

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

GRS Cooperative School District Selects Lee Kennedy Co. as Construction Manager

Another major milestone has been accomplished in the GRS Cooperative School District. The GRS Building Committee recommended Lee Kennedy Company to the School Board, to manage the construction phase of the Ed Fenn and Gorham Middle High Schools. After a brief discussion at their September 19th meeting, the GRS Board approved the Committee's action.

"We had four great firms to choose from," said Ben Mayerson, Chairman of the Building Committee. "The Committee read through hundreds of pages of information provided by the applicants. We interviewed them, checked their references, and contacted past and present clients. It was a difficult decision, but we feel that Kennedy's experience and size is best suited for our project."

The Construction Manager will have numerous important responsibilities for the duration of the project. Initially, they will work with the Committee during the pre-bond phase. "Public outreach is key to this process," comments Mayerson. "Spreading information about the project to the District is job #1 for the Committee. Banwell Architects and Kennedy will provide resources to be shared with the public. We will share research, drawings, and background materials to assure public inclusion every step of the way."

"We now have the all the major team players on board, with the addition of Lee Kennedy," says Jo Carpenter, Chair of the GRS School Board. "Their experience, along with Banwell Architects' gives the District the best combination of school design and construction professionals." Paul Bousquet, SAU #20 Superintendent adds, "The references for Lee Kennedy Company were outstanding. One reference, a high school principal, noted that they worked well with students on site with student safety as a top priority. The Principal also noted that they were "on time and on budget" with the project. We are looking forward to a positive and professional working relationship with Kennedy."

Meanwhile, David Laurin of Banwell Architects is hard at work. He and his associates are working to convert the plans of the existing schools into a computerized format. "David Laurin meets with the Committee weekly," says Mayerson. "We have asked him to develop a series of concept drawing for each school." Lee Kennedy Company will be working along side Banwell in this phase, assisting with phasing proposals and the all important estimation of costs.

"A meeting with the faculty of both schools will be happening soon," says Mayerson. "Initially, we will be requesting their feedback, and then we will be meeting with the public. We anticipate holding a series of public presentations and forums in October to update the community as to our progress, and help us chose the best option for each school. In addition, the Committee and Board look forward to introducing the team to the public."

Bousquet echoed that sentiment. "Banwell and Kennedy are the right combination. I look forward to working with them for the duration of the project."

Visit the Building Committee's webpage on the SAU #20 website, at www.sau20.org/building, for up-to-date information on Kennedy, Banwell, and Committee 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.