GRS Cooperative
Building Committee and School Board Meeting
Minutes

Thursday, November 30, 2006
GMHS Library

Present: Ben Mayerson, Craig Burcalow, Nancy Burleson, John Carpenter, Bob Demers, Conrad Deutsch, Katie Kelley, Reed Leberman, and Jean Tremblay

Staff Present: Paul Bousquet, Karen Cloutier, David Goyette, Keith Parent, and Pauline Plourde

Other: Blair Banker (LKC), Jen Bennett (Berlin Reporter), Jo Carpenter (Board), Reny Demers (Public), Donna Goodrich (Board), Jay Holmes (Board), David Laurin (Banwell), Sarah McGillicuddy (Public), Victoria McGillicuddy (Public), Wendy Mayerson (Public), Paul Partenope (Board), Robert O'Leary (LKC), Richard Ouellette (Public), Tim Sappington (Public), and Barbara Tetreault (BDS)

I. **Call to Order:**
The meeting of the GRS Cooperative Building Committee and School Board was called to order at 6:30pm.

II. **Approval of minutes:**
After review of the minutes from the November 14, 2006, a motion to accept them was made by Jean, seconded by Craig. There was no discussion regarding the minutes, **all in favor.**

III. **Public Comment:**

a. **Tim Sappington et al (including students from Gorham and Berlin**
Tim presented two drawing overlays he designed to propose alterations to the current cafetorium plan that would allow for more theatrical arts opportunities for the community. He acknowledged the need to balance an already tight budget against but expressed his strong wishes for a performance space. Two students from Gorham and Berlin, who participate in Theatre North, discussed their interest in the performing arts. They expressed their opinions that the enhanced performance space at the MHS would benefit the MHS, community, and Theatre North. In reference to finding alterative sources to assist in funding the performance space, Tim asked Reny Demers to give information about the GRS Educational Fund, and how it may be able to help. Reny, who is no longer on the Board, declined to comment, and suggested we speak to someone who is. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the presentation.
Keith spoke in support of a performance space.

IV. **Board meeting on 11/21:**
Ben reported that the Board unanimously accepted the GMHS recommendation of the Committee.

In reference to the Board's opinion on a budget, Jo relayed the Board's support of the Committee and their process. She said the Board does not wish to set a budget, but rather relies upon the Committee to bring the best project in, at the best price.

V. **EFS option recommendation:**
Karen Cloutier's recommendation, based on not only her thoughts but those of the faculty, was that Option #5 should be pursued, with the only change was rotating the new gymnasium parallel to the building, rather than at 90 degrees.

There was considerable discussion by the Committee members about whether a gym should be included. One member also expressed concern that the scope of the project is growing beyond the original needs assessment.

Public comments were invited. One attendee stated that the Committee shouldn't shortchange the students at the EFS to save money. Another felt that the gym at the Ed Fenn was highly supported in the community, and that a bond vote may fail if it is not included. There was also a great deal of discussion of its use to meet the physical educational needs of the Ed Fenn students, as a community space, and its contribution to the mitigation of late night practices currently occurring due to the limited athletic spaces in the schools.

The Committee was reminded that early in the process it was discovered that the current multi-purpose room does not function well as a cafegymatorium.

A Committee member expressed her concern that the Committee was moving backwards, in spite of the clear and stated need for a new gym. To which, Karen reiterated her recommendation, and that of the faculty.

->A motion was then made by Jean, to recommend option 5 (with modifications) as relayed by Karen to the Board. It was seconded by Craig. After some further discussion a vote was taken. **7 votes in favor. John voted no. Nancy abstained. Motion passed.**

(task)- *The Committee recommendation to the Board will be brought to their next Wednesday, December 6th, by Ben.*

(task) – *Before the next Board meeting, Banwell and LKC will refine the EFS plan, estimate it, and forward that data to the Committee.*

At this time it was discovered that no one was keeping the minutes, so several members made notes of the vote. Ben reiterated his need for a minute taker.

(task) – *Paul stated the SAU would continue to actively work on it.*

VI. **Utility rebates:**
Reed suggested that someone from PSNH come and speak to us regarding the rebate program and cost benefits. It was decided that since the administration and architect are aware of programs, it would be more appropriate to pursue this once a design is approved.

(task) –*Pauline will do more research on the PSHN program, and will report back to the Committee.*

VII. **Banwell/Kennedy update:**
David shared newer plans of the GMHS, including several 3-D rendering elevations. The Committee response was extremely positive. Questions were asked about the level changes

that will exist between the existing and new portions. Although an elevator is necessary; Banwell and LKC are looking to possibly relocate the existing system so that one elevator would serve the new and old buildings, therefore providing a savings.

In response to a question of when test borings would occur, David said they would occur by the end of the year.

(task) – *Banwell/LKC will continue to refine the MHS plans and budget.*

VIII. **Public outreach:**

a. Process

Ben reminded the Committee members, that like the Board, members should not go out on their own to the community, unless it has been discussed and agreed to by the full Committee. He reminded the Committee of the importance of speaking with one voice, or run the risk of misspeaking the Committee message, and confusing the public. After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to this approach.

->A motion was made by John, to extend the meeting by ten minutes. It was seconded by Jean. No discussion. **7 votes in favor. Jean and Ben voted no. Motion passed.**

b. FAQ

Katie has been working on an FAQ sheet. Several participants provided feedback which she will incorporate into the FAQ for the next meeting. The Committee decided to spend time at the next meeting to review it. As is it a long document, several members suggested that it be mailed out in a series of newsletters. The Committee also agreed that it should be posted on the web.

c. Information spreadsheet

Katie expressed her feelings that this document should be refined and released. David said he was reviewing it.

IX. **2003 Proposal:**

This item was not addressed due to time restrictions.

X. **Other:**

None.

XI. **Next meetings:**

a. December 7, 6:30pm @ GMHS Library
b. December 14, 6:30pm @ GMHS Library
c. December 21, 6:30pm @ GMHS Library

XII. **Adjournment:**

->A Motion was made by John to adjourn at 8:40 pm, seconded by Jean.

wam:bwm