

**Gorham, Randolph, Shelburne
Co-operative School Board Meeting
Gorham Middle/High School Library
Tuesday, January 17, 2006**

Members Present: Karen Cloutier, Jo Anne Carpenter, Alice Evankow, Kathleen Kelley, Michelle Cormier, Jean Tremblay, Angela Brown, Mike Waddell, Jay Holmes

Members absent: Wendy Niskanen, Donna Goodrich

Members of Administration Present: Business Administrator Pauline Plourde, Principals Keith Parent and Paul Bousquet, and David Goyette, Maintenance Supervisor

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:16 p.m. by Chair Jo Anne Carpenter

Katie Kelley left the meeting

II. Minutes: no minutes presented at the meeting for approval

III. Public Comments: none

IV. Finance Committee Report to full Board

-Overview of work completed to date

Jo Anne Carpenter discussed the finance committee's work on the budget. The Finance Committee is looking at computer purchases. The Committee asked for information on what is being proposed for students and what is being proposed for teachers and staff. The Committee would like to cut the computer purchases to around \$25,000 and wanted to know how that would affect the students. Pauline Plourde presented the Board with a sheet that broke out the computer purchases into two groups: students and teachers.

Alice Evankow left the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Jean Tremblay brought up the installation of the virtual private network and the idea that it may alleviate the need for personal notebooks if staff can work at home.

Katie Kelley returned to the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

After revisions to the presented sheet the total computer purchases totaled \$37,321. Teacher notebooks are not replacements at the Ed Fenn School. There are a total of 16 notebooks for staff use. Karen Cloutier asked if the laptop purchases are for convenience or for replacement of older outdated equipment. The Principals replied they are for both. Jo Anne Carpenter explained that this is for their information and the Board will need to decide if computer purchases should be cut to \$25,000.

Pauline Plourde presented a worksheet on Health Plan Comparisons to the Board for their review. The Superintendent has already communicated this information with union representatives. Harvard Pilgrim is comparable to HealthTrust. Over the past couple of

years Harvard Pilgrim has been able to sign on with local hospitals and physicians in the North Country. The Board wondered about the time line and if they go with the lower Harvard Pilgrim rates in time for inclusion in the budget. Pauline Plourde said she thought it could be done. The staff will need to look at the providers to see if their PCP is signed up. This plan is comparable to what we have now. Pauline Plourde and Patrick Low will make a date to have representatives meet with staff. The Board thinks this is something worth looking into.

Jay Holmes joined the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

The Board will spend some more time on the budget Wednesday night in Randolph.

Pauline handed out an addendum to the agenda for the Board

V. Reports – how to accomplish them/present them:

The Board discussed how to handle the various reports of the Cooperative and its inclusion in the Town reports this year. The Board decided that because the Cooperative will have the 06-07 budget included that they should have their own booklet. They also discussed putting a single page narrative in the Cooperative Report to be included in the individual town reports. This topic will be put on the agenda next week.

Motion was made by Angela Brown to have the GSR Cooperative School District create their own report and to include an ending narrative in each individual town's reports, seconded by Michael Wadell. No discussion followed. Unanimously accepted.

- VI. Other:** Jo Anne Carpenter explained that the agenda for the upcoming SAU 20 meeting to be held on Friday, January 20th at 6:30 pm at the GMHS library was only sent to the Dummer, Errol, Gorham, Milan, Randolph and Shelburne board members. Jo Anne Carpenter explained her opposition that the Cooperative board was excluded. According to Barbara Loughman, the Cooperative Board has a standing seat on the current SAU Board. The Cooperative Board will have 1 collective vote on the existing SAU 20 Board if a weighted vote is called. Jo Anne Carpenter advised the Cooperative Board to go to the SAU 20 meeting this Friday.

Keith Parent reported that the Accreditation Board deferred action on their last report for accreditation until the Associate Director of the Commission comes to visit Gorham Middle/High School. Keith Parent believes that this will be prior to February vacation. A report will be immediately, before the March meeting.

- VII. Adjournment** Michelle Cormier moved that the meeting be adjourned, Angela Brown seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Submitted by,
DeAnn Murphy