

# Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School Board

Tuesday, December 18, 2007, 6:30pm

## Minutes of Meeting

### Shelburne Town Hall

**GRS Board Members Present:** Jo Carpenter, Michelle Cormier, Greg Corrigan, Patricia Flynn, Anne Hill, Kathleen Kelley, Steven Michaud, Carol Miller, Paul Partenope, and Donna Goodrich (6:50)

**Absent:** Angela Brown

**Student member:** Ashton Paine (*left at 6:55pm*)

**Administration:** Paul Bousquet, Superintendent; Karen Cloutier, Principal, Ed Fenn; Dan Gorham, Assistant Principal, GMHS (@~7:20); Dave Goyette, Maintenance Director/Transportation Coordinator; Christine Lemoine, Guidance Counselor; Rebecca Hebert-Sweeny, Director of Special Services; Chad Miller, Technology Director; Renee Muise; Keith Parent, Principal, GMHS; and Pauline Plourde, Business Administrator

**Public:** Ben Mayerson, Minute Taker

**Press:** 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 Comments

None

#### III. Approval of Minutes October 17, 2007, November 20 and 29, 2007

A motion was made by Kathleen Kelley to approve the October 17, 2007, public and non-public minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Anne Hill; 5 in favor; 4 abstained (Greg Corrigan, Michelle Cormier, Carol Miller, Paul Partenope.).

A motion was made by Greg Corrigan to approve the November 20, 2007, public and non-public minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Kelley; all in favor.

A motion was made by Greg Corrigan to approve the November 29, 2007, public and non-public minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Anne Hill; 7 in favor; 2 abstained (Carol Miller and Steve Michaud).

#### IV. Written Communication

##### a. Enrollment Figures NESDEC

The report indicated that the enrollment is falling; however Paul Bousquet said he felt the figures were very fluid and that there will be changes in the next few years due to the federal prison.

##### b. Letter from Gov. Lynch

The letter pertaining to the closure of the mill in Groveton was briefly discussed. Paul Bousquet said if possible and appropriate, the District will consider any potential candidate.

##### c. Other

A card from the Middle School teachers and Paraprofessionals thanking the Board for the gift cards, was passed around.

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### V. Report of Student Council Representative

Ashton Paine reported that the recent talent show was very successful and the event raised about \$975. He also relayed a request from the student council that black be adopted as a school accent color.

**A motion was made by Paul Partenope to add black to the school colors. It was seconded by Carol Miller; all in favor.**

### VI. GRS Policies

Paul Partenope reported that there was no meeting this month and that the committee plans to reconvene in January. Currently, he is working on the code finder and table of contents.

### VII. School Board Self Evaluation

Evaluation forms are due ASAP. Only four board members have submitted theirs at this point. Jo asked that the remainder be submitted by Friday, December 21 as the agenda for January will include a discussion of the results.

### VIII. Legislative Liaison Report

Paul Partenope emailed a large school board association report to Board members. It includes 35 bills that are educationally oriented. He encourages the board to review the information as they become available. It was suggested that a date be scheduled to review this information.

### IX. Building Update

#### a. Strategy and Information to Public

Paul Bousquet presented a bullet point sheet with ideas for public outreach. The plan is to develop a single mailer with three separate topics (below) that would also be used as handouts at the forums and the District meeting. It was suggested to make it as simple as possible with the goal being getting more people to understand what is being proposed.

It was asked that they be available for review by the Board by January 15<sup>th</sup>. The mailer will go out after the forums.

1. Ben Mayerson is working on a table, which compares the 2007 proposal to the current ones.
2. Pauline is developing a piece that addresses the money issues, including bonding, tax and interest rates, and regionalization costs.
3. Paul Bousquet is working on detailed information about regionalization which will directly reference the RSA laws. Paul said Berlin needs to initiate several legal steps before anything else can be done.

It was recommended that all items be posted on the SAU website.

A member asked if there is a Plan B, if this year's proposal fails to pass. There was further discussion and some members expressed their ideas of what an alternative could be.

One member said it was very important that the public know that the emphasis is on keeping the students safe. One person said they felt that perhaps if asked, the board

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members should say that what is being presented is the bottom line, and if the vote fails the same items would be presented again next year.

Paul Bousquet said that a decision was made by the Board to bring to this proposal forward and that no other alternative should be offered.

Keith Parent said a member of the GRSEF alumni association told him that they would be willing to contribute partial funds towards refurbishment of the gym floor with the stipulation that the wall and roof be fixed first.

**b. Dates for Public Information Meetings**

The dates are January 22 (Shelburne Town Hall); January 23 (GMHS) in the Music Room; January 24 (Randolph Town Hall [*please note: changed to Fire Station*]). All will begin at 7 pm. Paul, Pauline and Jo will be available for all meetings. Paul Bousquet asked that administrators and Board members also be present.

The public will receive a post card prior to the forums that will list the forums' dates, time, and locations. The card will also list the bond and budget hearing, and the District meeting.

**X. SPED Director's Report**

Rebecca discussed her report and the four major sections of it. There was a brief Q/A follow up from Board members.

**XI. Maintenance Director's Report**

David submitted his written report. He announced that the last bus has arrived and will be registered soon.

**XII. Technology Director's Report**

Chad reviewed his written report.

He reported that a donation of ten boxes of networking cables and six computers are being offered by NCES. A monitor is also being offered for donation from another party. New software is being introduced for blogging etc.

He is looking into fiber optics as point to point is not working as well as expected. He has spoken to Time Warner with not a lot of success. Jo will provide another contact name.

There was a question and discussion about Edline calendar entries.

**There was a motion made by Paul Partenope to accept the wiring, computers and monitor. It was seconded by Greg Corrigan; all in favor.**

**XIII. EFS Principal's Report**

**a. January 11, 2008 full day for students.**

This day was going to be an in-service but because of the ski program it will be now a full day of school.

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The sidewalk grant has been approved, and some details are still being finalized.

### **XIV. GMHS Principal's Report**

Keith reviewed his packet. The school has been chosen as an outstanding school in NH. It was based on test scores. Keith felt that the excellent prep work being done at the EFS has positioned the GMHS for this recognition.

Keith discussed the Edline access stats. He noted the very low number of participants in Edline at the eleventh grade level. The school is still preparing paper reports as well.

Steffani Baillargeon's progress report will be discussed in non-public session.

**Anne Hill made a motion to let the students go on the overnight trip for the Leaders in Training event. Kathleen Kelley seconded the motion; all in favor.**

### **XV. Business Administrator's Report**

#### **a. Monthly Financial Report**

Pauline asked for any questions. There were none.

#### **b. Budget Second Draft 2008-2009**

Pauline went through the budget draft sections. There have been three versions that have come from Finance Committee meetings. She felt that the tax impact change is not too large. The overall operating budget change will increase by 3.58%.

Pertaining to building repairs; she quoted the tax numbers for the towns if only the school roofs were repaired. Since there would be no State Aid, there would be a very large tax increase. The fact that Milan's roof repair, which included better insulation, is saving a lot of oil is a selling point for the repairs at the GRS schools.

There is an item to increase the Building Capital Reserve fund by \$135,000. The voters will choose to commit fund balance monies to the Building Capital Reserve and Technology Funds. If there is no fund balance, then no funds would go into these reserves.

There was discussion about increasing funding in the Tuition Expendable Trust in order to be in line with other area Districts who plan to increase their funds to \$150,000.

To put the District back on its 10 year bus replacement cycle, another bus will be replaced at a cost of \$82,000 using \$25,000 from the Bus Capital Reserve.

Paul Bousquet said that program, curriculum, and technology budgets are mostly flat. Increases are a result of contracts with teachers, overall benefit increases, and energy costs.

There was a detailed discussion about the technology budget.

The Transportation budget was discussed. One driver has been consistently working over 35 hours even though contracted for 20 hours; the contract will be readjusted to better reflect what is taking place.

Pauline reviewed the open board positions that are open this election cycle.

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Paul asked if the Board is satisfied with the projected budget. If not, contact him with any comments.

The Finance Committee will meet again, before the next Board meeting.

**c. Warrants**

Pauline will have a draft warrant for the Board at their next meeting.

**XVI. Superintendent's Report**

**a. Mission Statement**

There was discussion regarding the statement. Paul asked that the Board members email him their ideas prior to the next meeting.

**b. Nominations**

**A motion was made by Kathleen Kelley to accept both nominations for the Paraprofessionals. The motion was seconded by Greg Corrigan; all in favor.**

**A motion was made by Kathleen Kelley to accept the Co-curricular Advisors. The motion was seconded by Anne Hill; 10 in favor 1 abstained (Greg Corrigan).**

**c. Board's Self Evaluation**

Jo asked that they be done and submitted by Wednesday, January 2, 2008

**d. Individual Board Member Evaluation for Superintendent**

Paul presented the forms.

**e. Individual Board's Evaluation – see #c. above.**

**f. Other**

Paul discussed the process he follows to decide whether to cancel or delay school due to inclement weather.

**XVII. Non Public Session**

**A motion was made to go into non-public session by Kathleen Kelley, under RSA 91A:3I1 (a) and (c); the motion was seconded by Greg Corrigan. Roll call vote: Carpenter - Yes, Cormier - Yes, Corrigan - Yes, Flynn - Yes, Goodrich - Yes, Hill - Yes, Kelley - Yes, Michaud - Yes, Miller - Yes, and Parteno - Yes. All in favor.**

- a. Support Staff Negotiations**
- b. Teacher Resignation**
- c. Student Early Graduation Request**

No motions were made in non-public session.

**XVIII. Next Regular Meeting January 15, 2008, in the Gorham Middle High School Library**

**XIX. Other - None**

**XX. Adjournment – Motion made by Anne Hill to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.; seconded by Kathleen Kelley. All in favor.**

bwm