

To be approved at the March 9, 2004 Board of Education meeting.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 31, 2004 SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION JOINT MEETING.

The Shaker Heights Board of Education met in a joint meeting on Saturday, January 31, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. with the Shaker Heights Mayor and City Council at the Junior League of Cleveland, 10819 Magnolia Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

Members present: Mr. F. Drexel Feeling, Mrs. Mary S. Johnson, Ms. Freda J. Levenson, Mrs. Carol J. Ribar, and Mr. Steven S. Kaufman.

Also present from the Shaker Heights City Schools was Superintendent Mark Freeman and Mr. Bryan Christman, Treasurer.

Present for the City of Shaker Heights were Mayor Judith Rawson, City Council members Brian Parker, Nancy Moore, Ken Kovach, Earl Williams, Brian Gleisser, Laura Holmes, and Earl Leiken. Jeri Chaikin, the City's Chief Administrative Officer and consultant Andrew Leiby were also present.

Mr. Andrew M. Leiby, facilitator for the two-day workshop meeting, opened the day's session by reviewing the highlights of the previous day's session, after which the discussion continued on the day 2 workshop agenda items including the following topics:

1. Questions and Concerns Raised by Yesterday's Session
2. Long-Term Strategy Identification
3. Short-Term Strategy Identification, with specific focus on use of budget reserves
4. Future Communication Strategies

As a result of the discussion, the group committed to make short-term decisions in the context of a long-term vision that benefits the entire community. After an update on safety, it was acknowledged that the 40-year low in crime rates as well as pro-active measures related to safety provide a strong foundation for our community. The group agreed that it is essential to maintain current levels of services (for the City and schools). Attention was then turned to strategic areas to help leverage strengths as a premier community in a changing region. A list was compiled that included about fifteen linked areas (such as safety, recreation (including arts and culture), all other services, greenspace, community leadership/involvement), and then narrowed the strategic focus to four that would best enable the others to be addressed:

1. Economic Development
2. Housing
3. Education (defined broadly to include the schools, library and all age groups); and
4. Collaboration – i.e., extension of the City-School collaboration outside the City to other regional partners in order to deliver services more effectively.

General goals under each of the four include:

Economic Development:

- o Keep the City off the ballot for tax increases as long as possible;
- o Reduce the frequency of the need for the schools to go to the ballot;
- o Reduce Shaker's property tax rate towards the region's mean; and
- o Achieve capital formation for reinvestment and other priorities.

Housing:

- o Increase percentage of owner-occupied properties;
- o Increase property values – overall and for each neighborhood;
- o Increase number of new units;
- o Increase number of major upgrades (heating, plumbing, kitchens, etc.);
- o Maintain sufficient affordable housing;
- o Eliminate housing blight; and
- o Increase resident stability.

Education:

- o Position Shaker as “The Education Community”;
- o Emphasize Shaker as a school district of choice;
- o Improve K-12 proficiency test scores;
- o Position schools as a national model for combining quality education with economic, cultural, racial and religious diversity;
- o Decrease frequency of the need for the schools to go to the ballot – without losing quality;
- o Take a national lead in addressing student achievement concerns;

Collaboration:

- o Become a visible national model for City-School collaboration;
- o Form alliances and partnerships with neighboring municipalities, entities and governmental agencies;
- o Broaden the regional perspective in policy-making, particularly in areas of economic development, quality of life and programmatic services such as recreation, arts and culture, etc.; and
- o Work with University Circle for closer, mutual ties.

At this time, Ms. Freda Levenson moved, seconded by Mr. Feeling that the Board of Education recess to a joint executive session with the City to discuss real estate matters.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Feeling, Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Levenson, Mrs. Ribar, Mr. Kaufman.
The motion carried.

04-01-27

The Board recessed to executive session with the City representatives at 12:17 p.m.

At 1:55 p.m., the executive session was adjourned and the Board reconvened the public session with the City.

At this time, Mrs. Ribar moved, seconded by Ms. Levenson, that the Board of Education recess to executive session to discuss personnel matters concerning the Superintendent's contract.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Feeling, Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Levenson, Mrs. Ribar, Mr. Kaufman.
The motion carried.

04-01-28

The Board recessed to executive session for Board members only at 1:57 p.m.

The Board adjourned the executive session and reconvened the public session to continue discussion with the City at 2:05 p.m.

Mr. Christman departed the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Board Member Ribar served as Treasurer Pro-Tem for the remainder of the joint meeting.

The group discussion returned to the agenda items until the end of the day's session including discussing reaching outside to look for best practices from other regions or sectors that could be helpful to Shaker. The group agreed that Shaker is engaged in a nationally important and path-breaking mission to maintain Shaker as a pre-eminent, historic first ring suburb that combines successful diversity; one of the best-known school districts in the nation; irreplaceable architecture and great natural beauty. Mayor Rawson and Superintendent Freeman agreed to investigate possibilities for funding this initiative from local and national foundations.

Participants agreed that the session was very productive, and agreed to meet more frequently. The City invited as many school board members as can come to the Council work session in April and/or May.

There being no further discussions, Mrs. Ribar moved, seconded by Ms. Levenson that the meeting be adjourned.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Feeling, Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Levenson, Mrs. Ribar, Mr. Kaufman.
The motion carried.

04-01-29

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Steven S. Kaufman, President

Carol J. Ribar, Treasurer Pro-Tem

Bryan C. Christman, Treasurer