

1 **SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**  
2 **ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
3 **MARCH 18, 2011**  
4  
5

6 IN ATTENDANCE:

7 **School Board:** Diane O’Hara, Preston Tuthill, Thomas Goulette, Sumner Dole, Heidi  
8 Hutchinson, Gretta Olson-Wilder, Sean Embree; BHS Student Representative: Steven  
9 Farkas; BMS Student Representative: Andrew Bragg

10 **Administration:** Superintendent: Mark Blount; Business Administrator: Debbie Gay;  
11 School District Attorneys: John Teague, Jim O’Shaughnessy; Moderator: Roy Roberts

12  
13 Supervisors of the Checklist:

14  
15 **Belmont:**

16 Brenda Paquette

17 Donna Shepherd

18 Also present: Cynthia DeRoy, Town Clerk

15 **Canterbury :**

Mary Kerwin

Brenda Murray

Mary Ann Winograd

19  
20 At 6:00pm, Moderator Roy Roberts declared the polls open for voting on Article I.  
21 Marjorie Ashton verified that the machine was empty before placing her ballot into the  
22 box.

23  
24 At 7:00pm, Moderator Roy Roberts called the meeting to order and reviewed safety and  
25 emergency procedures, introduced the Board, and thanked everyone who was involved  
26 with the setup for the meeting.

27  
28 The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Belmont High School Student,  
29 Dan Powell. The National Anthem was lead by Scott Lounsbury and members of the  
30 BHS Chorus. Moderator Roberts reviewed the rules of order for the meeting, based on  
31 the Town and School Meeting Guide developed by the Local Government Center, and  
32 identified non-residents present in the audience.

33  
34 At 7:36pm, Moderator Roberts declared the polls closed for voting on Article I.

35  
36 **Article I**

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

41  
42 **Record of Election – Shaker Regional School District Board Members**

43 School Board – Belmont 3 years

44 Richard Bryant 200

45 Preston Tuthill 181

46 Gretta Olson-Wilder 175

1  
2 School Board – Canterbury 3 years  
3 Robert Reed 190  
4 Sumner Dole 114  
5

6 **Article II**

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

12  
13 *A motion was made by Ron Mitchell of Belmont, and seconded by Doug Ellis of*  
14 *Belmont, to move Article II to the floor for discussion. There were no questions.*  
15 *Article II passed on a voice vote.*

16  
17 **Article III**

18 “To see if the School District will vote to authorize the School Board to accept and  
19 expend on behalf of the District private gifts and contributions for educational purposes.”  
20

21 *A motion was made by Sharon Hampton of Belmont, and seconded by Albert*  
22 *Akerstrom of Belmont, to pass Article III. The Article passed on a voice vote.*  
23

24 **Article IV**

25 “To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nineteen  
26 million eight hundred thirty seven thousand three hundred twenty four dollars  
27 (\$19,837,324) for the support of schools, the salaries of school district officials and  
28 agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of said district, and to authorize the  
29 application against said appropriations of such sums as are estimated to be raised from  
30 the State’s equalized and building aids together with other income. The School Board  
31 shall certify to the selectmen of each of the Towns of Belmont and Canterbury the  
32 amount to be raised by taxation of each of said towns. This article does not include  
33 appropriations voted in other warrant articles. (The School Board recommends passing  
34 this appropriation.) [Majority vote required.]  
35

36 *A motion was made by Sumner Dole from Canterbury, and seconded by Tonyel*  
37 *Mitchell-Berry of Belmont to move Article IV to the floor for discussion.*  
38

39 Sumner Dole explained that the 2011-2012 budget is \$19,837,324.00 or just over a 2%  
40 increase. The School Board has added some items back in after hearing the concerns at  
41 each Public Hearing. There are some funds in the budget for longevity pay and they have  
42 been put in for when the teacher’s contract is decided upon. This could also be used if  
43 there is a short fall in funding from Concord.  
44

45 Discussion: Pat Piscetta from Belmont stated that she is a taxpayer of Belmont and an  
46 employee of the school district. She thanked the Board for their hard work. A mediated

1 contract was approved by the negotiations of both the teachers and the school board. We  
2 were never given a reason as to why this was rejected by the school board. She would  
3 like to know why. Sumner Dole explained they have been in the process of negotiating  
4 since last April. The Board initiated the development of the contract with the teachers in  
5 April and in June they finalized the ground rules. One of those rules is confidentiality.  
6 In December they came to impasse. They had three possible mediators they could  
7 choose. They met in January with the mediator and they came up with a Tentative  
8 Agreement. Tom Goulette and Sumner Dole brought the Tentative Agreement to the  
9 Board in January and the Board rejected it because it did not meet the long term interest  
10 of what they were trying to do in negotiations. Now, they will probably go to fact finding  
11 and then reopen negotiations. He stated that they can't be more specific due to state laws  
12 and confidentiality as to why they are not going forward with that contract. Mrs. Piscetta  
13 stated that they are not currently in negotiations and that it has a direct bearing on the  
14 budget to look for approval without having more information. The money that was  
15 initially set aside for Evergreen has been used for other items in the budget. Moderator,  
16 Roy Roberts stated that there is money available in the budget if they need to fund  
17 Evergreen.

18  
19 ***Michael Guglielmo of Belmont, proposed to amend the budget to read \$20,051,054 an***  
20 ***increase of \$213,830.00 for the purpose of settling the teacher's contract and the***  
21 ***reinstatement of a full custodial staff and a computer technician position. The***  
22 ***amendment was seconded by Gary Spaulding.***  
23

24 Ken Knowlton of Belmont, stated that you have to live under a rock to not know what is  
25 happening around us. You all just heard that \$500,000.00 may be added back into the  
26 budget, which is more likely to happen. With this economy, people can't afford to pay  
27 their taxes. He stated that he was incensed that the modest cuts that were originally made  
28 to the budget had been added back in. He couldn't believe that we are adding more into  
29 the budget at this time. He spoke against this amendment.

30  
31 Moderator Roberts added that if this money is added into the budget, it is the Board's  
32 discretion as to how the money will be spent. It is not necessarily going to be spent on  
33 the items listed in the amendment.

34  
35 Robert Racette from Belmont, fully concurred with Mr. Knowlton and does not support  
36 this amendment. People do not have the money to pay these taxes. He does agree for  
37 giving people raises, but at the right time.

38  
39 Pat Piscetta of Belmont spoke in support of this amendment. The teacher's are not asking  
40 for a raise, they understand that these are tough times. They are just looking to receive  
41 the Evergreen which is step raises for the first ten years of being a teacher. A first year  
42 teacher is making about \$28,000.00 a year, which is a pretty poor return on investment.  
43 What message are we sending to our young people who may be considering becoming a  
44 teacher?

45  
46 Sumner Dole added that it would cost \$26,011.00 for the Computer Technician,

1 \$22,966.00 for the custodial position and the teacher portion was \$164,853.00, to be  
2 added back into the budget.

3  
4 Jackie Green from Canterbury, spoke in favor of the amendment; she stated that we are  
5 increasing our property value when you have a good school system.

6  
7 SRSD Legal Council spoke, to clarify, that if the amendment is passed the money will go  
8 into the budget, but what is to be done with the money is not legally binding. It is the  
9 collective bargaining agreement that will determine what is done with the money and the  
10 school board.

11  
12 ***The motion failed with a hand count vote of 94 in favor and 95 opposed.***

13  
14 ***A motion was made to reconsider the above amendment, by Diana Scott of Canterbury,***  
15 ***and seconded by Pat Piscetta of Belmont. The motion passed on a voice vote.***

16  
17 Moderator Roberts requested that Captain Lewandoski, seal the door to the gymnasium  
18 so that no one else can arrive to participate in the voting on the amendment on Article IV.

19  
20 Sharon Hampton of Belmont, spoke in favor of the amendment. She stated that she  
21 moved to Belmont several years ago when the town didn't have a very good reputation.  
22 Since that time Belmont schools have won award after award. She has watched the town  
23 appropriate raise after raise and the school gets blamed for the taxes going up. She can't  
24 believe we are having this discussion on such a small amount. We need to move forward  
25 with money available for a teacher contract.

26  
27 Arnold Alpert of Canterbury, spoke in favor of the amendment. He stated that the  
28 teachers should receive their step raises in the new contract. It should be a priority. This  
29 will help to attract and keep good teachers.

30  
31 Jon Pike of Belmont, spoke against the amendment because there will be no control of  
32 where this money will be used in the budget.

33  
34 Tyson Miller of Canterbury, asked if the money was already in the budget to give the  
35 teacher's their step raises once the teacher's contract is agreed upon.

36  
37 Sumner Dole stated that they don't know the dollar amounts that may be decided upon in  
38 the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

39  
40 Sarah Hart from Belmont spoke in favor of the amendment and added that every dollar  
41 invested in education saves \$17.00 later on for budgetary purposes; that is cited from  
42 High Scopes - early education.

43  
44 ***At 7:54pm, Moderator Roberts declared the polls open for a ballot vote on the***  
45 ***amendment to Article IV.***

46

1 *At 8:06pm, Moderator Roberts declared the polls closed for the ballot vote on the*  
2 *amendment to Article IV.*

3  
4 *The moderator read the motion again: To change the budget for 2011-2012 to*  
5 *\$20,051,054.00, which is an increase of \$213,830.00. The motion to increase the*  
6 *budget passed with a ballot vote, 116 in favor and 114 opposed.*

7  
8 *At 8:20pm, Moderator Roberts declared the polls open for a ballot vote on Article IV.*

9  
10 *At 8:32pm, Moderator Roberts declared the polls closed for the ballot vote on Article*  
11 *IV.*

12  
13 *The Article passed, 156 in favor and 75 opposed.*

14  
15 **Awards and Recognition:**

16 Diane O'Hara recognized student representatives, Steven Farkas and Andrew Bragg.  
17 This is a great opportunity for them to learn, first hand, about the Democratic process  
18 while serving on the Board. Steven joined the Board mid-year. Andrew has served all  
19 year representing the middle school. He is our first middle school representative. He  
20 brings very thoughtful reports to the Board. Diane thanked him for his service and  
21 presented him with a plaque.

22  
23 Heidi Hutchinson presented the retirement of Ruth Bennett. She has worked in the  
24 district for 22 years. She was raised in Belmont and is a Belmont High School graduate.  
25 She attended Wheaton College. She taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the Gale School. She has been a  
26 very dedicated and committed employee of the district. She understands that we need to  
27 continue reaching to improve the education at SRSD. The best gift for retirement is a  
28 calendar because there is so much to do. We wish her well.

29  
30 Sumner Dole recognized Tom Morin in his retirement. He has taught science to the  
31 students during his time at BHS. He was named the 2006 Astronomy Teacher of the  
32 Year. His real claim to fame is having Star Parties. On behalf of the school district, Mr.  
33 Tuthill, would like to thank him for his 33 years of dedicated service to the District.

34  
35 Tom Morin said that he was taught the importance of education by his parents. He stated  
36 that education will make anyone's life better. He thanked everyone for the years of  
37 teaching in the District.

38  
39 Pret Tuthill stated that he heard a "Loomer Rumor" that Dane Loomer was retiring. His  
40 ability to engage the students in reading and writing will be missed. Mr. Tuthill has three  
41 children that have been students of his. His role at BHS has been huge. He has been an  
42 integral part of what has been successful in this school. We will miss you.

43  
44 Tom Goulette recognized Ray Craigie in his retirement. He has been a part of the heart  
45 and sole that makes Belmont High School what it is today. Tom remembered years ago  
46 when all students were in the same school and it seemed like 90% of the students were in

1 the band. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude for all of the years that he has been  
2 teaching in the schools. Thank you very much for all that you have done.

3  
4 Ray thanked the parents, administration, the school board and the community. We have  
5 had great financial support in the schools, most of all he gave a thank you to the kids that  
6 have gone through his program.

7  
8 Mark Blount recognized Dashi Bob Young as the Champion for Children of 2011. He is  
9 the owner of Eastern Dragon Karate. He has volunteered countless hours over the years  
10 in teaching martial arts and high standards of respect and repertoire to our grades 1-4  
11 students at Belmont Elementary School. Mr. Blount congratulated Mr. Young as Shaker  
12 Regional's 2011 Champion for Children.

13  
14 Moderator Roberts took a moment to recognize Sumner Dole. He is now at his last  
15 meeting after 12 years on the Board. Mr. Roberts stated that Sumner Dole always made  
16 the meetings interesting and enjoyable. Mr. Roberts thanked Mr. Dole for all of his hard  
17 work on the Board.

18  
19 Diane O'Hara recognized Gretta Olson-Wilder for serving on the Board for the past year.  
20 She has brought a cheerful and positive attitude to the meetings and as an Auditor she  
21 may have pointed out some of the details we may have missed. Mrs. O'Hara thanked  
22 Mrs. Olson-Wilder for her service on the Board.

23  
24 **Article V**

25 "To see if the School District will vote to discontinue the Land Purchase Capital  
26 Reserve Fund, created on March 24, 2001. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date  
27 of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the district's unreserved fund balance. (The School  
28 Board recommends passing this article.) Articles VI & VII are contingent on the passing  
29 of this article." [Majority vote required.]

30  
31 Tom Goulette explained the procedure for the next four Articles. There was a handout  
32 available with an explanation for these Articles. The bottom line is to replenish the  
33 Special Education Trust Fund, that was depleted by unexpected Special Education  
34 expenses during the 2010-2011 school year. Special Education is mandated by Federal  
35 Law. These Articles will not increase the budget.

36  
37 *A motion was made by Tom Goulette, and seconded by Lori Gardiner of Belmont, to*  
38 *pass Article V. The Article passed on a voice vote.*

39  
40 **Article VI**

41 "To see if the School District will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under  
42 the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of Land Purchase and further to raise and  
43 appropriate the sum of twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in this fund,  
44 and said sum to come from the unreserved fund balance. This article is contingent upon  
45 Article V passing. (The School Board recommends passing this article.) [Majority vote  
46 required.]

1  
2 *A motion was made by Sumner Dole, and seconded by Doug Ellis of Belmont, to pass*  
3 *Article VI. The Article passed on a voice vote.*

4  
5 **Article VII**

6 To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety  
7 four thousand six hundred ninety one dollars (\$94,691) to be placed in the Special  
8 Education 2 Expendable Trust Fund, which was established at the March 7, 2003 Annual  
9 District Meeting, and said sum to come from the unreserved fund balance. This article is  
10 contingent upon Article V passing. (The School Board recommends passing this article.)  
11 [Majority vote required.]

12  
13 *A motion was made by Sumner Dole, and seconded by Brian Gardiner of Belmont, to*  
14 *pass Article VII. The Article passed on a voice vote.*

15  
16 **Article VIII**

17 To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety  
18 five thousand dollars (\$95,000) to be placed in the Special Education Expendable Trust  
19 Fund, which was established at the March 7, 2003 Annual District Meeting. (The School  
20 Board will pass over this article if Articles V and VII pass.) [Majority vote required.]

21  
22 *Tom Goulette tabled this Article because Articles V, VI and VII passed. This Article*  
23 *will be brought forth at a future meeting, if necessary.*

24  
25 **Article IX**

26 To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to seventy  
27 five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in the School Facilities and Grounds  
28 Expendable Trust Fund, which was established at the March 21, 1997 Annual District  
29 Meeting, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2011 unreserved fund balance  
30 available for transfer on July 1 of this year. (The School Board recommends passing this  
31 article.) [Majority vote required.]

32  
33 Roy Roberts stated that these funds will be coming out of the Unreserved Fund Balance.  
34 These are funds that have already been raised by taxes. Pret Tuthill explained this  
35 Article. There is \$25,000.00 left in this account for future building repairs. They would  
36 like to add to the balance. In the booklets available there is a list of items that the Board  
37 would like to spend this money on.

38  
39 *A motion was made by Pret Tuthill, and seconded by Bill Hart, to move Article IX to*  
40 *the floor for discussion.*

41  
42 Priscilla Lockwood of Belmont stated that if the money is not spent from the Unreserved  
43 Fund it will go back to the Taxpayers in July, which will lower your taxes.

44  
45 *Article XI passed on a voice vote.*  
46

1 **Article X.**

2 To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to  
3 one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in the Technology Expendable  
4 Trust Fund, which was established at the March 5, 2010 Annual District Meeting, with  
5 such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2011 unreserved fund balance available for  
6 transfer on July 1 of this year. (The School Board recommends passing this article.)  
7 [Majority vote required.]

8  
9 Sean Embree stated that the Technology Expendable Trust Fund is similar to the  
10 Buildings and Grounds Expendable Trust Fund. They would like to use this money to  
11 purchase some equipment that was cut from the budget and it will help pay for computer  
12 upgrades such as licensing and other big ticket items.

13  
14 Moderator Roberts added that if the Board does want to spend the money in the  
15 Expendable Trust Fund, there does need to be a Public Hearing so that everyone is kept  
16 informed.

17  
18 *A motion was made by Sean Embree and seconded by Sumner Dole to move Article X*  
19 *to the floor for discussion.*

20  
21 Polly Camire of Belmont asked if there is a record as to what this \$100,000.00 is left over  
22 from, in the budget. Debbie Gay said that when the books are closed in June they will see  
23 if the money is available to put into these Expendable Trust Funds. The money would be  
24 from under expenditures and/or excess revenues.

25  
26 Moderator Roberts added that the money is allocated in the order in which the Article is  
27 passed.

28  
29 *Article X passed on a voice vote.*

30  
31 **Article XI**

32 “Shall the School District establish a non-lapsing Athletics/Co-Curricular  
33 Revolving Fund in accordance with RSA 914:3-c, to be funded by donations and  
34 fundraising and further, to raise and appropriate one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the  
35 purpose of supporting athletic and co-curricular programs, said amount to be withdrawn  
36 from the revolving fund and disbursed monthly, as needed.” [Majority vote required]

37  
38 Diane O’Hara explained that the District is allowed to create a fund like this under our  
39 non-profit status. This Article as a way to accept and hold donations made to our Athletic  
40 Program. We have wrestled with the budget this year and athletics and co-curricular  
41 activities were impacted. The Board is in the process of developing a policy to direct the  
42 Board on disbursement of funds from the account.

43  
44 *A motion was made by Diane O’Hara, and seconded by Polly Camire of Belmont, to*  
45 *move Article XI. The Article passed on a voice vote.*

46 **Article XI**

1 “To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.”

2

3 ***Robert Racette of Belmont, motioned to recommend an investigation to have SRSD***  
4 ***charge an enrollment fee for individual students. Ken Knowlton seconded the motion.***  
5 ***The motion was submitted in writing. The motion failed on a voice vote.***

6

7 ***At 8:59pm, a motion was made by Ron Mitchell, and seconded by Albert Akerstrom of***  
8 ***Belmont, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote.***

9

10 Respectfully Submitted,

11

12

13 Stacy S. Kruger

14

School District Clerk

15

16

17