

Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative Construction Renovation Update

Final renovations and construction work on the Gorham Middle High School's new science rooms, family and consumer science classroom, and technology based pre-engineering classroom, continue to be on schedule, and are only three weeks from completion. According to SAU 20 Superintendent Paul Bousquet, "Phase I work of the 5.3 million dollar Edward Fenn Elementary School and Gorham Middle High School will be totally complete by year's end, if not sooner".

On Friday, November 28, 2008 between alumni basketball games, the rededication of the new Alumni Gymnasium was conducted. Keith Parent, Principal of the GMHS said, "Thanks were given to all of those responsible for the new floor, bleachers, lights, and backboards. Financial donations from the Gorham Randolph Shelburne Education Foundation, Gorham Booster Club, an anonymous donor, Robert Bellavance, Katy Fuller and donations made in memory of Marie Goodrich made this possible. The time and effort of this wonderful gym renovation came from so many sources; I do not have enough space to list them all. Thank you goes out to everyone involved in this effort!"

Superintendent Bousquet added, "Another thank you needs to go out to the citizens of Gorham, Randolph, and Shelburne for their yes vote back in March 2008, that enabled us to do so many upgrades to our schools. We thought when the bond first past that all we would be able to accomplish was Phase I. However, thanks to favorable bidding and financing, I am pleased to announce that we will be moving forward immediately with Phase II, while keeping within the voter approved \$5.3 million dollar budget."

Phase II will encompass a new larger cafeteria, renovation of the music rooms, ADA compliant bathrooms in the Ann Lary wing, a seminar room, and a smaller shop area. These spaces will all receive upgraded energy efficient lights, windows, air handling units, new electrical wiring, and doors. The tentative date to begin the Phase II work is December 15, 2008. GMHS Principal Parent commented that, "Phase II is scheduled to be completed by June 2009. As with Phase I, minimal disruption of the educational process will occur. Classes will be moved to different areas of the building, and the current cafeteria will continue to be used for food preparation and serving, while Phase II is underway." After the new cafeteria is completed, students will transition into that space and further construction and renovations will continue, in the rest of the Ann Lary wing to finish off Phase II.

SAU 20 Business Administrator Pauline Plourde reports, "The GRS Cooperative District, as owners, will not occupy or take responsibility for any renovated space until all work is completed to our satisfaction. As in any construction project glitches have been encountered, and quickly rectified by the General Contractor (Meridian Construction) and their sub contractors. We continue to enjoy and benefit from an excellent working relationship with Meridian." All construction and renovations of our schools will be certified and guaranteed prior to occupancy.

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.