

**Press Release
For Immediate Release
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School Building Public Forums Scheduled for the GRS Cooperative School District

Mark your calendars! Come discuss and help shape the future of our educational facilities. The GRS School Building Committee, in conjunction with the School Board, will be holding several public forums during the month of May and early June to address the building and educational analysis being done by Banwell Architects. “This is where the public gets the opportunity to express their needs, wants, and opinions regarding the schools” says Ben Mayerson, Chair of the Building Committee. “We’ve asked David Laurin, President and Managing Principle of Banwell Architects, to coordinate this series of public forums, to allow the citizens direct input and access to the process.”

The facilitation of a series of public forums was one of the elements of the agreement when the GRS School Board approved the hiring of Banwell Architects. “To pull together all the elements needed, Banwell is completing the building and educational needs analysis of the GMHS and the Ed Fenn, holding meetings with the faculty and staff of the schools, and meeting with the School Board and Building Committee. We are actively moving forward toward the goal of determining whether to renovate, rebuild onsite, or build a new offsite GMHS,” says Mayerson.

The public forums will be held: Wednesday, May 24 from 7 – 9 pm at the Randolph Town Hall; Tuesday, May 30 from 7 – 9 pm at the Shelburne Town Hall; Thursday, June 1 from 7 – 9 pm, in the gymnasium of the GMHS; and Monday, June 12 from 7 – 9 pm, in the gymnasium at the GMHS.

The first three meetings will be structured to contain similar content. Most importantly, every citizen is welcome to attend any meeting, no matter where you live within the Cooperative District. “You are welcome to one or all of the meetings,” says Mayerson. “The sole reason meetings are being held in each town, is for the convenience of the public. These are GRS Cooperative meetings and all citizens are strongly encouraged to attend. Come to one or all three.”

After this first round of public forums, David Laurin will meet with the Building Committee and School Board to report his findings. “David has been doing this for over 25 years, building dozens of schools that involve many of the same issues that face us,” says Mayerson. “A District wide meeting will then be held on June 12 at 7 pm, at the GMHS gymnasium. Here again, all citizens are invited to hear and provide feedback regarding the conclusions David has gathered, from the three previous meetings, to help us reach a consensus about the type of school we want, and its location. Please make an effort to join us.”

Visit the Building Committee’s webpage on the SAU #20 website, at www.sau20.org/building, for up-to-date information on the Banwell and Building Committee work and activities. For more information regarding these forums or anything else regarding the school projects, please contact a Building Committee or School Board member, or the SAU20 office at 466-3632.