

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

Mark your calendars! The GRS Building Committee and School Board have announced a series of public forums to present conceptual design drawings and cost estimates for the renovation of the Edward Fenn Elementary, and rebuilding or renovation of the Gorham Middle High School. “These forums are the public’s chance to see the fruition of a year’s work, by the Building Committee and School Board,” says Ben Mayerson, Chair of the Committee. “We are inviting the citizens of the District to join us to review and comment on a series of concept plans prepared by Banwell Architects.”

Three forums are scheduled. On Tuesday, October 24, the first meeting will be at the Ed Fenn School. There will be a brief tour offered at 6:30pm, followed immediately by a forum at 7pm. Two days later on Thursday, October 26 there will be a brief tour of the GMHS, starting at 6:30, followed at 7pm by a forum, in the Music Room. “The public is welcome to attend one or both,” says Mayerson. “If you can’t make the tours, come directly to the forum at 7pm.” David Laurin AIA from Banwell will be there to facilitate the discussion.

Two weeks later, on Thursday, November 9, the third forum in the series will be held at 7pm, in the GMHS Music Room. This public meeting will summarize findings and potential changes from the first two forums.

Another extremely important element at these meetings will be the cost estimates for each concept scenario. “Representatives from Lee Kennedy Co., the Construction Manager for our project will join us to review and discuss the related costs for each plan,” says Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator for SAU #20. “The School Board will in be attendance to listen to the public’s opinions as they consider what the project’s price should be. This will be based on the needs and wishes of the public, and the potential tax rate impact the project will have in Gorham, Randolph, and Shelburne.”

The Board will review information taken from the public, recommendations from the Building Committee, Banwell, Kennedy, the schools’ Faculty, Staff, and Administration input, along with Ms. Plourde’s financial calculations to establish a project budget ceiling. “Once that number is approved, by the Board,” says Ms. Plourde, “the team will work together to adjust the scope of the project to fit within the budget.”

“This is a very exciting step in the process,” comments SAU #20 Superintendent Paul Bousquet. “I urge the citizens of Gorham, Randolph, and Shelburne to join us at as many of the upcoming forums that they can possibly fit in. We want to include everyone in this process. Whether you are new to the area, been here all your life, have kids in the schools, or own a vacation home, we need to hear your voice.”

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