

GRS Cooperative School Board
Board Meeting
May 4, 2006
Following Building Committee Meeting

Present: Jo Carpenter; Kathleen Kelley; Angela Brown; Jean Tremblay; Jay Holmes; Karen Cloutier; Donna Goodrich

Absent: Michelle Cormier; Anne Hill; Paul Partenope; Wendy Niskanen

Administration: Paul Bousquet; Keith Parent; Patrick Low; Dave Goyette

Press: Tom Rideout, Gail Scott

Public: John Carpenter

Jo Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

Pauline distributed packets of information including budgets, an SAU packet and handbook changes that will need to be approved at a future meeting.

School Calendar: The Gorham School Board will endorse the 06/07 school calendar after we have approved it. Several questions were asked including:

Has it been coordinated with Berlin? Reasonably, they have numerous half days due to a grant for the reading initiative. They start after Labor Day, we start before. But Patrick and SAU3's superintendent have shared calendars back and forth.

Should we communicate with the students what they should do on a half day? That is Berlin's role to communicate with them on that issue.

Will the specials (art, music) at Ed Fenn be affected by all the Fridays off, especially the three in a row in November? Paul Bousquet replied that teachers make adjustments and accommodations in their schedules for those situations.

Motion: made by Jean Tremblay to approve the 06/07 calendar as presented; seconded by Donna Goodrich; all in favor, motion passes.

Next item of business is replacing Mike Waddell on the building committee. The board agreed that it is important to replace him on this committee.

Task: Jo will call the board members not present and ask them if they are interested in serving on the Building Committee.

Jo next reported that Wendy Niskanen is again putting her resignation before the board for consideration. Discussion ensued regarding how to replace board members prior to elections. It was decided that there will be an advertisement placed in the paper for the open position(s). The process needs to be put on the next agenda. The articles of agreement will be followed as to residency of applicants. Discussion also focused on making applicants aware of the significant time commitment required of board members.

Jean Tremblay moved to accept Wendy Niskanen's resignation from the board; Jay Holmes seconded.

Kathleen Kelley said she is uncomfortable with the situation that has caused this. She suggested that we look at our policy on attendance because Wendy was clear with us that she couldn't attend. Jo also stated that she is not pleased with the current wording of the policy.

Jean Tremblay called the question; Donna Goodrich seconded; all were in favor of calling the vote.

Five were in favor of accepting the resignation; two opposed (Kathleen Kelley and Angela Brown); motion passed.

Task: Patrick will send Wendy a thank you note for her service to the cooperative planning board and to the cooperative school board.

Kathleen made a motion to direct the SAU office to place an ad for the open positions; Donna Goodrich seconded; all were in favor, motion passed.

Next meeting has been changed to May 31 at 6:30 in Shelburne due to all the public forums and joint building committee meetings in light of school activities as well.

There will be a joint transition meeting with Gorham School Board on June 21, 2006. It is possible that we can conduct most of our business after this meeting so that our next regularly scheduled meeting can focus entirely on the report from the building committee. June 29th is the last possible date for that meeting.

Kathleen Kelley shared that the facilities committee met and determined that the committee is needed in the future but right now is redundant, "too many layers." The committee's report will be included in the packet for the next meeting.

It was also suggested that we have a retreat in July or August since we will have numerous new board members.

It was also suggested to look at committees at the next meeting.

John Carpenter reminded the board that the meeting on June 16 with Ed Murdough from the state is very important.

Kathleen Kelley reminds us we need to review the population projection report and plan for an eventual ballooning if the prison workers come in, even if it is just temporary.

Jean Tremblay moved to adjourn, seconded by Karen Cloutier at 8:56 p.m. All were in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Brown, Secretary
GRS Cooperative School Board