

**Press Release
For Immediate Release
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Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School District Prepares for Transition and Future

The Gorham, Randolph, Shelburne (GRS) School Board which was created as the result of the vote last year that formed the Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School District, has been preparing for the last year for July 1, 2006, when the GRS School Board takes day to day governance of the schools in the Cooperative. To inform members of the Cooperative of what has been occurring this past year, the first GRS School District meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2006 at 7 pm in the gymnasium of the Gorham Middle High School (GMHS).

The Board will present its warrant articles for review and voter approval at that meeting. Among the very important initiatives being brought forward is the appropriation to fund the ongoing work of the GRS Building Committee. This is the first Committee to report to the new Board and is comprised of both former Building Committee members and new volunteers. Their charge (assignment) from the Board is to identify and advise the Cooperative of potential long term solutions to renovate, rebuild on-site, or build a new off-site Middle High School to serve the Cooperative for decades to come. "The current GMHS is in tough tough shape, to say the least," says one Committee member. This opinion is not unique, as it has been stated by each of the previous Committees who have tried to find a solution to the problems at GMHS.

The Committee's recent report identifies numerous safety, structural, and health issues throughout the complex. "The Cooperative has the responsibility to improve the environment in which our children and teachers learn and work in," says a Committee member. "We've known about these problems for years," the Committee reports, "but the time to act is now to make it right." For each year the Cooperative delays, it adds 10% to the construction costs and inches us ever closer to losing academic accreditation, as the school is currently on warning status. Delays also complicate the situation even further as more and more unsafe conditions arise, according to the Committee.

The Committee's latest report and a web based slide show can be seen at www.sau20.org. The School Board urges all citizens of the GRS Cooperative to attend the District Meeting, March 15 at 7pm in the GMHS gymnasium. For more information regarding the meeting, please call the SAU office at 466-3632.