

**Press Release
For Immediate Release
Contact: Pauline Plourde
Phone: (603) 466- 3632
E-Mail: pplourde@sau20.org**

GRS Cooperative School Board & Building Committee Reacts to NEASC Report

The New England Association for Schools and Colleges, Inc. issued a letter to Keith Parent, Principal of the GMHS. In it the NEASC informed the Principal that the accreditation status of the school had been downgraded from a warning status to probation. "This is potentially one step away from the total loss of our accreditation." cites Jo Carpenter, chair of the GRS Cooperative School Board. "A vast majority of the issues surrounding this negative change in status pertains directly to the condition and age of the building. Obviously very little of this comes as a shock, but it does commit the Board and Building Committee to redouble their efforts to get the work done, laying the way for major improvements of the GMHS facility."

In the letter to Mr. Parent, the NEASC cited the structural, spacial, engineering, and electrical problems that are within the school. "Many of the concerns that they refer to are included in the report the Building Committee delivered to the GRS School Board in December of 2005", comments a Committee member. "That report and other related documents are in the public purview, and can be seen from the SAU website at www.sau20.org. For citizens who do not have computer access you can call the SAU #20 office, and ask to see the report.

Though the report from the NEASC refers to many serious problems within the GMHS, it specifically cites the positive steps being taken to rectify the areas of concern. "We are very encouraged that the NEASC acknowledges that we are on the right track", says a Committee member. "The report speaks directly about the formation of our Committee, and the positive funding vote to pay for the work we are doing now. Currently Banwell Architects of Lebanon, NH is conducting a K-12 educational study. They are analyzing the current building conditions of the Ed Fenn and the GMHS. They are talking to the teachers, staff, and administration. Their study will be compared to the comprehensive study results of the buildings.

The next step is the public forums, to give the taxpayers this all important information and a chance for them to express their opinions, based on the findings from Banwell. Citizen participation will allow the Building Committee and School Board to make sound decisions based on the needs and views of the whole community.

We are very fortunate to have David Laurin, President of Banwell working directly on our project. His 25+ years of experience with schools is invaluable to the Committee, School Board, and all citizens in the GRS Cooperative School District.

Visit the Building Committee's webpage on the SAU #20 website, at www.sau20.org, for up to date information on the Banwell work and the progress of your Building Committee. For more information contact a Committee or School Board member, or the SAU20 office, at 466-3632.