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**SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CANTERBURY SB2 HEARING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2012  
DRAFT**

IN ATTENDANCE:

**School Board:** Chairman: Pret Tuthill, Tom Goulette, Diane O’Hara, Bob Reed, Richard Bryant, Heidi Hutchinson, Sean Embree; Student Representative: Andrew Bragg

**Administration:** Acting Superintendent: Tom Haley; Business Administrator: Debbie Thompson; Director of Buildings and Grounds: Doug Ellis; Director of Technology: Jon White; Director of Student Services: Tonyel Mitchell-Berry; Principals: Russ Holden, Aaron Pope, Emily Spear, Mary Morrison

Chairman Pret Tuthill called the hearing to order at 6:00pm

DISCUSSION ON SB2:

*Warrant Article III: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA-40:13 (known as SB-2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Belmont Canterbury Shaker Regional School Board in March of 2012? (By Petition) [3/5 majority ballot vote required]*

Pret Tuthill stated that the Board opposes this Article. He said the voting polls will be open from 6pm-7:15pm. If this Article passes there would be a Deliberative Session and then a paper ballot for all of the Warrant Articles. It would do away with the Annual District Meeting. SB2 does not foster fully informed voting. There are continually changing rules that govern SB2. The Board does not feel that this is a stable definition on how to govern the District.

Mary Jo Reed asked why the Article does not state that the Board opposes SB2. Pret said that the Board’s Legal Counsel advised them that they are not allowed to state their position. The Board is going to do a postcard mailing to the Canterbury and Belmont voters.

Priscilla Lockwood from Belmont, shared that she had first experienced SB2 about 14 years ago. She said the rules are forever changing. Currently, there is a Bill in Legislature, hoping to be passed, that will be investigating SB2. She suggests putting off passing SB2 for another year.

Roger Doucet of Belmont, said he feels there is a battle between the taxpayers and the school. He feels that SB2 will avoid putting things in through the back door. He said that the person that motioned through an addition to the budget last year wasn’t done fairly. Pret Tuthill explained that the School Board had nothing to do with that motion from the floor at the Public Hearing last year.

Rachel French from Belmont said that she would like to see SB2 pass. She likes the idea that absentee voters will be able to vote on the budget.

1 Roy Glines of Canterbury asked if the School District would still be able to spend the  
2 budget overages the way they have been if SB2 is passed. Pret explained that there can  
3 be transfers within the budget. There are Expendable Trust Funds set up and passed by  
4 taxpayers, with specific amounts identified to go in these trusts. There would need to be  
5 a Public Hearing for the funds to be withdrawn from these trusts.

6  
7 Roy Glines of Canterbury, said he remembers a meeting a few years ago where the  
8 School District wanted to replace the sprinkler system at BES, which was voted down by  
9 the taxpayers. He also remembers the School District replacing the sprinkler system  
10 anyway with money from an Expendable Trust Fund.

11  
12 Jim Miller of Canterbury said it is unfortunate that such a small number of people attend  
13 the Annual District Meetings, but it would be a shame to lose that time to have the  
14 meeting. That is what SB2 would take away.

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16 At 6:20 pm, Chairman Pret Tuthill recessed the Hearing, to be reconvened tomorrow  
17 evening at BMS.

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19 **SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
20 **BELMONT SB2 HEARING**  
21 **FEBRUARY 8, 2012**  
22

23  
24 IN ATTENDANCE:

25 ***School Board:*** Chairman: Pret Tuthill, Tom Goulette, Diane O’Hara, Bob Reed, Richard  
26 Bryant, Heidi Hutchinson, Sean Embree; Student Representative: Andrew Bragg

27 ***Administration:*** Acting Superintendent: Tom Haley; Business Administrator: Debbie  
28 Thompson; Director of Buildings and Grounds: Doug Ellis; Director of Technology: Jon  
29 White; Director of Student Services: Tonyel Mitchell-Berry; Principals: Russ Holden,  
30 Aaron Pope, Emily Spear, Mary Morrison; Assistant Principal: Alison Roberts

31  
32 ***Chairman Pret Tuthill reconvened the Hearing at 6:00pm.***

33  
34 DISCUSSION ON SB2:

35 ***Warrant Article III: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA-40:13 (known as SB-2) to***  
36 ***allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Belmont Canterbury Shaker Regional***  
37 ***School Board in March of 2012? (By Petition) [3/5 majority ballot vote required]***  
38

39 Pret Tuthill stated that the Board opposes this Article. He said the voting polls will be  
40 open from 6pm-7:15pm. If this Article passes there would be a Deliberative Session and  
41 then a paper ballot for all of the Warrant Articles. It would do away with the Annual  
42 District Meeting. SB2 does not foster fully informed voting. There are continually  
43 changing rules that govern SB2. The Board does not feel that this is a stable definition on  
44 how to govern the District. Pret stated that one of the positive aspects to SB2 is that a  
45 Bond issue can pass on a 60% vote. He also said that absentee ballots can vote on the  
46 Warrant Articles.

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2 Rachel French of Belmont, supports SB2. She said that only 3% of the voters show up at  
3 the Annual District Meetings and taxpayers will be able to vote on the budget with an  
4 absentee ballot. There would be more participation.

5  
6 Ellen Fitts of Belmont stated she is in support of SB2. She said that a small group of  
7 people can vote. Ken Knowlton added that it was a small group of people that added  
8 almost a quarter of a million dollars to the budget last year.

9  
10 Brian Fitts of Belmont said that there is a large percentage of teachers that attend the  
11 District Meetings and he feels it is because they are looking out for their own best  
12 interests. He feels that the School District needs to do a better job informing the public of  
13 the meetings.

14  
15 Pat Piscetta of Belmont stated that she is not only a taxpayer of this town, but she is a  
16 teacher as well. She also said that it was not a small group of people that added to the  
17 budget, it was a majority vote. She said that this community is important to her as it is to  
18 all of the other taxpayers. She will vote against SB2, so that we can all continue to have  
19 a say in the budget process.

20  
21 George Condodemetreký of Belmont stated that he feels it is no oversight for what the  
22 School Board is doing with the budget. It increases every year and currently it is over 20  
23 million. He said the budget is constantly increasing and the people don't get a say. He  
24 feels SB2 will put the brakes on some of this. He supports SB2.

25  
26 David Morse of Belmont said he has attempted to help with the budget. In 60 seconds we  
27 added almost a quarter of a million dollars to the budget. He wants SB2 to stop this.

28  
29 Woody Fogg of Belmont opposes SB2. He wants to have a part and exercise his right for  
30 democracy. Taxpayers need to go to the meetings and listen to the arguments, so that we  
31 can be informed voters. SB2 is a means to vote without becoming informed.

32  
33 Jim Keegal of Belmont stated that a lot of people feel intimidated to put their hand up to  
34 vote for something. With SB2 you go into the privacy of a voting booth.

35  
36 Ken Knowlton of Belmont said that if SB2 does not pass the alternative is to have a vote  
37 after each Article. This would give the opportunity to vote in private for all of the  
38 Articles.

39  
40 Howard Brown of Belmont stated that he would like to have the polls open longer than 6-  
41 7:15pm. He said he was denied the right to vote last year because he arrived right after  
42 the polls had closed.

43  
44 George Condodemetreký confirmed that the SB2 would take effect in 2013 if it passes at  
45 this year's Annual District Meeting.

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1 *At 6:26 pm, Chairman Pret Tuthill adjourned the Hearing.*

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3 Respectfully Submitted,

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6 Stacy S. Kruger

7 School District Clerk

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