

Joint School Board Meeting
Gorham School Board &
GRS Cooperative School Board

Wednesday, June 21, 2006
7:00 p.m.
GMHS Library

Gorham School Board Members: Leona Guay

Randolph School Board Members: Carol Gagnon

Shelburne School Board Members: Bob Corrigan

Cooperative School Board Members: Jo Carpenter; Jay Holmes; Jean Tremblay; Michelle Cormier; Karen Cloutier; Anne Hill; Angela Brown; Paul Partenope

Administration: Patrick Low, Superintendent; Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator; Keith Parent, Principal GMHS; Paul Bousquet, Principal, Ed Fenn Elementary; Chad Miller; Becky Hebert-Sweeney, Special Ed co-director; Dave Goyette

Public: Gail Scott, Berlin Daily Sun; Paul Cormier, Mary Lou Rethman, Joe Rodgers, Mitch Weathers, Nancy Burlison and Greg Corrigan.

I. Welcome: Jo Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. and invited all in attendance to share some refreshments.

II. 50 year reflection: Jo Carpenter shared that tonight we ceremoniously pass the key. This has taken 50 years of hard work, since the first cooperative study began almost fifty years ago. All attempts previously lost by a close vote until this one. We believe it was worth the wait and all the hard work. Jo thanked the members of the cooperative planning board for the well-crafted articles of agreement. She continued by pointing out that this cooperative board was formed last May and we've been working toward taking over the schools.

III. Recognition of Board Members: We would not be here today in such good shape without the Gorham School Board, past and present. The excellent students are a credit to the boards who have supported the children of Gorham as well as students of Randolph and Shelburne. The boards of Randolph and Shelburne have done a wonderful job of looking out for the education of the children of their towns, even though it was frustrating sometimes to not have a vote.

IV. Vision for the future: Jo shared that the cooperative board has worked on a vision—one that values the kids and the best education we possibly can provide but at the same time taking into account the taxpayers. We are enthusiastic and ready and want to hear from you, the public. We will make policy and give freedom to the administration to carry out those policies. This is not always the easiest path, but we will lead forward and take the reins from the three towns.

Following Jo's comments, Leona Guay (chair of the Gorham School Board) and Angela Brown (chair of the Randolph School Board) presented Jo Carpenter (chair of the GRS Cooperative School Board) with a handmade key.

Jo thanked Patrick Low for the past two years of service as Superintendent of SAU #20 and wished him well in his new job. She also welcomed Paul Bousquet as the new Superintendent of SAU #20.

V. Building Committee: Nothing to report at this meeting. The committee will be joining the cooperative board for a portion of the June 27th meeting.

VI. Policy Committee: The policy committee shared the final wording for Policy BEA, acceptance of which was tabled until the meeting next week.

VII. Alumni Association: Patrick shared that the Alumni Association is willing to participate in the building project as well as in other issues.

VIII. Summer Overview: Patrick and Paul Bousquet will be available to each other during the transition. There is significant activity occurring during the summer even though school is out. Jo shared that the cooperative board will be meeting with the town of Gorham during July to work out shared services and other areas of concern.

Paul Bousquet reported that curriculum work at his school is done. Mrs. Graff, the librarian, has begun the transition to sharing duties at the Middle/High School. They are working on getting the building back in shape for September, and getting ready for the transition to a new principal.

Keith Parent reported that summer school is underway for the Middle School. Rob Hamel and Lynn Hunt are doing some differentiated learning. Becky Hebert-Sweeny will also be working on differentiated learning for some students as well. She reported that this process will be making use of all the data collected from testing during the school year. Keith also shared that English and Social Studies curriculum work is going on as well.

IX. Open Board Seats: The cooperative board members proceeded to interview the following candidates for the open Gorham and Shelburne seats: Joe Rodgers from Gorham; and Mitch Weathers, Nancy Burlison, and Greg Corrigan from Shelburne. A decision will hopefully be made at the cooperative meeting on June 27.

X. Adjournment: At 8:55 p.m. Paul Partenope moved to adjourn, seconded by Michelle Cormier; all in favor.