

Shaker Regional School District
Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2011

PRESENT

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Diane O'Hara called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The meetings of the December 30, 2010 meeting were accepted with one correction.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Mark Blount distributed a report dated January 6, 2011 outlining changes to the proposed budget, responding to the board's request to restore some athletics and custodial support.

Pret asked if the practice transportation would be an issue since students in other sports have to provide their own transportation for practice. Heidi asked if we are currently paying for transportation for practices. Mark said in golf and skiing we are but not for other sports. Sumner suggested Primex review the issue to make sure we will not have a problem.

Pret asked if the middle school will be dropping golf and alpine skiing. Aaron said they are under this proposal.

Sumner asked how this work changes the bottom line. Mark said it stays within the parameter set by the Finance Committee. Sumner asked if the \$50,000 for the Special Education Expendable Trust was included in the budget now. Mark said it was not.

Tom asked why the Finance Committee wants to propose the warrant article. Sumner said the goal was to get the Special Education Fund to \$150,000 so the thought was to put \$50,000 in the budget, put a warrant article for \$50,000 and then put another warrant article for \$50,000 to be funded from surplus. Tom said it would be easier to defend if the \$100,000 was part of the budget rather than putting half in the budget and half in a warrant article. Tom also said he felt that \$75,000 from year-end surplus would be a better amount. Sumner said if too much went into the Special Ed trust there may not be enough money to put into other trust funds.

Debbie was asked what the impact of including \$100,000 in the budget would be. Debbie reported it would be a 2.49% increase in the operational budget, the Belmont Tax rate is projected to increase 6.68% and the Canterbury tax rate is projected to decrease 3.13%.

Mark and Debbie reviewed the Contract Budget report. Debbie explained the contractual obligation as presented reflect current positions and the addition of the ARRA funded Psychologist and OT positions as well as preserving the Special Education positions that needed to be added this year.

Diane said if the board wanted to get back to a 2% budget \$100,000 would have to be cut. Pret said if the board had to cut they should start with what the administration presented today, which totaled \$97,811.

Gretta asked why Gifted & Talented at the middle school is a level 4 cut when that serves 117 students, but athletics will be dropping 124 students and costs less. Aaron said Gifted and Talented is an integrated program that services a different population of students and provides team teaching opportunities. Aaron also explained that it is academic based and in keeping with the mission of the district.

Pret said he would be willing to defend a 2.49% budget increase.

Heidi said she felt the administration did a great job coming back with ways to restore some athletics and custodial positions.

Diane said there is still time to review the information provided since the board does not vote on the budget tonight.

Pret asked if a press release could be prepared to let the public know what transpired at the meeting. Tom said it is critically important that we talk about the fact that the budget is increasing. Tom said the prior reports of cuts to a budget that didn't even exist was not acceptable.

A member of the public asked if the board could announce what they had decided. Diane said tonight was a working meeting and the board is looking at the proposed budget. Diane reported the challenge the board is facing is the lack of revenue. The board is trying to keep to the core mission which is education. Administration did a great job trying to find funds to restore some athletics and custodians.

Gretta reported that the HS athletic report is missing a page, so copies were provided.

Sumner said he wanted to remind the board that a settlement on a teacher contract has not been reached as yet.

At 6:58 pm, Diane O'Hara adjourned the meeting, accompanied by a motion from Pret Tuthill, and seconded by Tom Goulette, and by unanimous roll call vote to enter into non-public session, in accordance with RSA 93-3:II(c)

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie D. Gay
Clerk pro temp