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Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative Construction Renovation Update

Construction is going well as the 5.3 million dollar Edward Fenn Elementary School and Gorham Middle High School renovation and upgrade project continues toward the opening of School on September 2, 2008.

As of August 18, the EFS is almost 100% complete. Final changes are being made on a required electrical upgrade. Cleanup of the facility on both the interior and exterior will continue until students arrive in September. The roof is done, and the addition of six inches of rigid insulation should help decrease the district's fuel oil bill this winter. New energy efficient classroom lights are on route to the school, but due to a delayed shipping date, temporary lighting will be in place for the opening day of school. Karen Cloutier, Principal of the EFS reports, "The teachers are being kept up to date with the building's progress, and I look forward to a smooth opening on September 2nd."

All the contractors and subcontractors have worked diligently to make sure that the building would be ready for occupancy despite numerous setbacks caused by the rainy weather. Paul Bousquet, Superintendent of SAU20 says, "Our maintenance crew, Dave Goyette, Helen Jolin, Brenda Lauze, Billy Devold, Sue Whitehouse, Mike Vien, and Bob Nadeau are working tirelessly to get the buildings ready for teachers and students. They are going above and beyond the call, and I thank them for their efforts."

As anticipated, construction will continue in the GMH S when school begins in September. Safety measures for students will be put in place prior to their arrival. Paul Bousquet adds, "Things are going very well at that school too. We still hope to see the entire project completed, by the end of this year."

The complete building sprinkler system will be online, prior to the beginning of school. Work continues in the science wing and hallways. The new fire escape stairwell in the center core of the building is beginning to take shape. Hopefully, the stairwell will also be done before school begins. Roofing of the GMHS has been slow due to the rain but with sunshine forecast for the coming week, work should proceed at a brisk pace. Meridian Construction, its subcontractors, and Dejardins Roofing have been putting in long hours to make up for the bad weather we have experienced, in order to get as much accomplished as possible before students arrive.

Again as planned, work has not yet begun on the new gym floor. Roofing must be completed prior to the floor being installed. Keith Parent, Principal of the GMHS reports, "Meridian is hoping to have the gym available for the beginning of basketball practice in November."

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.