

## **GRS Cooperative District Selects Design Solutions Schools**

On the evening of December 6, the GRS Cooperative School Board unanimously accepted the second of two recommendations for a design solution for the Edward Fenn Elementary School. Two weeks before, the Board voted to move forward for designs for the GMHS.

“The Building Committee sent two great plans to the Board, and we got the green light for both,” said Ben Mayerson, Chair of the Building Committee. “We’re very excited to be done with option numbers.” Until the Board cast its vote, the Committee had been considering 5 different concepts for both schools. “Now we no longer have option numbers; we have the plans,” commented Mayerson.

The Committee weighed numerous factors in coming to their recommendations, including input from the public, the faculty, staff, and administration of the schools. Banwell Architects have been at every meeting listening carefully and adjusting the project to fill the needs of the educators and community.

Now comes the important job of adjusting the scope and scale of the project to balance the buildings against the price. “The Committee is well aware that we have to pay very close attention to the bottom line,” comments Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator of SAU #20. “We have a great group of citizens on the Committee who are also taxpayers. They are very tuned in to the financial realities we all face here in the North Country. They take their role in this process with great responsibility and sensitivity to the needs of the students of the Cooperative.”

Jo Carpenter, Chair of the GRS School Board echoes that sentiment, she adds “I have attended almost every Committee meeting over the last several months, and I am very confident that they are on target. The Board recently reiterated their support to the Committee, asking them to bring forward the best project at the best price. The Board has total trust in the Building Committee, and as taxpayers we’re behind this project too.”

Along with refining the designs and budget, the Committee is moving its public outreach campaign into high gear. “We want to talk to as many citizens as we can, face to face in the coming months,” says Mayerson. “We’ll be meeting with civic groups, the Selectmen from all three towns, and holding additional forums and tours of the schools. We want everyone to be part of the process, so they can make an informed decision when we vote on the bond in March.”

Ground plans and 3-D renderings are now available for viewing on the Building Committee’s webpage. For those who do not have access to the Internet, please call the SAU office to set up an appointment to see the plans. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend any or all Committee meetings. Visit the Building Committee’s webpage on the SAU20 website, at [www.sau20.org/building](http://www.sau20.org/building), for up-to-date information on Kennedy, Banwell, and Committee activities. For more information regarding the school projects, please contact the SAU20 office at 466-3632.