

Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School Board
Minutes of the Meeting for September 28, 2005
Location: Edward Fenn Elementary School, Gorham, NH.

Board Members Present: Jo Carpenter, Chair; Alice Evankow, Vice-Chair, Angela Brown, Secretary; Jay Holmes, Jean Tremblay, Donna Goodrich, Michelle Cormier, Mike Waddell; **Student Representatives:** Jen Cloutier and Nic Wolf.

Board Members Absent: Karen Cloutier, Katie Kelley, Wendy Niskanen, all excused.

Administration and Staff Present: Patrick C. Low, Superintendent; Keith Parent, GMHS Principal; Paul Bousquet, EFS Principal; Kathy Benoit, GMHS Teacher, Lisa Morais, GMHS Teacher.

Others in Attendance: Chad Dryden, Berlin Daily Sun; Trish Ouellette, Parent.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm. Jo welcomed all present, and introduced new Student Representative Jen Cloutier. Everyone introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the 08/25/05 Coop Board meeting were read and discussed. Because information was missing, the board decided not to approve the minutes. Angela offered to listen to the recorded tapes of the meeting to fill in the needed information. General discussion of minutes followed.

Communications/Written- None

Public Comments

A Randolph parent asked to share a school bus concern. It was redirected to Randolph School Board as proper channel. It was agreed that now is a confusing time for meetings as there are multiple boards in existence.

High School Biology Teacher Kathy Benoit, member of the National Educational Association (NEA) and Gorham Teacher Association, extended cooperation and communication to the Coop Board, and expressed interest in having an NEA teacher representative at each meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Patrick stated that the Gorham School Board is still in charge and operating on behalf of the GRS Coop Board until June 30, 2006. Cross communication is strongly encouraged. It has been asked to have the budget prepared by Thanksgiving. Work is on target to date. Information is accessible.

Curriculum Changes directive from Gorham Board for the High School:

- Fix tracking (or “pacing”); full and unlimited access to students of all curriculum

- Fix the Block; enhance wait time between semesters for same subject matter

There is information in a “Block Scheduling Report” that reflects changes and trends that occurred after block scheduling was implemented. Copy available on request, contact Keith. Report includes data from students grades 9 to 12 including change in SAT scores (rose after block implemented), and Band and Music participation (decreased by one third).

Keith and Christine Lemoine, GMHS Guidance Director, to lead charge with support of Patrick. Possible solutions/changes in schedule discussed briefly. Patrick expressed hopes for cooperation and sharing in process, and that looking at the Master Schedule will involve as many people as possible. Documented, recommended solutions due to Patrick before Christmas/Holiday break.

It was clarified that the Coop Board, after Curriculum Committee formation, will be looking at curriculum for the school year 2007-2008. Jay communicated on behalf of the Gorham Board that currently the Music Dept. has a charge to study trends in student participation (decreased), visit other schools, look for ideas, and revise the curriculum.

Retreat Planning Committee

Minutes of 9/10/05 retreat taken by Katie and mailed to Board Members. Highlights included board member orientation, form and function of effective meetings, and school district goals. Cindy Hatch and Ted Comstock from the New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA) presented material and answered questions. The day was well-received and future trainings/retreats will be planned. Thanks extended to student Eoghan Kelley for his helpful participation.

Formation of GRS Coop Committees was requested by Chair, discussion followed. It was decided to create as few committees as possible, and start with most pressing.

- **Donna moved to form three committees: Finance, Curriculum, and Executive, seconded by Angela, all in favor, passed.**

Finance Committee: Michelle, Jo, Donna, (double-check w/Katie)

Curriculum Committee: Donna, Angela, (double-check w/ Wendy, Karen)

Executive: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary (Jo, Alice, Angela), and Patrick

Policy Committee Report

The procedure and flow chart created by the committee to review and approve policy by the Board was discussed. Short discussion on these sections: Appendixes A and B.

- **Jean made a motion to accept the 2nd reading of Appendixes A and B in the policies, seconded by Jay, all in favor, passed.**

Building Committee Report

Jean and Mike shared the committee’s decision to meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Ben Mayerson from Shelburne will serve as Chair. There was a tour of the

GMHS building last meeting. Town maps were reviewed to discuss possible building sites. Three options are considered:

- On site, renovation
- Off site, new construction
- On site, new

Short term vs. long term needs discussed. Boy's locker room needs repair before start of school in fall of 06. Bid for repair to go out. Patrick shared his preference to use resources in areas of personnel, infrastructure and curriculum than in building.

Budget Process 2006-2007

Needs and time line were reviewed in reference to handout in board package. Wendy created a chart that board members may use to simplify information on pg. 3 of handout; chart titled "Budget Process Time-Line." Discussion of budget process ensued.

After School Programming

Katie provided information for the packet about cost-benefits of such programming. Keith said the program has been very successful with homework help and other activities. Board members are asked to review information and consider funding. Katie and/or Cathy McDowell, Executive Director of The Family Resource Center, will be invited to a Finance Committee meeting to discuss particulars. Mike shared that the Town of Gorham had given funding in the past, and the best chance of making sure the program continues would be for the Coop Board to support it.

Other

- It was decided that all board members didn't need copies of each committee meeting's minutes. They will be kept on file and available upon request.
- Robert's Rules of Order in Plain English is available at Wonderland Bookstore for \$7.95, Board and Staff can ask for a 15% Educational discount. There will be extra copies purchased by Patrick and available to borrow at the SAU office.
- Kathy Benoit was thanked for idea of sharing student photo display at the schools.
- Jay extended thanks and appreciation to teacher Lisa Morais for her help in organizing the car wash fundraiser for Katrina Disaster relief. The event was a success and raised over \$900 in donations.
- Jen Cloutier shared copies of the publication, "Expository Writing, Selections from GHS," a book of student writings from Rob Hamel's English class.

Non-Public- None

Next Regular Meeting: Wed, October 26, 6:30 pm, Randolph Town Hall.

Other important meetings: Building Committee, Tues, 10/4/05

Policy Committee, Tues, 10/4/05, 7:00pm, FRC

Gorham School Board, 10/5/05

SAU Board, 10/12/05, 6:30pm GMHS

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alice Evankow