

**Gorham, Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School Board
Building Committee Tuesday February 7, 2006
GMHS Library**

Attendance: Jean Tremblay, John Carpenter, Bob Demers, Kathleen Kelley, Reed Leberman, Ben Mayerson, John Carpenter, Craig Burcalow, Conrad Deutsch

Facilities Committee Present: Donna Goodrich

Cooperative School Board Members Present: Jo Anne Carpenter, Angela Brown, Alice Evancow

Administration present: Keith Parent, Paul Bousquet, Dave Goyette

6:33 Call to Order by Ben Mayerson, Chair.

6:40 Approval of Minutes 1/17/06. Craig moved and Reed seconded. No Discussion. All others were in favor.

6:45 Communication/ Media Relations Appointment of spokesperson. After comments by Ben, **John moved and Jean seconded that Ben be the primary spokesperson for the committee.** During the discussion it was pointed out that this was primarily for contacts with the media and/or representation of the committee at public functions. We discussed that we were all free to talk to individuals but that we should stay with the goals outlined in our report. **The motion carried with all in favor.**

7:00 Proposed FY 06-07 change in charge and funding- We do not have a new charge from the Cooperative School Board, but by default with the budget being proposed, we know that the Cooperative School Board will be expanding our charge to include planning for the renovation of the Edward Fenn Elementary.

7:05 RFP Consultant update- at the next meeting we will have the results of our RFP. To-date two companies have come to visit the schools. Reed asked if after early march we will take action on these RFP's. Ben said when we get a positive vote in March then we will a) establish a time line (back planning from March 2007) b) develop a simple description of viable options c) establish focus groups d) give public feedback to architects, engineers and consultants and finally, d) accept a program of improvement or replacement for these two buildings.

7:05 Joint discussions with the GRS School Board Facilities Committee
Projected repairs/costs through 2009 – Ben has asked Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator, for an updated list of repairs deferred in both buildings. So that we can present to the voters a clear picture of the actions that will be taken regardless of whether they approve a building project. John Carpenter said that the public must know the overall condition of the building. Ben pointed to the report that will be available on line at SAU20.org including pictures of the current condition of the building.

Keith has received another communication from the New England Accreditation Committee:
“The Commission requested that no later than February 24, 2006 school officials

provide a description by department/curriculum area of any **negative impact of the facility on the delivery of curriculum and instruction, any negative impact of the facility on the delivery of appropriate services, and indicate any infrastructure needs and/or health and safety concerns related to the facility.** Given the fact that the earliest anticipated timeline for a vote on the construction project would be spring 2008, the Committee also seeks information on the **schools plans to improve the facility for the short term.** Finally please include an **updated list on facilities repairs made to date since 2002** decennial evaluation.”

Voter Outreach – John Carpenter developed a draft handout on how the money requested will be used. John suggested that we simplify the steps that will lead us to next year’s vote on the building project and the bond. Reed was concerned that this chart shows that we are just spending more money to study once again the issues. He is concerned that people’s perceptions of what actions will be taken with the budget will be not adequate unless we are clear. Concerned about this very issue, Jay Homes as a citizen approached Hebert to ask him for an updated proposal to repair/replace the GMHS. Hebert’s updated proposal was delivered to the committee for review. Ben said it was very validating because the estimate that he gave was what we had projected a few meetings earlier, which was a 10% per year inflation factor.

The budget requested will give us the money to be prepared with a plan that could be bid out that meets the needs of the community and that recognizes the value of what we have in the current buildings. We also need to differentiate the “need” from the “great to have” list. The Cooperative Board estimated the amount needed to prepare the proposal for the Edward Fenn based on the fees specified in a document from Jordan Barker on 11/9/04. There is no commitment to Jordan Barker to do the work.

Ben Mayerson is preparing various new releases with Pauline Plourde and Jo Anne Carpenter for the local papers that will give the voters the information they will need before the March School District Meeting. Donna said this was very important, because if the voters do not support this \$340,000 then it is a good indication that they will not support any renovation projects in the future. Kathleen suggested we should use much of the presentation materials used in 2003 when these issues were brought before the town of Gorham. The issues have not gone away. Alice Evancow suggested that the spreadsheet prepared by Reed be included in the presentation because it shows clearly the inflationary pressures on the costs of these projects.

Ben Mayerson said that we need to specify what need to be done to keep the students and faculty safe, the building legal, habitable, and functional. Bob Demers suggested that it seems like we are back where we were two years ago!

Keith Parent said that we must be cognizant of the fact that the town is asking for a \$1.56 increase in operations and an increased capital expenditure of \$750,000 to complete the town hall. Voters will not be happy to hear that this size school capital improvement plan is coming. We need to stress to the town that 54% of the \$340,000 will come back through the State funding once voters approve the project next year.

We also discussed the need for Focus Groups to be convened soon after the Town vote this March. We need information to bring to the Focus Groups such as: Renovation Project will look like this and will cost this much, Building new will look like this and will cost this, a combination

of the two will look like this and cost this.

Paul Bousquet said he is worried about the drop in enrollment at the Edward Fenn. He is projecting 20 students in the 2006 Fall Kindergarten class. The fifth grade has 37 in the class. He was concerned about not keeping the options open like, creating a k-12 building. Conrad Deutsch suggested that we need to make up our minds which way we are going and move forward; we do not want to confuse the voters. Kathleen Kelley strongly objected not keeping option open.

Ben indicated that he thinks our focus should be on the process we plan to follow during the next year. We should let voter know what we have done this year and how much progress we have made.

Coordination of tasks

8:20 pm New England School Facilities & Maintenance Conference- Ben reported that the cost for two people to attend this conference would be in the range of \$1000, including registration, mileage, meals and hotel rooms. He suggested the Committee consider sending two representatives to it. It was suggested that David Goyette possibly be one of the participants.

8:25 Other- Kathleen Kelley distributed a few pieces of information that might be of interest concerning population projections and Community Schools.

8:28 Next Meeting was set for 2/21/06 with the following agenda:

- Call To Order
- Minutes Approval
- Finance Report
- Outreach Campaign Plan
- Presentation for School Meeting Plan
- RFP Results
- Establish next meeting

8:30 pm Bob Demers moved that the meeting be adjourned, Conrad Deutsch seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted.

Kathleen Kelley
bwm