

Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School District
April 21, 2006
6:30 p.m.
Gorham Middle/High School Library

Board Members in attendance: Angela Brown, Jo Carpenter, Karen Cloutier, Michelle Cormier, Anne Hill, Jay Holmes, Kathleen Kelley, Paul Partenope, Jean Tremblay, Donna Goodrich, Wendy Niskanen

Student Representatives: Nick Wolf, absent; Jen Cloutier, absent

Administration: Patrick Low, Superintendent SAU #20; Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator; Paul Bousquet, Principal Ed Fenn; Dave Goyette, Maintenance/Transportation Coordinator

I. Call to Order. Jo Carpenter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. At 6:35 p.m. Donna Goodrich joined the meeting.

II. Bus RFP. Patrick Low distributed a summary of bid prices for the bus to be purchased by the GRS Cooperative District. Dave Goyette explained that Cressey was the lowest, offering us a 2007 International Thomas C2 40 passenger bus for an initial bid of \$58,299. Dave proceeded to explain his reasons for specific options, including

- a fuel/water separator w/heater to reduce filter changes;
- acoustical package in the driver's area;
- digital video camera, installed (standardized camera, clearer picture, audio capability);
- 160 amp alternator in place of a 185 amp;
- removing one roof hatch (this size bus is not required by State regulations to have any roof hatch, but for safety he thought it was important to have one);
- thicker upholstery to reduce repairs;

for a grand total of \$60,118.

Dave explained that the routes in Randolph require a smaller size bus because a regular size bus simply cannot make the required turns.

After discussion, it was decided to keep a 6-cylinder engine rather than drop down to a 4-cylinder engine since this bus will be doing the run up and over Gorham Hill. The Board also discussed adding luggage compartments to make the bus amenable to carrying some of the sports teams.

Jay Holmes moved to buy the recommended 40 passenger bus with 6 cylinders and adding one luggage compartment; Wendy Niskanen seconded. All were in favor; motion passed.

III. Guidance Counselor Candidate – Patrick Low distributed the supporting documents for Lynda True-Carter, the candidate for the guidance counselor position at the Ed Fenn Elementary School and the Milan Village School. The position will be shared, 60% Ed Fenn and 40% Milan. Patrick reported that both principals as well as

the search committee were pleased with the candidate. Paul Bousquet had checked the references and they were “stellar.” Paul reported that the candidate currently works at two schools already and plans to live locally. He feels she will fit in well with the staff. Patrick shared that the Milan School Board will meet on May 2nd to address their component.

Discussion ensued regarding pay scale and length of contract. Patrick recommended she be placed on Step 7 with a Master’s degree along with a two-year contract. The question was raised regarding budgeted amounts for the position. Pauline reported that for 06/07 we have budgeted for a Step 4 at 60% in this position. This position at Step 7 is a higher pay rate (\$36,568) but it is possible to find money to cover the difference, for example through the benefits or savings in other positions.

Kathleen Kelley made a motion to accept the nomination of Lynda True-Carter at 60% of Master’s Step 7 on the GRS Cooperative schedule as recommended; Anne seconded.

The question was raised whether a two year contract was agreeable with the teacher’s union, in light of negotiations beginning in the fall. Patrick reported that he had spoken with Jay Tolman, the union rep, and that Mr. Tolman assured Patrick there should not be an issue with a two year contract.

Another issue raised was whether or not a two-year contract allows the position to be “corrected” if there are issues with performance, and Patrick explained that even with a multiple year contract there are evaluations and opportunities to not renew if performance is not up to standard. He feels a two-year contract is a nice gesture to a valuable candidate such as this one.

When asked if shared time could be an issue (such as GRS Cooperative needs less time and Milan needing more time), Paul Bousquet reiterated that the position is strictly 3 days at Ed Fenn, 2 days at Milan.

10 were in favor, one abstained (Paul Partenope), motion passed.

At 7:05 Karen Cloutier left the meeting.

At 7:10, **Jean Tremblay moved to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:311(B); Anne Hill seconded; roll call vote:**

Wendy Niskanen, yes; Kathleen Kelley, yes; Donna Goodrich, yes; Jean Tremblay, yes; Jo Carpenter, yes; Angela Brown, yes; Anne Hill, yes; Paul Partenope, yes; Jay Holmes, yes; Michelle Cormier, yes.

At 7:30, the Board re-entered public session.

At 7:31, Karen Cloutier returned to the meeting.

Karen was asked to tell the Board why she wants the job as principal of the Ed Fenn Elementary. She explained that she feels a kinship with Gorham and is passionate about her work, the town, and the cooperative. She said she has always wanted this job and was excited about the opportunity.

Kathleen Kelley moved to hire Karen Cloutier as recommended at \$60,000 for the first year starting July 1, 2006 for a 2-year contract; Donna Goodrich seconded. 9 were in favor; 2 abstained (Karen Cloutier and Angela Brown), motion passed.

Michelle Cormier wanted to know if the previous issue of another board member's resignation had been addressed because she was not present during that discussion at the last Board meeting. Jo Carpenter explained again that she and Kathleen Kelley had met with Wendy and that Wendy's schedule would be more flexible in the new school year when she goes to half-time from full time. From the discussion it is obvious that scheduling meetings will be more difficult for the coming year taking into account everyone's schedule.

It was recommended that at the June meeting the board will schedule its meetings for the entire year so that everyone can plan ahead.

The board was also reminded that on May 4th David Laurin from Banwell is meeting with the Building Committee and that the cooperative board is invited to join them. Kathleen, Wendy, Michelle, Anne and Paul all indicated that they are not available to attend on that evening due to previous commitments or work schedules.

At the May meeting the Board will need to consider how to fill an unexpired term in accordance with policy BBBE, pending Karen Cloutier's acceptance of the principal position.

At 8:00 p.m., Kathleen Kelley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Paul. All were in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Brown, Secretary