

1 **SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **May 13, 2010**
4
5

6 IN ATTENDANCE:

7 **School Board:** Chairman: Diane O'Hara; Sumner Dole, Pret Tuthill, Tom Goulette, Sean
8 Embree, Heidi Hutchinson, Gretta Olson-Wilder; Student Representative: Michael Farkas
9 **Administration:** Superintendent: Mike Cozort; Business Administrator: Debbie Gay;
10 Director of Special Education: Tonyel Mitchell-Berry; Director of Buildings & Grounds:
11 Doug Ellis; Principals: Mary Morrison, Emily Spear, Aaron Pope, Russ Holden
12

13 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

14 Chairman Diane O'Hara called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Michael Farkas
15 introduced the new 2010-2011 Student Representative, Michele Cantelo to the Board.
16

17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

18 The April 22, 2010 meeting minutes were accepted with a date correction on line 18,
19 page 2.
20

21 FINANCIAL REPORT

22 Debbie stated that there are no changes on the Year-End Projection. There are some
23 adjustments included in the financial report. There have been some curriculum purchases
24 made from the 2009-2010 budget. In the elementary schools there were some science
25 materials purchased. In the middle school there were some language arts textbooks
26 purchased and at the high school there were some math textbooks purchased.
27

28 *A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded by Sean Embree, to approve the*
29 *budget adjustments recommended by Administration. The motion passed*
30 *unanimously.*
31

32 ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS

33 *Administrators:* Aaron Pope, from Belmont Middle School informed the Board that there
34 are several Art projects around the school that add into the social studies curriculum.
35 NWEA testing is well underway. We had one 8th grade student score a 269, which is off
36 the charts. The usual score is between a 225 and 230 at that level. He also informed the
37 Board that the Youth Risk Survey will be given next week. Mary Morrison, from
38 Canterbury Elementary, shared that there was a tree planting ceremony in the center of
39 Canterbury. All of the trees around the Center have been planted by school children.
40 This is a tradition that has been going on for awhile and some of the trees are quite large.
41 Emily Spear, from Belmont Elementary, stated that the 4th grade students are looking
42 forward to the transition activities for attending BMS next year. This is a great program
43 to help the students and parents prepare for 5th grade. Russ Holden, from Belmont High
44 School, recognized Ben Hill for receiving the 2010 NH Jumpstart Teacher Award. He
45 stated that the class advisor, Ms. Small organized the prom that took place on May 8th
46 and it went very well. Graduation will be taking place on June 11 at Meadowbrook.

1 There was some discussion regarding the cost of graduation at Meadowbrook. The
2 students on the French trip all came back safely. They had a great time. He also thanked
3 student council for provide a lot of food to the staff for Teacher Appreciation week.
4

5 *Superintendent of Schools:* Mike agreed that the prom went very nicely. He also shared
6 that he has been working with the Superintendent-elect Mark Blount. He will be here
7 tomorrow and has a very full schedule. He will be meeting with the staff on their
8 workshop day. There is a “walkabout” with Buildings and Grounds on May 21, Mr.
9 Blount will be invited to that event.

10
11 *School Board Members:* Gretta participated in the middle school career day activities.
12 She was discussing her career in Banking and Auditing. Heidi heard a lot of positive
13 feedback about the prom. Michele Cantelo added that she was on the prom committee
14 and that the prom was a lot of fun. Pret shared that the Buildings and Grounds committee
15 is moving ahead with different projects in a timely manner.
16

17 OLD BUSINESS

18 *Field Trip Policy Discussion:* Mike said referred to the information provided by Primex
19 Insurance which pointed out several liability issues. In addition, different schools in New
20 Hampshire were contacted to see how their field trips are handled. It ranged from the
21 “just say no” policy to a 10 page detailed policy. Mike suggested that the actual policy
22 be written short and very concise with an attached thorough rules and procedures. There
23 was some discussion about field trips. Primex suggests that any field trip should be
24 clearly delineated as to whether it is school sponsored or not. If not a school sponsored
25 trip then there should not be any fundraising done at the school. It was also brought up
26 that most of the horror stories from field trips stem from alcohol-related incidents, which
27 would clearly not be allowed on a school sponsored trip. Health Insurance coverage is
28 also a question when traveling overseas. It was suggested that the rules should
29 differentiate between day trips, overnight trips and foreign trips. There was some
30 concern expressed about having (on a foreign trip) the chaperones travel paid for or
31 subsidized by students. Mike would like to draft an amendment to our existing policy
32 and come up with revised rules and procedures and present it to the committee for their
33 consideration. Then, it will be presented to the Board for final approval.
34

35 NEW BUSINESS

36 *Gifted and Talented Program Annual Update:* Mr. Pope introduced the middle school G
37 & T teacher, Laura Dwyer. Laura said that there is a large group of advanced students at
38 BMS. She works with 30 students. She offers 7th & 8th grade students the opportunity to
39 take the PSAT’s and the SAT’s. She talked about the grants that G & T received this
40 year. She gave a presentation with two of her students, Ashley Fenimore and Kate
41 Witschonke. The Destination Imagination team will be competing in Tennessee. She
42 talked about their upcoming trip and the students showed their invention that they are
43 using at this competition.

44 Karen Gingrich teaches G&T at both BES and CES. She finds ways to challenge the
45 students individually and in larger groups. She encourages memory, problem solving and
46 creativity for approaching problems. She works with about six students at a time.

1 Sometimes she can work with more at BES, because she shares the Art room. She
2 explained some of the different lessons she has done with the students. She has used the
3 nature trail at BES and the one room school house in Canterbury.

4
5 *On the Horizon:* Mike discussed the agenda for the May 27th meeting. Sumner suggested
6 that the Board start having some discussions on the negotiations and budget for next year.
7 This could be added to the second meeting in June. The invitation will be extended to
8 Mark Blount.

9
10 *Race to the Top:* The Board was given information on the federal government's Race to
11 the Top initiative in their Board packet. The Commissioner is very eager for school
12 boards, superintendents and the union to get on board to bring federal dollars into the
13 state. There is concern by some superintendents that there are a lot of hoops for the
14 district to jump through without a lot of time to process the information. Mike shared
15 that Superintendent-elect Mark Blount would be attending one of the information
16 sessions arranged by the NH Department of Education. Tom Goulette stated that this
17 falls under public policy. He suggested that the Board be very cautious and ask for
18 information. Diane stated that the time line doesn't seem possible. The Board will ask
19 Mr. Blount if he feels he wants to take this on.

20
21 ***At 7:36 pm, Diane O'Hara adjourned the meeting, accompanied by a motion by Pret***
22 ***Tuthill, and seconded by Sean Embree, and by unanimous roll call vote to enter into***
23 ***non-public session, in accordance with RSA 91-3:II(b)(c).***

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25 Respectfully Submitted,

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27
28 Stacy S. Kruger
29 School Board Clerk
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