pm, Moderator Tom Garfield called the meeting to order and reviewed safety and emergency procedures, introduced members of the Board, and thanked everyone who was involved with the setup for the meeting.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Jennifer Ortakales. Moderator Garfield briefly reviewed the rules of order for the meeting, based on the Town and School Meeting Guide developed by the Local Government Center, and identified non-residents present in the audience.

At 7:06pm., Moderator Garfield declared the polls closed for voting on Article I.

Article I

“To choose, by ballot, a moderator for a term of two years.”

Record of Election – Shaker Regional School District Moderator

Moderator- 2 years	
Roy Roberts	193
Write Ins	10

Article II

“To choose, by ballot, three school board members, one from the pre-existing District of Belmont to serve for a term of three years, one from the pre-existing District of Belmont to complete a term of one year and one from the pre-existing District of Canterbury to serve for a term of three years. Candidates must be residents of Belmont and Canterbury respectively but will be elected at large.

1 **Record of Election – Shaker Regional School District Board Members**

2 School Board – Belmont 3 years

3 Sean Embree 194

4 Write Ins 6

5
6 School Board – Belmont 1 year

7 Gretta Wilder 123

8 Richard Bryant 107

9 Write Ins 2

10
11 School Board – Canterbury 3 years

12 Diane O’Hara 187

13 Write Ins 3

14
15 **Article III**

16 “To see if the School District will vote to authorize the School Board to make application
17 for, to accept and to expend on behalf of the District any and all advances, grants or other
18 funds for educational purposes which may now or hereinafter be forthcoming from the
19 United States of America and its agencies and/or the State of New Hampshire and its
20 agencies.”

21
22 *A motion was made by Albert Akerstrom of Belmont, and seconded by Ron Mitchell of*
23 *Belmont, to move Article III to the floor for discussion. There were no questions.*
24 *Article III passed on a voice vote.*

25
26 **Article IV**

27 “To see if the School District will vote to authorize the School Board to accept and
28 expend on behalf of the District private gifts and contributions for educational purposes.”

29
30 *A motion was made by Ken Knowlton of Belmont, and seconded by Bill Hart of*
31 *Belmont, to pass Article IV. The Article passed on a voice vote.*

32
33 **Awards and Recognition:**

34 The Shaker Regional Chorus, lead by Scott Lounsbury and Jen Shaw, performed for
35 Mike Cozort, recognizing his retirement from New Hampshire education at the end of
36 this year. The performance was given by all grade levels and some alumni. Patrick
37 McGettigan, Ali Chase and Kristin Ellis presented Mr. Cozort with a photo album. Tom
38 Goulette gave a thank you to Mike for his 20 years of dedication, support and
39 commitment to the Shaker Regional School District.

40
41 **Article V**

42 “To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nineteen
43 million, four hundred sixty eight thousand, nine hundred thirty five dollars (\$19,468,935)
44 for the support of schools, the salaries of school district officials and agents, and for the
45 payment of statutory obligations of said district, and to authorize the application against
46 said appropriations of such sums as are estimated to be raised from the State’s equalized

1 and building aids together with other income. The School Board shall certify to the
2 selectmen of each of the towns of Belmont and Canterbury the amount to be raised by
3 taxation of each of said towns. This article does not include appropriations voted in other
4 warrant articles. (The School Board recommends passing this appropriation.) [Majority
5 vote required]
6

7 *A motion was made by Albert Akerstrom from Belmont, and seconded by Ken*
8 *Knowlton from Belmont to move Article V.*
9

10 Sumner Dole explained that the 2010-2011 budget is a \$240,000.00 or 1.36% increase
11 over last year's budget. He stated that there was a refund to the taxpayers, in December,
12 from last year's budget. This new budget increase is due to the collective bargaining
13 unit, with an overall salary increase of \$223,000.00. This includes separation pay for
14 retired teachers and superintendent and an increase in contribution to the NH Retirement
15 System. There were no programs or employees cut from the budget. The district did cut
16 supplies and postage. There were some cuts in buildings and grounds, cuts in technology
17 equipment and in the oil budget. There is a warrant article to make up these funds.
18

19 Discussion: Bob Steenson from Canterbury thanked the Board for the \$991,000.00 return
20 to tax payers. His question to the Board was, where did this surplus come from and is the
21 unreserved fund at zero right now.
22

23 Sumner Dole stated the School District is not allowed to carry a fund balance into the
24 next year, so the unreserved fund is at a zero balance. He also asked for a few minutes to
25 find information for the question asking where the money for the return to the taxpayers
26 came from.
27

28 *Article V passed on a voice vote.*
29
30

31 **Awards and Recognition**

32 Sean Embree recognized retiree Vicki Abbott for her service and dedication at BES as the
33 Readiness teacher. She is known as the "book lady" because she loves to read. She has
34 always said that if you can read, you can do anything. She also loves teaching about
35 nature. She has always put the children first and foremost, she makes a great teacher.
36 Sean wished her luck in all of her future endeavors and thanked her for her years of
37 dedication. Vicki Abbott thanked everyone and shared that Shaker is a wonderful
38 District to work for with the parents, children and staff.
39

40 Pret Tuthill thanked Bill Hart for serving on the School Board for ten and a half years.
41 Mike Cozort presented Bill Hart with the Champion for Children Award. He was
42 nominated by the Administrative team. Mike thanked him for everything that he has
43 done for the children of this District.
44

1 Heidi Hutchinson gave a sincere appreciation to Roy Roberts for serving on the School
2 Board for three years. He has worked on the Finance Committee and the Policy
3 Committee. She thanked him very much for his dedication.
4

5 Roy Roberts recognized retiree Connie Pipe. She is well respected, knowledgeable and
6 the voice of reason. She has spent 22 years with the District. Connie thanked the
7 District, she stated that it has been a privilege to work at the Shaker Regional District.
8 She thanked Sue Roberts for her encouragement in the beginning of her career.
9

10 **Relative to Article V**

11 Moderator Tom Garfield allowed Sumner Dole to address Bob Steenson’s earlier
12 question of where the refund of \$991,000.00 to the taxpayers came from. He stated the
13 fund balance for 2008-2009 was a result of excess revenues which include Medicaid
14 distribution, catastrophic aid, school building aid, and the federal funds revenue issue
15 where the decimal point was incorrectly placed for 36,000.00 instead of 360,000.00. The
16 excess was also resulting from under expenditures which included salaries and benefits,
17 course reimbursement, special education tuition, utilities, repair and maintenance,
18 transportation and equipment and also supplies and postage.
19

20 **Article VI**

21 ‘To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to fifty
22 thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) to be placed in the Energy Fund Expendable Trust Fund,
23 which from the June 30, 2010 unreserved fund balance that is in excess of \$87,975.00
24 and available for transfer on July 1 of this year. (The School Board recommends passing
25 this article.) {Majority vote required.}

26
27 *A motion was made by Ron Mitchell of Belmont, and seconded by Ken Knowlton of*
28 *Belmont, to move Article VI.*
29

30 Diane O’Hara addressed the article stating that the budget was reduced by \$75,000.00 for
31 fuel oil. The article is a protection incase the cost of oil increases during the year.
32

33 Discussion: There was no discussion on this article.
34

35 *Article VI passed on a voice vote.*
36

37 **Article VII**

38 ‘To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to seventy
39 five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) to be placed in the Facilities and Grounds
40 Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, which was established at the March 21, 1997
41 Annual District Meeting, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2010
42 unreserved fund balance that is in excess of \$87,975.00 and available for transfer on July
43 1 of this year. (The School Board recommends passing this article.) [Majority vote
44 required.]
45

1 *A motion was made by Bill Hart of Belmont, and seconded by Bob Reed of Belmont, to*
2 *move Article VII.*

3
4 Heidi Hutchinson addressed the article by stating that \$56,000.00 was removed from the
5 budget maintaining the facilities and grounds. The District is requesting to put
6 \$75,000.00 into this Expendable Trust Fund for health and safety issues that may arise for
7 the facilities and grounds. The items that are being considered are the BMS boy's
8 bathrooms, BES ventilation filter and the sink hole in the parking area in front of the
9 SAU building.

10
11 Discussion: Paul O'Connell of Belmont asked if the \$87,975.00 is the same money we
12 just voted on in the previous article.

13
14 Mike Cozort explained that it is mentioned in each of the articles because this is the
15 money from President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus). If
16 there is money remaining in the 2009-2010 budget at the end of the year, the first \$87,975
17 will be set aside to offset taxes. If there is any surplus beyond that amount, then it can, if
18 approved by the voters, be put toward the requests in articles VI-IX.

19
20 Roy Roberts explained that the Article VI, VII, VIII and IX are asking for any of the
21 surplus funds from the 2009-2010 budget be put toward each of the articles in sequential
22 order. If there is only enough remaining funds to go into Article VI that is the only
23 Expendable Trust Fund that will receive funds.

24
25 Priscilla Lockwood of Belmont asked if there wasn't enough money for each article than
26 they wouldn't be fulfilled. Roy told her that she was correct.

27
28 *Article VII passed on a voice vote.*

29
30 **Article VIII**

31 'To see if the School District will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the
32 provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as the Energy Conservation Upgrades
33 Expendable Trust Fund, for the purpose of installing energy conservation upgrades.
34 Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of up to fifty thousand dollars(\$50,000.00),
35 with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2010 unreserved fund balance that is in
36 excess of \$87,975 and available for transfer on July 1 of this year toward this purpose and
37 to name the school board as agents to expend from this fund. Funds shall be held by the
38 Shaker Regional School District Trustee of Trust Funds, voted to be the Belmont Trustee
39 of the trust Funds, at the March 21, 1997 Annual District Meeting. (The School Board
40 recommends passing this article.) [Majority vote required.]

41
42 *A motion was made by Albert Akerstrom of Belmont, and seconded by Ron Mitchell of*
43 *Belmont, to move Article VIII.*

44
45 Pret Tuthill addressed the article by stating that at last year's annual meeting it was
46 requested that the District research alternative energy. They needed to look to conserve

1 energy before implementing alternative energy. The Board contracted with McCormick
2 Facilities Management, to complete an energy audit of the five buildings. If the funds are
3 approved for this article, the District will then prioritize the items that the audit
4 recommends.

5
6 Discussion: Bob Steenson of Canterbury stated that it made sense to set up this trust fund,
7 but why is the District setting it up as expendable, not as an emergency fund. That way
8 the District wouldn't have to wait for a public hearing before they could use the funds
9 and they could tell the public what exactly the money would be used for.

10
11 Ken Knowlton of Belmont asked if there will be a funding cliff when the stimulus funds
12 run out. Pret Tuthill stated that the Board is aware of this happening and is keeping it in
13 mind.

14
15 *Article VIII passed on a voice vote.*

16
17 **Article IX**

18 'To see if the School District will vote to create an expendable trust fund under the
19 provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as the School Technology Expendable Trust
20 Fund, for the purpose of technology software and hardware replacement. Furthermore, to
21 raise and appropriate the sum of up to twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00), with
22 such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2010 unreserved fund balance that is in
23 excess of \$87,975.00 and available for transfer on July 1 of this year toward this purpose
24 and to name the school board as agents to expend from this fund. Funds shall be held by
25 the Shaker Regional School District Trustee of Trust Funds, voted to be the Belmont
26 Trustee of the Trust Funds, at the March 21, 1997 Annual District Meeting. (The School
27 Board recommends passing this article.) [Majority vote required.]

28
29 *A motion was made by Linda Frawley, and seconded by Gerrie Mitchell to move Article*
30 *IX.*

31
32 Sean Embree addressed the article by stating that there is a 4 year replacement plan,
33 which would include upgrading the software of Office and Windows. Also, upgrade the
34 wire connections in the schools and the SAU building. The District would like to have
35 everything up to date as to reduce the chance of large increases in the budget for repairs
36 and replacements.

37
38 Discussion: There was no discussion on this article.

39
40 *The motion passed on a voice vote.*

41
42 **Article X**

43 'To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

44
45 There was no other business to discuss.

1 *At 8:14pm, a motion was made by Albert Akerstrom of Belmont, and seconded by Ron*
2 *Mitchell, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote.*

3

4 Respectfully submitted,

5

6

7 Stacy S. Kruger

8 School District Clerk

9