

## Shaker Mountain School Union Minutes 11/1/11

Present were School Committees of New Ashford, Hancock and Richmond  
Superintendent Mr. Bill Ballen  
SPED Director Mrs. Jenvera Strock  
Richmond Principal Karin Deyo  
Richmond Parents Susan Lockwood, Michelle Murphy and Natalie Gringras

Meeting called to order by Union Chairperson Brenda Frye 7:06

Superintendent Ballen will be retiring this year, and has tendered a letter to this effect to Christine Lynch, of the Massachusetts DOE, dated today (November 2nd, 2011.)

Mr. Ballen will be ending his Superintendency with Richmond by December 31, 2011. He will stay on as Superintendent of New Ashford and Hancock, until June of 2012, per request of said town's School Committees. Dr. Karin Deyo, Richmond Principal, will be appointed as Acting Superintendent for Richmond Consolidated School during the interim. Dr. Deyo is certified as a Superintendent of Schools, and has expressed she is most comfortable assuming the duties of Mr. Ballen until a permanent replacement is appointed.

Mr. Ballen has developed a succession plan, with a timeline, in collaboration with the School Union Chairs and Principals. He stated that he remains very committed to aiding our Union during the transition.

A Superintendent Search Committee will be assembled this month, comprised of the Richmond and Hancock Principals, Mrs. Strock, our SPED Director, parents, teachers, School Committee members, and community members from the three towns. We will begin advertising for a successor, and hope to begin interviewing applicants as soon as January.

The School Committees of New Ashford and Hancock were initially reluctant to accept Mr. Ballen's timeline, however ultimately his plan was voted on, and accepted, 7 to 2. One School Committee member from Hancock and one from New Ashford were the dissenting votes.

Our Union remains committed to working together and continuing our beneficial alliance, which we all feel is key in maintaining our integrity and autonomy.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38