

GRS Cooperative Building Committee  
**Minutes**

Thursday, April 12, 2007  
*Rescheduled to April 16, 2007*  
GMHS Library

**Present:** Ben Mayerson, Nancy Burlison, John Carpenter, Bob Demers, Edwin Giron, Katie Kelley (@~6:35 - left @~8:05), Reed Leberman, Dick Lussier, Paul Partenope, and Jean Tremblay (left @~7:30)

**Staff Present:** David Goyette, Keith Parent, and Pauline Plourde

**Other:** Angela Brown (Board) (@~6:35 - left @~8:05), Jo Carpenter (Board), and Dennis Therrien (Public)

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the GRS Cooperative Building Committee was called to order at 6:30 pm.

**II. Approval of minutes from 3/29/07**

->After review of the minutes from the March 29, 2007, a motion to accept them was made by Jean, seconded by John. No discussion

**All present in favor. Kelley had not yet arrived.**

**III. Public Comment**

**a. Email communication**

Ben relayed the contents of several emails and phone calls he had received that were both negative and positive. Katie, Angela, and Dick also shared comments they had heard.

**b. BDS article with comments from Gorham town officials**

There was discussion about the statement made, in the local press, by the Gorham Town Manager regarding his thoughts on funding, as it pertained to bonding a project.

**c. Other**

There were comments relayed (second hand) said to be made by a Berlin City Counselor, the value of a 'small' school, and what some Committee members felt was a lack of public understanding of the realities of school construction economics in the context of the bond articles brought to the District.

**IV. Survey update**

The price quote of from KD Paine was discussed, as well as the estimate of return. There was some concern expressed over the price, and some members felt that another professional company or UNH should be approached to assist us. Some members felt that we should wait until more information is gathered to offer choices in the survey for feedback. Pauline said she thought the only way to get a high enough return to make a definitive tabulation of data was to commission a door to door census style survey.

-> A motion was made by John, to recommend to the Board that they reconsider having the survey professionally done. It was seconded by Nancy. There some further discussion of the pro and cons of doing a survey and its content.

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**Six votes in favor, four against. The motion was passed.**

**V. Fire Marshall's tour**

Dave Goyette and Keith gave their general impressions and some information about the NH Fire Marshall's tour done at both schools on April 4th. The report will be given to the GFD Chief, and from there sent to the SAU office. So as not to mislead the public, it was recommended that we refrain from public comment until all the facts are known.

*J. Tremblay and K. Kelley had left by this time.*

**VI. Recommendations to Board**

Ben read notes he had prepared for some proposed recommendations that the Committee may wish to send to the Board.

**a. Banwell**

-> A motion was made by Dick, to recommend to the Board to retain Banwell on a short term basis. It was seconded by Paul.

There was additional discussion regarding the value of such a process, since some felt the best project was already brought forth. Others thought that perhaps it was worth discussing some specific areas of the proposal (GMHS) to see if any additional savings could be found. One member felt they saw as much as \$6 to \$8 million that could be cut, although others were skeptical.

**Seven votes in favor, one against. The motion was passed.**

**b. Repair**

-> A motion was made by Reed, to recommend to the Board to compile a complete list pertaining to the cost and implementation of 'permanent' repairs to the GMHS. It was seconded by Dick.

There was additional discussion pertaining to what exactly this process would involve. Eventually it was agreed upon to see if the Board would accept this, and if so make any comments to it. If and when approved, the Committee would determine, along with the Administration the best course to proceed.

**Seven votes in favor, one against. The motion was passed.**

**c. Regionalization**

-> A motion was made by Reed, to encourage the Board to thoroughly investigate regionalization and/or 'tuitioning' to determine its viability. It was seconded by John.

There was additional discussion about the level of detail that could be researched without active participation by the Berlin School Board and City Counsel. Pauline reminded the group that a formal study must be approved by a majority vote at a District meeting. Many felt a less official study could be done now. There was a great deal of discussion about exactly what regionalization is; defining it by grade, location, etc. Members agreed that the bulk of this task should be the sole responsibility of the Board, as it falls outside the purview of a building committee.

**All in favor.**

**VII. Other**

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-> A motion was made by Nancy at the beginning of the meeting to remove the cap on the membership number of the Building Committee, and to consider a new cap at a later date. It was seconded by John. There was no discussion.

**All in favor.**

*Note: The Committee's membership is now eleven requiring a quorum of six.*

A member expressed their wish to abolish the policy previously accepted to speak with one voice. They felt it may be important for members to express their dissenting opinions outside of the meeting, and have the freedom to contact whomever they wished. They also felt they had a right to do so as a private citizen. Another member felt that was not appropriate to differ from Board policy, and that it may undermine the unity of the Committee's message. There was additional discussion, but no conclusion or consensus was reached.

**VIII. Next meetings?**

There were no future meetings scheduled, pending Board action on the Committee's recommendations.

**IX. Adjournment**

->A Motion was made by John, seconded by Bob to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

wam:bwm