

**Press Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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## **GRS Cooperative School Board Finalizes Bond Proposals for District Meeting**

After three public forums held in each member town, and the District Bond Hearing, the Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School Board has signed the bond warrant articles for the upcoming District meeting. “We’re very appreciative of the voters’ feedback”, says Jo Carpenter, Chair of the board. “At each of the meetings, participants said they wanted the opportunity to consider different proposals, for the buildings.”

On Saturday, March 8, 2008, at 10am, in the GMHS gymnasium, voters at the GRS annual School District meeting will be offered three choices, to address the buildings’ issues. The first proposal, known as Article #2 will be for \$ 7.63 million dollars, and will address all of the required items of health and safety identified by the administration, the NH State Fire Marshal’s office, and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

If Article #2 passes, then voters will move on to consider Article #3, for \$4.27 million. “Originally, the Board felt we would hold off on the total list of items to be done”, comments Carpenter. “However, at all four meetings when the voters were asked whether it would be best to group all of the necessities together to save money, they told us they wanted the opportunity to get all of the work done now.”

If Article #2 isn’t approved, then Article #3 would be passed over in deference to Article #4. That proposal is for \$5.385 million, and addresses all of the most critical safety issues, as per the NH Fire Marshal’s report. According to Paul Bousquet, Superintendent of SAU20, “A survey mailed last year to all citizens of the District indicated that their concerns focused specifically on safety and adherence to State and local codes. Article #4 will cover those issues.” He continues, “Once we have completed paying off the bond for this phase, we plan to return to the voters to request more funding, to finish the entire list of items.”

Article #2 would be bonded for seven years. Article #3 would extend the payback time to fifteen years. Article #4 would have a five year payoff. According to Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator for SAU20, “NH State Building Aid is at 57%, interest rates are extremely low right now, and we’re talking with local banks to secure very good rates and conditions. I don’t know of a better time to consider this investment in our schools.”

Complete information about the articles, project lists, town tax rates, and more can be viewed at [www.sau20.org/building](http://www.sau20.org/building), or call the SAU office at 466-3632 for more information.