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## GRS Cooperative Construction Renovation Update

Activities continue to move forward on the 5.3 million dollar Edward Fenn School and Gorham Middle High School renovation and upgrade project.

At their May 20, 2008 meeting, The Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School Board hired Gilbert Eaton of West Paris, Maine, as the Clerk of the Works. His thirty nine years of professional construction experience and outstanding references made him the clear choice for the job.

On Tuesday, May 27, 2008, a walk-through of the GMHS and EFS was conducted for six pre-qualified general contractors. In attendance were Hutter Construction Corporation, New Ipswich, NH; A.R. Couture Construction, Berlin, NH; Meridian Construction Corporation, Gilford, NH; Spates Construction Incorporated, Derby, VT; and Lee Kennedy Company Incorporated, Quincy, MA. Daniel Hebert Incorporated of Colebrook, NH was pre-qualified, but did not to attend.

Sealed bids from the contractors were opened on Friday, June 6, 2008, at noon, in the first floor Board Room of The Family Resource Center. On Tuesday, June 10, 2008, the School Board voted unanimously to hire Meridian Construction as the project's general contractor. Jo Carpenter, Chair of the school board says, "Meridian's school construction experience is extensive and excellent. Their bid was lower than any of the other submissions, making them the most appropriate selection for the District."

Asbestos abatement contractors were also given an opportunity to walk-through the buildings on May 28, 2008. Sealed bids for the asbestos abatement were opened on June 3, 2008. The Board, acting on a recommendation from RFP Associates, David Laurin, Architect and the Administration, during their June 10, 2008 meeting, chose A-Best Asbestos Abatement Company of Salem, New Hampshire. The asbestos had to be removed prior to the general contractor beginning their work, and after school was dismissed for the summer.

According to Paul Bousquet, Superintendent of SAU20, "We now have the core team onboard, and we are very excited to see the beginning of this long awaited and necessary work in our schools. Staff members at both the EFS and the GMHS worked tirelessly, packing and making arrangements for construction to take place from June through November."

In order to save the cost of purchasing or renting portable classrooms, during the project, the sixth grade will be temporarily housed in the Edward Fenn. This will mean that some space will be lost, a computer lab and one classroom. However, the teachers and administration felt it was the best compromise to help things along during

the project. This temporary change will ensure that the project proceeds efficiently, while maintaining the academic environment, and above all else ensuring the safety of the students, faculty, and staff.

Demolition work began on Monday, June 23, 2008, at both the EFS and the GMHS. Crews removed lights and ceiling tiles at the EFS, as well as plumbing and other fixtures at the GMHS. Roofing materials and insulation arrived at the Edward Fenn on Friday, June 27, 2008, as the roofing contractor, A. J. Desjardins of Exeter, NH will begin the removal of the old roofing, installation of insulation and a new roof membrane, that has a twenty year life span.

The construction committee, made up of several administration and school board members, citizens, and representatives from Banwell Architects and Meridian Corp. meets weekly, to share and discuss progress and pending issues.

Further updates will be forthcoming so that the citizens of the cooperative will be informed of the project's progress. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the SAU20 office at 466-3632. Project information and updates can be found online at [www.sau20.org/building](http://www.sau20.org/building).