

**Press Release
For Immediate Release
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**Gorham Randolph Shelburne (GRS) Cooperative
School Building Committee Report Available to the Public**

The GRS Cooperative is ramping up for July 1, 2006, the date when they will take day to day responsibility for the Ed Fenn and Gorham Middle High Schools.

Since September 2005, The GRS Building Committee has met twice monthly to study and recommend long term solutions for the GMHS. "The GRS School Board formed The Building Committee as one of their first acts, knowing we'd have to address the ongoing safety and accreditation issues the GMHS is facing as soon as possible," said a School Board member. "The Committee went right to work, and has made great progress"

Initially The Committee was assigned to review prior building proposals created for past Gorham Building Committees. It was found however that "none of them fit what we need now or in the future" says a member of The Committee, "but we are reviewing everything that has been done before, and moving our work forward using the work previously done as a starting point."

The Committee delivered its report to The School Board in December. It contains an overview of the condition of the GMHS, a review of past building scenarios, and a list of their recommendations including funding requests. Though this report addressed only the GMHS, The School Board has since expanded The Committee's responsibilities to include the Ed Fenn. "Now we can efficiently look at both schools and bring them up to the high standards the children of the Cooperative deserve," says The Committee member.

The ongoing work of The Committee is best summed up by the following, which is the final paragraph of the report submitted to The Board in December.

"The Committee believes that the existing facility is lacking in safety, infrastructure, and life span. Left unattended, the GMHS ability to meet the learning community needs will continue to decline, as the cost of repairs, renovation, or replacement substantially rise. Failure to act decisively will redirect limited financial resources, and compromise the ability of the faculty and staff to execute their charge of delivering the outstanding educational opportunity that we expect and currently celebrate. *It is essential that the process of renovation or replacement of the GMHS be of the highest priority. After years of abortive attempts, this Committee must be logistically supported and financed to move forward in a productive, substantive, and constructive process.* The students and faculty of our Cooperative deserve a safe and updated learning environment; free from inefficiencies of space and energy, poor ventilation, antiquated plumbing and wiring, and personal safety concerns."

A copy of the report is available for viewing at the SAU office in Gorham, online from the SAU Homepage @ www.sau20.org, or you can get more information by calling the SAU office at 466-3632.