

Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative Construction Renovation Update

Renovation and construction work maintains at a brisk pace, as the 5.3 million dollar Edward Fenn Elementary School and Gorham Middle High School project continues.

According to Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator of SAU #20, "The insulated roofs at both schools have just a few final additions before they are inspected, and placed under warranty by the manufacturer. The twenty-year life span of the roofs will serve us well. Local contractor, Ray's Electric, began installing the new lighting at the Edward Fenn Elementary School last week. The lighting is equipped with super T-8 bulbs and motion sensors for energy efficiency."

"The new gym floor at the Gorham Middle High School has been installed", reports GMHS Principal Keith Parent. "New backboards, bleachers, and finish work on the floor are on schedule to be completed prior to the opening of the basketball season. A new lift has been installed leading to the girls' locker area on the second floor in the gym, to provide handicap accessibility. The 'leaning' gym wall has been engineered and repaired so that it will no longer move from its current position. Science, industrial arts/technology and family/consumer classroom renovations are quickly moving forward. New doors and hardware are being installed in all areas of the renovation."

The GRS Cooperative School Board is holding a public meeting, on Thursday, October 16, 2008, in the Edward Fenn Elementary School Cafeteria at 7:00p.m. The Board will present and discuss information about the next steps planned for renovations at Gorham Middle High School, using excess funds thanks to a very favorable bid, on the current renovations.

According to Edward Murdough, Bureau of School Approval and Facilities Management New Hampshire Department of Education, nine of forty school construction projects were approved in the spring of 2008. This is in comparison to twenty to forty projects usually approved every year. This helped with the favorable bid price. It was a buyers' market!

Jo Carpenter, Chair of the GRS School Board says, "Plans for the conversion of the current shop area into a new kitchen/cafeteria space will be reviewed at the meeting on the 16th. We plan to install a retracting wall between the new cafeteria and existing music room in order to facilitate musical programs and small assemblies. This design will enable us to continue and enhance the very popular cabaret nights at the GMHS."

The current cafeteria space will be divided into three areas: The corridor to the Ann Lary wing, a smaller shop area, and a small seminar room. The bathrooms adjacent to the music room will be relocated within the area and made fully ADA compliant.

SAU 20 Superintendent Paul Bousquet says, "The Board and I are extremely pleased with the work of Meridian Construction. Everything from their competitive bid, to their attention to detail has made the project proceed on time and most importantly safely for the students, faculty, and staff of the two schools. By proceeding to complete the café/kitchen renovations as part of this bond, we feel we will be very close to addressing all of the concerns voiced by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. As many citizens know, the GMHS is currently on

probationary status with our accreditation, from the NEASC. The Board and I feel that addressing all of these issues now, will provide us with the opportunity to request that our probation be lifted. There is still much to do to upgrade the schools, but we are making substantial progress towards our goal."

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.