

Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School Board

Tuesday, April 17, 2007, 6:30pm

Minutes of Meeting

Shelburne Town Hall

Board Members Present: Jo Carpenter, Angela Brown, Greg Corrigan, Michelle Cormier, Donna Goodrich, Anne Hill, Reed Leberman, Steven Michaud, Paul Partenope

Late Arrival: Kathleen Kelley (left at 7:45 pm)

Student members: Kate Landry (left at 8:00 pm); Jennifer Cloutier (left at 9:00)

Administration: Paul Bousquet, Superintendent; Karen Cloutier, Principal, Ed Fenn (left at 10:00 pm); Dave Goyette, Maintenance Director/Transportation Coordinator (left at 10:00 pm); Rebecca Hebert-Sweeny, Director of Special Services; Bill Kaczinski, Assistant Principal; Keith Parent, Principal, GMHS; Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator

Public:

Wendy Mayerson, Minute Taker (left at 10:05 pm), Mike Brosnan, Anne Evankow, Kayla Demers, Dan Gorham, Sarah Tremblay (left at 6:50), Jean Tremblay (left at 6:50), Fran Wolf

Press: Gail Scott (left at 8:45)

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the GRS Cooperative School Board was called to order at 6:35 pm.

II. Official Vote for School Board Member Appointment

The Board was introduced to Steve Michaud, applicant for the open Gorham seat on the GRS Cooperative School Board.

Motion made by Anne Hill to approve the appointment of Steve Michaud as a Gorham representative on the GRS Cooperative School Board. Motion was seconded by Paul Partenope; all in favor.

III. Public Comments

None.

IV. Written Communication

A note from Pauline Plourde, thanking everyone for their kindness and support in the recent weeks, was passed around for everyone to read.

V. Presentation of Students – Trip to England

Kayla Demers and Ann Evankow spoke regarding their trip to England. They told the Board that there were many benefits from staying with families, rather than in a hotel room. One benefit included getting to know some English students who are now visiting here and with whom they are strengthening their relationships. Fran Wolf, trip chaperone, commented on how well things went and the students' positive interactions with other area schools. Members of the Board asked some questions regarding the structure of schools in England, whether there were difficulties in communicating with the students, and did they think the students in England were exposed to the same types of peer pressure as teens in the US. Board members also were curious about how the teens handled alcohol in light of the culture. The students indicated that the English students spent more time with their families than teens in the US and also stayed at home with groups of friends on a regular basis.

VI. Presentation Sarah Tremblay – Students' Role in Building Project

Sarah Tremblay and other students at the GMHS compiled a survey after the District meeting because of the disappointment they felt about the new school not being voted in.

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Sarah requested permission to return to a Board or Building Committee meeting after the Board members had a chance to review it as it contains a lot of information. She emphasized that the students would like the Board to take them having a role in the building project seriously. The survey was handed out to grades six – twelve with a very high return rate. Sarah pointed out that one surprising result was that the students stated that they do feel safe in the building, which was contradictory to other items answered in the survey. She also pointed out that the survey indicated that the majority of the students do not want to go Berlin and feel that is very important for the Board to know this. It was suggested that copies of the survey be sent to the Building Committee.

VII. Adoption of Minutes March 7, 2007, March 14, 2007 and March 29, 2007

Minutes were reviewed and discussed.

A motion was made to accept the March 7, 2007 minutes by Greg Corrigan. The motion was seconded by Donna Goodrich; all in favor except for Anne Hill and Greg Corrigan who abstained.

A motion was made by Kathleen Kelley to accept the March 14, 2007 public minutes. The motion was seconded by Anne Hill; all in favor.

A motion was then made by Kathleen Kelley to accept the non-public minutes. The motion was seconded by Greg Corrigan; all in favor.

A motion was made to accept the March 29, 2007, Board meeting minutes as amended by Greg Corrigan. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Kelley; all in favor.

A motion was made to accept the March 29, 2007, Non-public minutes by Greg Corrigan. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Kelley; all in favor except for Anne Hill and Steve Michaud who abstained.

VIII. Legislative Liaison Report

Paul Partenope spoke regarding some important legislation that are being addressed including special education laws, the state retirement system, and revising the mechanisms for dealing with public employee dispute resolution. Paul expressed his concern that a lot of items that come up need to have an immediate response and he does not feel comfortable representing the Board's opinion without input from the members of the Board. One member expressed her opinion that she thought and was relying on Paul to do these things on the Board's behalf as she felt most of the people on the Board did not have time to deal with all these issues. Paul informed the Board that since they meet only once a month he has been making contacts to express his opinions as a private citizen. It was decided that items should be sent to the Board and use an e-mail poll for a yes/no urgent question. Responses would be attached to the meeting minutes to satisfy the Right to Know laws. For issues it would be a stronger stance if the response was from the Board, not an individual. A proposal was put forth to schedule a separate meeting to deal with the legislative issues all at once when they are submitted so Paul can communicate the Board's opinion. The Board was cautioned that doing business on the internet will start to make more work and lose perspective as a Board without the give and take that happens in a face to face meeting. Paul then asked for the Board's opinion on the two bills regarding retirement and bargaining unit HB 653 – GRS District HB653 supports the original bill.

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A motion was made by Paul Partenope to send an e-mail to support the working group's version of the retirement bill (original version). The motion was seconded by Greg Corrigan; all favor.

A motion was made by Kathleen Kelly for GRS Cooperative Board to support SB 88, except for number 3. The motion was seconded by Greg Corrigan; all in favor.

IX. SPED Director's Report

Becky Hebert-Sweeny inquired if there were any questions about the report enclosed in the agenda package. She stated that currently they are wrapping up this year, organizing for the summer, and getting ready for next fall.

X. Maintenance Director's Report

Dave Goyette informed the Board that there was an error regarding the transportation section of his report. All of the buses have NOT been inspected, as the 1996 bus wasn't taken in for inspection due to safety issues. They are hoping to address those issues and have it inspected. Members asked questions regarding boiler situation and if fixing is the most cost effective manner to deal with the situation, which was confirmed. The repair job will be put out for bid.

XI. Technology Director's Report

Chad Miller informed the Board that training will begin on May 8th on the Edline system which will be implemented in steps. In regard to concerns expressed about the time it will take the teachers to add another administrative task to their day, the Board was told that transferring information is a quick process that interfaces with the currently used software. The Board was also told that this system is going to revolutionize how parents, students and teachers communicate.

XII. EFS Principal's Report

Karen Cloutier inquired if there were any questions in response to her report. She told the Board that as of today there is a strong physical education candidate. The first grade position has become a lengthy process as they received several resumes but few with primary experience. Of the five candidates contacted to interview on May 8th, four are coming. Candidates have been asked to submit to the interview Committee by the end of this month a lesson plan and how they envision the day of a first grade student. Interview questions will then be based on what they submit. Those who make it through the first round will come back and present their lesson plan in the classroom.

XIII. GMHS Principal's Report

Keith asked for three volunteers to sign the diplomas. The Board thought a representative from each town would be appropriate. The following people will do the signing: Jo Carpenter, Angela Brown, and Anne Hill.

The Board was asked by Mike Brosnan and Fran Wolf to consider their request for a trip to Italy for the students next year. Questions were asked regarding logistics, cost responsibility, and number of students attending.

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A motion was made by Kathleen Kelley to approve the trip to Italy. Anne Hill seconded the motion; all in favor.

The Board was informed that the Scholarship Handbook has been published. Bids were solicited for the yearbook and a recommendation was made to continue working with Josten's for the school yearbook. Kate Landry told the Board that Josten now has an internet interface to work on the yearbook, which has made things a lot easier and that representatives from Josten have come up to Gorham several times to train students on using the software.

A motion was made by Greg Corrigan to enter into a contract with Josten. The motion was seconded by Donna Goodrich; all in favor.

A description of the recent trip to Longmeadow, Massachusetts to meet a Holocaust survivor was described by both Kate Landry and Keith Parent.

XIV. Business Administrator's Report

a. Acceptance of IDEA Funds 2007-2008

Becky informed the Board that in order to put in the budget for the IDEA funds the Board has to put in a motion to accept the proposal to be submitted.

A motion was made by Greg Corrigan to approve the IDEA 2007 – 2008 budget. The motion was seconded by Steve Michaud; all in favor.

b. Insurance Money for Building Repairs?

The Board was informed that there is a \$1,000 deductible on the insurance coverage for the schools, per incident and will cover the cost to replace/repair damaged items. It was also relayed to the Board that the office has been told to document all losses from the recent flooding, including overtime etc to apply for assistance from FEMA. It was noted that this most recent storm had caused significant damage including, the Ed Fenn library ceiling falling down, water in kitchen, the GMHS science wing is filled with more buckets than ever, and there are leaks on the second floor coming through the walls. Since the damage is so significant, pictures are being taken to document the damage.

c. Cost of Regionalization

It was reported that a dialogue has been started with Berlin but, that any type of regionalization would have to be on a warrant article which would take a minimum of three years. Pauline will present a hypothetical budget to the Board at a future meeting that includes not only the tuition of \$9,000 per high school student, but also teachers, transportation, special education, summer school, training, and building issues.

d. End of Year Fund Balance

Pauline will give a final report of the end of the year fund balance at next month's meeting.

e. Line Item Transfers

A request from was made by Youth and Government group to transfer funds from the co-curricular travel line from the social study line.

A motion to accept the transfer of \$227 to the co-curricular travel line was made by Greg Corrigan. The motion was seconded by Paul Partenope; all in favor.

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Keith Parent pointed out that this was the first time that our students' bill was selected for a special award, and that Jenn Cloutier was elected Speaker of the House. The Federal Reserve team also won their first round and will be going to regionals.

The Board was also made aware that the business office will present more requests for budget line transfers at the May and June meetings to use the fund balance. Fund balance will be requested for repairs, buses, library books, language arts system.

f. Review of Café Services

An RFP from Café Services was discussed. Although we are in a five year contract and in year three, we could choose to terminate the contract with a 60 day notice. It was noted however, that if there is a loss in the cafeteria operations they absorb it, and any profits accrue to the district. There were no complaints noted at the Ed Fenn. Student comments from the GMHS feel they have made an increased effort to offer more options since the beginning of the year. Keith noted that a survey was done regarding the GMSH feelings about Café Services and he will bring the results of the survey to the next Board meeting.

A motion to renew a one year contract with Café Services and continue to monitor their quality was made by Greg Corrigan. The motion was seconded by Paul Partenoque; all in favor.

XV. Superintendent's Report

a. Nomination Assistant Principal GMHS

Dan Gorham was presented for nomination for the GMHS Assistant Principal position. His educational background and work experience was summarized for the Board, along with some excerpts from references read. It was noted that the process went very well and the Committee was all together on this.

A motion was brought forward by Donna Goodrich to nominate Dan Gorham as Assistant Principal/Coach/Teacher at \$52,000 per year. The motion was seconded by Anne Hill; all in favor except for Paul Partenoque who abstained.

b. Nominations Administration/Paras/Maint

Veronique Legendre was brought forward as a nominee for the Special Education High School Teacher position. Her educational background, experience and comments from references were reviewed.

A motion was made to approve Ms. Legendre for a 185 day contract at \$37,248 by Greg Corrigan. The motion was seconded by Anne Hill; all in favor.

c. Nominations Co-Curricular GMHS See Principal's Report

Details of the administrative salaries were discussed.

A motion to approve the administrative salaries as presented was made by Donna Goodrich. The motion was seconded by Greg Corrigan; all in favor.

Details of the support staff salaries were discussed.

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A motion to accept the nomination of support staff salaries as amended was made by Donna Goodrich. The motion was seconded by Greg Corrigan; all in favor.

Details of a split salary for the co-curricular activity position were discussed.

A motion to approve the split salary for the co-curricular activity position as presented was made by Donna Goodrich. The motion was seconded by Anne Hill; all in favor.

d. Role of Student Representative in the Board

There was discussion regarding what the role of the student representative is on the Board. It was decided that the students be encouraged to sit at table and to speak more. Members of the Board expressed their appreciation of having student reps on the Board and the significant contributions Kate and Jen have provided this past year.

e. School Board Self-Evaluation

The Board was to give a summary of the results from the School Board self-evaluation to review. A point was made regarding the need to use time more efficiently so that meetings were not so long. It was also suggested that Orientation be reinstated for new Board members. Policy got a high mark because the Board has done that well. Concern was expressed about the lack of planning for future years. It was noted that Board has been together only for one year in their current role so they should not be concerned that they don't have more planning done for future years. Suggestions were also made regarding how to show the teachers and staff the appreciation the Board has for their daily contributions to our schools.

f. Spring Meeting with Berlin School Board

It was decided that the Berlin School Board would be invited to attend the May 15th meeting at 6:00 pm at GHS library for a half hour meeting.

g. School Meeting Date with ALL Selectmen

The Board decided that although they would like to have a meeting with all the selectmen, they want to be prepared with the appropriate data to answer what they believe will be the questions prior to having the meeting. Therefore, they decided to target the meeting for sometime in June, July or August.

h. Adopt Ethics Statement, Sign Ethics Statement, Appoint School District Clerk, Determine Committee Appointments

The Ethics statement was passed around to be signed and dated by Board Members.

A motion was made to appoint Grace LaPierre, as clerk of the district for one year by Michelle Cormier. The motion was seconded by Paul Parteno; all in favor.

At 9:30 pm a motion to extend the meeting by 34 minutes by was made by Greg Corrigan. The motion was seconded by Paul Parteno; all in favor.

Due to time constraints the Committee assignments were passed over to be put on to May agenda.

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i. Other

A letter of recommendations from the Building Committee on how to proceed in response to the District meeting vote was submitted and presented by the superintendent.

The first recommendation from the Committee was that they would like to not be limited to the hiring of an outside party to do survey – due to cost, public perception, and return on investment. Members of the Board expressed numerous concerns including the perception that would result in not using an outside firm, costs, and the source of funding for the survey. The Board decided to not approve the recommendation, have the Superintendent do further research on the options of doing an outside survey, and send copies to all registered voters in all three communities.

The second Building Committee recommendation was to hire Banwell or another architectural company to discuss the failed proposal. The purpose of this recommendation would include, but not be limited to, reviewing the plan with an eye toward further consolidation, identifying savings, determining how to do long term phasing of project, feasibility of K-8 at the Ed Fenn, and doing less work at GMHS.

An objection was made to beginning such a serious and lengthy discussion at such a late hour, 10:00 pm.

The Board decided to meet at prior to the SAU Meeting at 5:00 pm on April 30, 2007, at the T & C to review the Building Committee requests and limit the discussion to one hour.

A motion to extend the meeting for 30 minutes at 10:00 pm was made by Greg Corrigan. The motion was seconded by Donna Goodrich; 7 in favor, 2 opposed (Anne Hill, Michele Cormier).

At 10:10, Keith Parent, Becky Hebert-Sweeny, Karen Cloutier, Chad Miller, and Dave Goyette left the meeting.

XVI. GRS Policies

a. Section G – 1st Reading

Paul Partenope presented Section G, with several items of discussion.

At 10:35, Greg Corrigan moved to extend the meeting 10 minutes, seconded by Angela Brown; 7 in favor, 2 opposed (Anne Hill, Michele Cormier).

Greg Corrigan moved to accept the first reading of Section G, seconded by Angela Brown; all were in favor.

b. Section I – 1st Reading

Paul Partenope moved to extend the meeting for 12 minutes, seconded by Greg Corrigan; 7 in favor; 2 opposed (Anne Hill, Michele Cormier).

Paul Partenope presented Section I, with several items of discussion. Board members with continued questions were directed to come to the next policy meeting or share their questions with the committee prior to that meeting.

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Paul Partenope moved to accept the first reading of Section I, seconded by Greg Corrigan. All were in favor.

XVII. Non Public Session: None needed.

XVIII. Next Regular Meeting, Tuesday, May 15, 2007, 6:30p.m. Gorham Middle High School. It is important to note that due to construction at the Randolph Town Hall, meetings will not take place until construction is done.

XIX. Other

XX. Adjournment: at 11:03 Greg Corrigan moved to adjourn, seconded by Reed Leberman; all were in favor.