

1 **Shaker Regional School Board**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **November 10, 2011**
4
5

6 IN ATTENDANCE

7 **School Board:** Chairman: Pret Tuthill, Sean Embree, Richard Bryant, Heidi Hutchinson,
8 Robert Reed, Tom Goulette

9 **Excused:** Diane O'Hara; Student Representative: Steven Farkas

10 **Administration:** Acting Superintendent: Tom Haley; Business Administrator: Debbie
11 Thompson; Director of Buildings and Grounds: Doug Ellis; Acting Director of Student
12 Services: Kathy McGee; Principals: Aaron Pope, Mary Morrison, Emily Spear, Russ
13 Holden
14

15 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

16 Chairman, Pret Tuthill called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
17

18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

19 *October 27, 2011:* Accepted as presented.
20

21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

22 Stephanie Galambos of Canterbury, asked if there was any progress with the negotiations
23 of the teacher's contracts. Tom Goulette stated that they have been meeting weekly and
24 things are going well at this time. He added that the key factor in the contract is the turn
25 out at the Annual District Meeting in March. Pat Piscetta of Belmont, asked if there was
26 going to be a contract for this year. There would need to be a special meeting to act on a
27 contract for this year. There was some discussion about the money already being voted
28 into the budget this year for the teacher's contract. Pret stated that there would need to be
29 a warrant article with specific costs for the contract. The registered voters would need to
30 approve the agreed contracts. There was no contract last March for that to have been
31 done. In March of 2012, both 2011 & 2012 contracts can be voted on. Pret also stated
32 that if there is a special meeting before March, to vote on the teacher's contracts, it could
33 put the current budget at risk.
34

35 Stephanie Bergeron of Canterbury, asked if there was going to be talk about the
36 Superintendent Search and if there are going to be parents and teachers on the hiring
37 committee. Pret stated that they need to advertise this position soon. The Board will
38 decide on the advertisement. Mary Jo Reed of Canterbury, asked how someone can put
39 their name on the list for the committee. Pret stated that the Board will solicit letters of
40 interest soon. Pret has already started a file with a list of people interested. Pat Piscetta
41 thanked Tom Haley for stepping in at this time as acting superintendent. She hopes that
42 the Board does a thorough job including everyone in this hiring process.
43

44 FINANCIAL REPORT

45 *Monthly Financial Report:* Debbie stated that the report was included in the packet and
46 asked if the Board had any questions. Pret asked if there were any surprises and Debbie

1 stated that there was not. She did add that the encumbrances have negative balances due
2 to the payroll. The District was late to receive the Building Aide from the state. Also,
3 the Food Service Program has received a lot of assistance this year and they are doing
4 well. She also stated that food prices are up, but the assistance is coming in.

5
6 *Budget Transfers:* There are a lot of transfers listed due to finalizing the salaries and
7 benefits for new hires and changing enrollment by existing personnel, which affects
8 almost every function throughout the budget.

9
10 ***A motion was made by Tom Goulette, and seconded by Sean Embree, to approve the***
11 ***budget transfers recommended by Administration. The motion passed unanimously.***

12
13 **REPORTS**

14 *Student Representative Reports:*

15 *Andrew Bragg, BMS:* He distributed his report to the Board. Andrew recapped his report.
16 He explained that BMS has a new Accelerated Reader program. Mrs. Piscetta and Ginny
17 West received a \$5,000.00 grant to get this enhanced program. There are now 140,000
18 tests to choose from with this new program.

19 *Steven Farkas, BHS:* Excused

20
21 *Administration:* Emily Spear from BES, shared that they had their Veterans' Day
22 showcase with about 20-30 Veterans present. It was a very moving assembly. She said
23 that it looked to be the biggest showcase they have ever had.

24
25 Mary Morrison of CES, added to her report by stating that the 5th graders have returned
26 from Nature's Classroom and they had a great time. She also extended an invitation to
27 the Board for the Senior Citizen Luncheon that will be taking place at CES.

28
29 Aaron Pope from BMS, stated that 72 students attended Nature's Classroom from the 5th
30 grade. A couple of the students did go home early due to one illness and one case of
31 homesickness. Everyone had a great time. They had beautiful weather and were involved
32 in all kinds of activities. Sean Embree was able to attend 4 days and stay in a cabin with
33 about 15 of the boys. Rebecca Morse, a 5th grader teacher, said that they hope to continue
34 to attend Nature's classroom each year and would like to combine it with CES students.
35 She also thanked the Board for their approval on this trip.

36
37 Russ Holden of BHS, shared that there was a great vibe around the school as the first
38 quarter came to an end on November 4th. Congratulations to Ben Hill for receiving
39 Business Teacher of the Year. Also, FBLA was recognized as a gold star for the second
40 year in a row and was recognized as the third best program in our state.

41
42 *School Board Members:* Pret added that the Holiday Craft Fair at BHS is this Saturday;
43 signs have been placed all over town. It is expected to be very good. He also asked to
44 have the status of the "Art for Lease". This was presented several months ago to the
45 Board by Jaylene Bengtson. Russ Holden and Aaron Pope said they would have an
46 update next month.

1
2 Bob Reed congratulated all fall sport athletes for a great season. He especially mentioned
3 Mike Foley’s boys’ Varsity soccer team. They did a great job making it into the semi-
4 finals. The team also received a letter from the Oyster River officials on their quality of
5 play and their excellent sportsmanship in the quarter-finals.
6

7 *Student Enrollment Report As of November 1, 2011:* The report was included in the
8 packet for information. It was stated that the elementary schools start reaching out to the
9 communities in March, to see how many children are eligible for Kindergarten.
10

11 *“On the Horizon”:* Pret stated that Ted Comstock is not available on November 17th.
12 The Board will keep the meeting on the 17th and determine if it is necessary. The Key
13 Works of School Boards will remain on the agenda for that date. Tom Haley stated that
14 once the search committee is established they may want to have Ted Comstock attend a
15 meeting. The December 22 meeting was changed to December 15th.
16

17 *Budget Development:* Tom Hayley, Richy, Debbie and Heidi were present at the budget
18 meeting. They were able to discuss the Special Education budget and the high school’s
19 budget. The current plan is to split the other presentations into two evenings.
20

21 *2011-2012 Budget Review:* Nothing to report.
22

23 *Internal Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements – as amended:* Heidi went through some
24 of the minor changes. There were no specific changes to the wording. There were a few
25 credit changes. Health is now a ½ credit and Freshman Experience is a ½ credit. When
26 reading through the required credits, Pret commented that it seems a half credit
27 requirement in information and communications technology was not adequate.
28

29 ***A motion was made by Heidi Hutchinson, and seconded by Richy Bryant, to accept***
30 ***amended policy IKF “Graduation Requirements” as presented to the Board on***
31 ***November 10, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.***
32

33 *EECGB Grant Update:* Doug stated that they are finalizing the RFP. They will send out
34 for bids next week. The proposal due date is December 13th. The contract will be
35 awarded on December 15th. TRC is overseeing the project, which is the contractor hired
36 by the government.
37

38 *Superintendent Search:* Pret and Tom Haley spoke previously about this process. They
39 came up with a conceptual draft of the process. They made a list of possible constituents
40 within the district. The make up of the proposed advisory committee was offered as 4
41 parents (one from each school), two administrators, one representative from the SAU
42 office, two faculty members, two community members at large and one Board member
43 acting in an ex-officio role. The draft was distributed to the Board. Pret suggested that
44 each member of this committee would have their own interests for a Superintendent. He
45 suggested that this advisory committee could take part in interviews and site visits. The
46 Board Selection Committee would like to have 6-8 qualified candidates to look at. There

1 would be a document developed that the advisory members can use to give their opinions
2 of each candidate. Heidi added one thing that occurred in the last search, there was a
3 public meeting in each town to solicit opinions as to what people in the District were
4 looking for in a candidate and the community could give their input. This would provide
5 a broader sense at the beginning of the process; not just from the advisory committee.
6 There was a discussion of what criteria will be used to select the advisory members. Tom
7 Haley said there should be a balance between the 2 towns and determine how people will
8 inform the Board of their interest. He stated that it can be by application or submit a
9 letter stating why they feel they would be a good candidate for the committee. The Board
10 will determine this process. Sean asked at what point will the names of the candidates
11 become public. Tom Haley replied that finalist's names would become public when they
12 attained that status. All other candidate's names would remain confidential. There will
13 be a confidentiality issue that could jeopardize the candidates existing jobs. This is a key
14 factor in the whole process. Confidentiality will be very important with the advisory
15 committee.

16
17 Sean asked how the Administrative team will fit into this process. During school visits
18 the Administrators will have time with the finalists. There was also some discussion
19 about an Administrator from each school being present on the committee. Bob stated that
20 he liked the idea of 12 advisory members. He suggested that the Administrative number
21 be increased by one and that the Board member not be included as 1 of the 12.

22
23 Bob Drew of Canterbury, stated that he supports the open forums, in each town, at the
24 beginning of the process. He also thanked the Board for all the work they do while
25 serving on the Board.

26
27 Pat Piscetta asked how much of this hiring process will be spent on the education
28 philosophy of the new Superintendent. Pret stated that the School Board will be the ones
29 to focus on this during the hiring process. Amanda DeGange of Belmont, suggested an
30 administrator from each building be included on the advisory committee because each of
31 the schools have different needs and will be looking for different qualifications. Emily
32 Spear added that the administrators would appreciate being on the committee, but feels
33 that the SAU people would be very important on the committee because they will be
34 working directly with this person.

35
36 Mary Jo Reed said that it is unfortunate that in the last hiring process everyone felt that
37 the 2 or 3 finalists were presented and the public was told "these are your choices".

38
39 Gerri Ryder, a teacher at BES, agreed with the advisory committee process and that it
40 sounds like it will be successful.

41
42 Richy suggested, in the event that the committee can not find a qualified candidate, we
43 have another interim Superintendent. Pret stated that was the plan the last time as well.

44
45 Bob suggested that the Board discuss this further and present more information at the
46 November 17th meeting.

1
2 Pat Piscetta thanked the Board for listening to everyone.

3
4 Stephanie Galambos stated that the children are the bottom line in this process and she
5 hopes that the Board will have the confidence in the parents and community members
6 with their opinions and abilities in this process, because they have their children at heart.

7
8 Tom Goulette wanted to comment on all of the criticism that the Board has received on
9 the last process of choosing the Superintendent. They knew going into the process that
10 they were protecting confidentiality of the few candidates that we received. This was a
11 very dedicated and very thorough process. Pret stated that they would like to have this
12 process completed by mid to late March. He thanked everyone for their input and the
13 Board will take all of it into consideration.

14
15 NEW BUSINESS

16 *BES PTO Leadership, Barbara Ribeiro:* Emily Spear introduced the President of BEST,
17 Barbara Ribeiro. She stated that there is a strong core group making up this group. They
18 have held their second Annual Auction last year. They raised enough money for field
19 trips and a little extra. They have held a Craft Night and a Movie Night. They are
20 considering making a joint effort with CES, trying to get more exposure that will get
21 more students to attend. They are considering starting a Facebook for sending out blurbs
22 with upcoming events. This page will not allow comments. BEST already has a website.
23 Barbara also stated that BEST appreciates the teachers attending the meetings with their
24 ideas and needs. Tom Goulette asked if the group reaches out to the incoming
25 Kindergarten. Barbara said they are present at the Expo Night that has Kindergarten
26 registration. They are also present at Kindergarten orientation. This year there are 4
27 parents of Kindergartens already on BEST.

28
29 *BHS French Club Trip to France, Edith Takantjas:* Edith stated that she would like
30 approval from the Board to go to France, which would complete the exchange. The
31 French students came to us this past fall, for 2 weeks. This is the same tour company that
32 we had used last year. The students have done a lot of fund raising to have the French
33 students come here and now they are fund raising to help with costs to go to France. The
34 itinerary was included in the Board packet. The Board granted permission to plan for this
35 proposed field trip earlier in the year.

36
37 *Senior Class Trip:* The class trip itinerary was distributed to the Board. It is scheduled
38 for May 18th to the 20th and they will be going to Orlando Florida. There were several
39 trips discussed by the class ranging in cost from \$100 to \$500. This trip had the most
40 interest and parent permission than any of the other trips offered. The Senior Class is
41 looking for Board approval for this trip.

42
43 *A motion was made by Sean Embree, and seconded by Richy Bryant, to suspend the*
44 *need for the superintendent signature, as stated in Field Trip Policy IJOA, on the*
45 *approval of the French Club Overnight Field Trip and the Senior Class Overnight*
46 *FieldTrip, The motion passed unanimously.*

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2 ***A motion was made by Richy Bryant, and seconded by Bob Reed, to approve the BHS***
3 ***French Club Trip to France. The motion passed unanimously.***
4

5 ***A motion was made by Richy Bryant, and seconded by Heidi Hutchinson, to approve***
6 ***the Senior Class Trip to Orlando, Florida. The motion passed unanimously.***
7

8 *Snowplowing Bids:* This contract was advertised in September. We received 3 bids.
9 GMI in Belmont was the lowest bidder. This will include plowing at CES as well. This
10 will be a two year contract, to get an even better deal. They did the clean up after the
11 October snowstorm.
12

13 ***A motion was made by Sean Embree, and seconded by Bob Reed, to accept a two year***
14 ***contract with GMI for snowplowing, as recommended by Administration. The motion***
15 ***passed unanimously.***
16

17 *Parent Opinion Survey Results:* Pret stated that he hasn't had much time to process the
18 material included in the results. Tom Goulette commented that he liked the written
19 responses on the survey. Tom also asked who looks at the information and uses it to
20 make changes. Pret asked if the Principals could come back to the Board with the survey
21 results and how they used the results. Russ indicated that a common thread in the survey
22 results for BHS related to communications with parents and he had met with his staff to
23 discuss improvements in this area.
24

25 *Belmont/Gilford Co-op Football team:* Pret stated that there were a couple of articles in
26 the newspapers about a cooperative football team between Belmont and Gilford. It said
27 that the Gilford School Board had been presented information without an official
28 proposal. Pret asked if BHS has something to present to our Board at this time. Russ
29 Holden explained the whole development process was at the Athletic Director level at
30 this time. There is nothing to present to the School Board at this time.
31

32 **ADJOURNMENT**

33 ***At 8:07pm, Pret Tuthill adjourned the meeting, accompanied by a motion from Bob***
34 ***Reed, and seconded by Sean Embree, and by unanimous roll call vote to enter into***
35 ***non-public session, in accordance with RSA 91-3:II(a)(b).***
36

37 Respectfully Submitted,
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40 Stacy S. Kruger
41 School District Clerk
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