

Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School Board
Thursday, November 29, 2007, 6:30pm
Minutes of Meeting

Gorham Middle High School Library Room

GRS Board Members Present: Jo Carpenter, Angela Brown, Michelle Cormier, Patricia Flynn, Donna Goodrich, Kathleen Kelley, and Paul Partenope, Anne Hill (6:40), Greg Corrigan (6:47)

Absent: Steven Michaud, Carol Miller

Student member: Absent.

Administration: Paul Bousquet, Superintendent; Karen Cloutier, Principal, Ed Fenn; Dave Goyette, Maintenance Director/Transportation Coordinator; Keith Parent, Principal, GMHS; and Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator

Public: Robert Balon, John Carpenter, Bob Demers, Conrad Deutsch, David Laurin (Banwell Architects), Ben Mayerson, Wendy Mayerson (Minute Taker), and Jean Tremblay,

Press: Gail Scott – Berlin Daily Sun, Bethany Tayler – Berlin Reporter

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the GRS Cooperative School Board was called to order at 6:36 pm.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Building Update

a. Proposals from Building Committee

Documents were distributed to all attending of the “Banwell plan” phased over four years. David explained how he assembled the phasing options. He reported that according to Ed Murdough, state reimbursement can be spread over a five year period as long as the value of the bond is at least 25% of the replacement value. Sequencing has been based on most pressing needs. Questions were asked regarding the details of line items and what they included, and when the work would be done. It was again emphasized that the voters need to know that this is a phased project and requests for bonds will continue for the duration of the phasing. The difference in using a bank construction loan versus the bond bank was also discussed.

The items that are not being addressed were also discussed. They include, but are not limited to: middle school and high school separation, gym, an increase in square footage, cafetorium, life skills, significant upgrades to science rooms, energy efficiency, technology, and storage

Concern was expressed regarding the focus of the project and whether it meets the facility/educational needs and whether this phased plan would be able to address those items that will keep the school accredited.

Individuals expressed their concerns with various aspects of the phasing projects that may not really fix the issues and provide the necessary features to deliver the curriculum that needs to be addressed.

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Principals were asked what they thought about the project and if it will fit their needs. Opinions were expressed that we need to get something done to stop the leaks and make the environment safe, comfortable, and educationally sound.

The chair then asked around to see how and where everyone stands. There was discussion regarding raising funds through donation, expressions of concerns with the plan, the economy, and the necessity to make sure that the immediate issues are addressed.

b. Bonding Scenarios and Recommendations

Greg Corrigan made a motion that two warrant articles be put up for vote at the March meeting, the first being \$4.995 million (year 1 option) then proceed to a second warrant that would address the remaining items necessary to maintain accreditation and safety (items 6, 10, 13) for \$2.710 million for a total of \$7.705 million. The motion was seconded by Michelle Cormier. Discussion then followed regarding the order of the warrants and items included.

After discussion a vote was taken 4 in favor, 5 opposed – motion failed.

Greg Corrigan made a motion that for two warrant articles; the first composed of items 1 – 7 and 13 plus asbestos abatement for a total of \$5.730 million addressing the most critical issues of safety and the second warrant article would be the kitchen/café for \$2.245 million to maintain accreditation and safety. The total for the two bonds would be \$7.975 million. The motion was seconded by Michelle Cormier. Discussion followed.

After discussion a vote was taken 3 in favor, 5 opposed – motion failed.

Greg Corrigan made a motion to extend the meeting 20 minutes to 10:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Kelley.

All in favor

Paul made a motion to go to option 3 with the exception of item #3 the site improvement for a total of \$11.240. No second

Anne made a motion for one warrant article to include items 1-5, 10, and 13 for a total of \$7.630 million. The motion was seconded by Patricia Flynn.

After discussion a vote was taken 4 in favor, 5 opposed – motion failed.

Discussion followed regarding reasons for the “no” votes

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Michele Cormier made a motion to have two separate warrants:

Warrant Number One-

Roof Replacement Both Buildings-\$1,540,000
Sprinkler System (MSHS)-\$1,100,000
Repair Gym Wall (MSHS)-\$305,000
Science Wing Renovations-\$1,550,000
New Egress Stairs (MSHS)-\$425,000
Asbestos and Hazardous Material Abatement-\$75,000
Total-\$4,995,000

Warrant Number Two-

Renovations of Kitchen/Café/Administrative Offices (MSHS)-\$2,245,000
Replace Ceilings and Lights at EFS-\$390,000
Total-\$2,635,000

Total both Warrants-\$7,630,000

The motion was seconded by Anne Hill

Discussion ensued. There was a concern over the ceiling tiles at the EF that were cited by the State Fire Marshal. It was stated that an option might be to use the Building Capital Reserve Fund if the 2nd warrant article would not garner the necessary 2/3rd vote.

Vote 7 in favor, 2 opposed, motion passes

IV. Non Public Session – None needed

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

VI. Other

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Michelle Cormier, and seconded by Katie Kelley.
The meeting adjourned at 10:18 pm

wam