

Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School Board
Tuesday, November 20, 2007, 6:30pm
Minutes of Meeting

Edward Fenn Elementary School Computer Room

GRS Board Members Present: Jo Carpenter, Angela Brown, Michelle Cormier, Greg Corrigan, Patricia Flynn, Donna Goodrich, Anne Hill, Kathleen Kelley, Steven Michaud, Carol Miller, and Paul Partenope

Student member: Ashton Paine

Administration: Paul Bousquet, Superintendent; Karen Cloutier, Principal, Ed Fenn; Dan Gorham, Assistant Principal, GMHS; Dave Goyette, Maintenance Director/Transportation Coordinator; Rebecca Hebert-Sweeny, Director of Special Services; Chad Miller, Technology Director; Renee Muise; Keith Parent, Principal, GMHS; and Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator

Public: Preston Baillargeon (~6:30 – 7:35), Sarah Baillargeon (~6:30 – 7:35), Stephanie Baillargeon (~6:30 – 7:35), Robert Balon, Christine Lemoine, Ben Mayerson (~6:50 – 8:35), Wendy Mayerson, Minute Taker

Press: Craig Lyons – Berlin Daily Sun, Bethany Tayler – Berlin Reporter

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the GRS Cooperative School Board was called to order at 6:40 pm.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Approval of Minutes October 16, 2007, October 17, 2007, November 7, 2007

Katie Kelley made a motion to approve the October 16, 2007, public and non-public minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Greg Corrigan; 10 in favor; one abstained (Carol Miller).

Katie Kelley motioned to table the October 17, 2007 minutes, until the December 2007 meeting, to give time to include more specific details. Several members felt that the minutes did not reflect enough specifics of the discussion. The motion to table the minutes was seconded by Anne Hill; all in favor.

Katie Kelley made a motion to approve both sets of November 7, 2007, minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Anne Hill; 9 in favor; 2 abstained (Greg Corrigan and Patricia Flynn).

IV. Tour of Building Security System

Members of the Board and Administration went to the main office to see the security system just recently installed at the Ed Fenn.

V. Written Communication

a. Investigating Allegations of Employee Misconduct

Paul Bousquet indicated that this information was distributed as an FYI and not in response to anything currently occurring in the school district.

b. School Approval Edward Fenn

The Board was informed that the Ed Fenn has now met the conditional standards set by the state.

c. Email from Keith Parent –NEASC Information

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The Board members were informed that this e-mail was shared to keep the members up-to-date on what is happening currently with the accreditation issue, as requested at the October meeting.

d. Right to know guidelines were distributed for Board members notebooks.

e. Resignation letter

Paul Bousquet read a letter of resignation from Jeanne Dorman, who plans to retire at the end of the 2010 school year.

Katie Kelley made a motion to accept her resignation with regret. Greg Corrigan seconded the motion; all in favor.

f. E-mail correspondence

An e-mail from Rob Balon was read regarding the distribution of gift certificates to the staff for Christmas. He felt it was not appropriate given the climate of the valley at this time. It has been a tradition. The Finance Committee did consider it and looked at it and included in the budget. No motion to reconsider was made.

VI. Report of Student Council Representative

Board members were given documentation regarding a suicide awareness/prevention training session that occurred on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at the GMHS. Ashton reported that it was a very informative event.

In response to the request from the Board at the October meeting, Ashton presented the board with a survey the he had done regarding what sport the students would like to have replace field hockey. The number one choice was volleyball and number two choice was golf. Other items from the survey were also outlined. There was also discussion regarding the addition of black as an additional school color.

VII. GRS Policies

a. Policy J 2nd Reading

Paul Partenope discussed the changes to the J policies as edited at the October meeting. At the request of members of the Board further editing of the wording of some of the policies were suggested. It was also suggested that research be conducted regarding appropriateness of wording in several policies.

Paul Partenope moved to adopt all second readings of J policies, except for JLCE, which requires more research. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Kelley; all in favor.

Paul also announced that Alice Evankow submitted her resignation in October. After speaking with Anne Hill he suggested she become a member of the policy committee.

Paul Partenope made a motion to add Anne Hill to the policy committee. The motion was seconded by Donna Goodrich; 10 in favor, 1 abstained (Anne Hill).

Angela Brown will send Alice a letter of thanks for all her hard work done during her tenure on the policy committee.

VIII. Legislative Liaison Report

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Paul Partenope distributed a legislative update and pointed out significant items to the Board.

IX. Building Update

a. Proposals from Building Committee

Paul Bousquet pointed out the value of the efforts that the Building Committee has gathered over the years and the fact that we wouldn't be where we are today without that work and effort. He also added that it has not been easy to go ahead and pick out the items to select from the project put together last March for the voters this year.

Paul presented an overview of the three options. Members of the Board expressed concern that it be made clear to the voters in March, 2008, this is only stage one, and that it will take many years to fix everything that needs to be done.

b. Bonding Scenarios and Recommendations

Paul Bousquet recommended that the Board go to the voters with the "must have list" and make sure the voters know that this is just the beginning.

There was discussion regarding the appropriateness of addressing such an important issue at 8:30 at night, with the amount of questions that need to be addressed and the knowledge that there is dissension among the Board members opinions of what should be done to the schools.

A request was also made to have a report from Keith Parent regarding his concerns with the proposed "must need list" and to have someone from the NAESC come speak to the Board. The need for more planning was also discussed. The Board was also reminded that there are time constraints due to budgets needing to be submitted.

Donna Goodrich made a motion to table the building update discussion and have a meeting with the Board, all the Building Committee members, and David Laurin within the next several weeks. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Kelley; all in favor.

The Board set the meeting for Thursday, November 29, 2007, at the GMHS library at 6:30 pm. The only item on the agenda will be the building and phasing.

X. SPED Director's Report

Rebecca Hebert-Sweeny requested any input or questions that Board members may have after reading her monthly report. Board members expressed appreciation for the inclusion of information on various disorders to educate the Board about what issues teachers and students potentially face.

XI. Maintenance Director's Report

David Goyette made a request to purchase a couple of snowblowers from the proceeds of the bus sale. After discussion it was concluded that there was no need to bring this before the Board as a motion.

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There was also discussion regarding the staph infection memo. The Board was informed that the students are cleaning out their lockers on a regular basis so that they can be properly disinfected.

XII. Technology Director's Report

It was noted that photos of President Clinton's visit was added within an hour of his visit to the website. Appreciation was expressed for the ability of the parents' to be able to access their middle school children's homework.

XIII. EFS Principal's Report

It was brought to the attention of the Board members that the "My Voice Survey" indicated that a large number of staff members felt overloaded by their workload. Karen Cloutier indicated that it serves to point out the reality that even though numbers of students has gone down, that does not mean that the work has gone down too.

Bullying in the school was an area of concern according to the students, but not from the teachers. These surveys dovetail with information already known by Karen and she plans to address the issues.

Karen provided the Board with an updates on the grants. The Safe Routes to School Grants – Karen went down to Concord and met with the board and we should know sometime mid-December. The Lion Clubs grant for the fencing should give us a response sometime in April or May.

Two Grant applications are going to be submitted for funding for the Response to Intervention program this spring.

XIV. GMHS Principal's Report

a. 1st Draft Program of Studies GHS

A brief description for new Board members was given by Keith Parent on how the administration goes about putting together a program of study. He pointed out that the teachers work hard to have electives on a two year cycle to allow students to have a larger number of courses to choose from.

Discussion followed regarding levels of classes, classes being offered and where do we go from here.

Kathleen Kelley moved to approve the Program of Studies with the changes as noted. The motion was seconded by Greg Corrigan; all in favor.

Paul Partenope made a motion to extend the meeting for thirty minutes at 9:32. The motion was seconded by Greg Corrigan; all in favor.

Keith also announced that two students will be playing in the all American Band marching in the Macy's Day Parade and two students got into All State Chorus.

A school in Germany is interested in doing a student exchange with us. After doing some preliminary research, Keith would like permission to continue gathering information regarding the exchange program with Germany.

Greg Corrigan made a motion to give Keith Parent permission to continue exploring the Germany student exchange program. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Kelley; all in favor.

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There was discussion regarding the “My Voice Report” for GMHS. One issue addressed was bullying, which administrative stated typically occurs in the middle school.

XV. Business Administrator’s Report

a. Health Insurance Election House Bill 790

Greg Corrigan made a motion that although we understand Primex3 is offering us a choice to expand our dependent eligibility criteria, we are opting to not offer this coverage at this time but understand that we can change this decision at future enrollments. The motion was seconded by Michele Cormier; all in favor.

b. 2008-2009 Staffing Budget-Athletic Trainer – Administration does not believe there is a need at this time as staff is all trained in CPR/First Aid.

c. Budget First Draft 2008-2009 – Included in packet with no discussion

d. Tax Rate Comparison 2006-2007 to 2007-2008 - Included in packet with no discussion

XVI. Superintendent’s Report

a. Mission Statement GRS Cooperative – Tabled to a future meeting.

b. Support Staff Negotiations – Paul informed the Board that he’s been conversing with the union on language and will be meeting with them in December.

c. Co-Curricular Nominations – Greg Corrigan made a motion to accept the co-curricular nominations as presented; seconded by Angela Brown; all in favor.

d. Budget Public Hearing Date and Bond Hearing Date – The budget hearing will be held on January 31 with the District meeting to be held on Saturday, March 8 beginning at 10:00 am on a motion by Kathleen Kelley with a second from Greg Corrigan; all in favor.

XVII. Non Public Session A motion was made by Kathleen Kelly to go to non-public session under RSA 91-A:3II c at 7:10 p.m. A polling of Board members was made: Michelle Cormier, yes; Anne Hill, yes; Patricia Flynn, yes; Angela Brown, yes; Kathleen Kelley, yes; Paul Parteno, yes; Steve Michaud, yes; Greg Corrigan, yes; Donna Goodrich, yes; and Jo Carpenter, yes. at 7:10pm.

On a motion by Angela Brown and a second by Kathleen Kelley the Board came out of non-public meeting at 7:36 pm.

XVIII. Next Regular Meeting December 18, 2007, in the Shelburne Town Hall

XIX. Other – None

XX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Parteno, and seconded by Greg Corrigan. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm