

**School Board Meeting
Berlin & GRS Cooperative
Berlin High School Library
October 17, 2007**

Present for the GRS Cooperative Board: Patricia Flynn, Anne Hill, Steve Michaud, Donna Goodrich, Jo Carpenter and Katie Kelley.

Present for the Berlin School Board: Brian Leclerc, Nicole Plourde, Mitch Couture, Martha Laflamme and Nathan Morin

Administration present for the Berlin School: John Moulis, Marion Huntley and various Administrators

Administration present for GRS Cooperative: Paul Bousquet and Pauline Plourde

Mitch Couture called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Do you as a Board feel that regionalization of our High Schools is feasible at this time?

It was emphasized that collaboration continues to be apparent as we share classes, transportation repairs, and fuel oil purchases to name a few.

A member of the Berlin Board commented that the recent Survey conducted by KD Paine indicated that constituents of the Cooperative are not currently ready for such an endeavor. The BSB is in the process of reviewing the recommendation of their Building Committee to see how these recommendations could be applied as they look at downsizing. Also a member believed that the Cooperative Board would have to place it on their warrant. It was stated that three members of the BSB don't feel it is feasible at this time.

What do you see as the earliest time frame that Berlin could begin to study

regionalization? *After much discussion from both Boards, it looks like the earliest a question could be placed on the warrant was a year away, and that is only if the BSB asks the city council and they agree to place it on the warrant. It was stated that in the city form of government, the City Council is the group that makes the decision as opposed to a town form of government where the citizens make the decision. A typical planning study is for 18 to 36 months. A comment indicated the worst case scenario would be by 2011.*

When will you have definitive answer as to the solutions for your overcrowding and deteriorating building issues? *Administration is currently looking at classroom space and programs. This could take three months bringing it to early January according to Mr. Moulis. After administration takes a look, a core group of the communities will be invited to participate.*

Has this Board considered joining the GRS Cooperative School District? *The Berlin Board has talked informally with each other; however, the BSB has not addressed the topic at one of their meetings. It was also questioned if the City Council had broached the subject in a formal way. The BSB has not brought it to the City Council for consideration at this point. On this topic it was pointed out that the children and faculty would have to benefit. They would be looking at combining 800 students and not doubling that number which would be a surmountable task.*

A discussion around curriculum arose pointing out that we should start to look at what textbooks we are each using in the event we should ever combine. It would also be beneficial for those families that migrate between the Berlin and GRS Cooperative communities.

Other: *Paul will ask that Keith Parent, GMHS Principal and Gary Bisson, BHS Principal meet to begin to look at ways to further the collaborative efforts between the Cooperative and Berlin schools.*

At 6:45 p.m., Berlin School Board Member Brian Leclerc stated, "Why don't you go back to your communities, we have work to do."

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 p.m.