



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on June 11, 2008, at the Cross State Office Building, ATM Room 103, Augusta. The following members were present: Chair James Carignan; Vice Chair Philip Dionne; Jean Gulliver; Justin Chenette; Ann Weisleder; Marilyn Temple Tardy; James Banks, Sr.; Mabel Desmond; Connie Goldman. Attended via conference call: Honor Wilkinson

Also present were: Deputy Commissioner Angela Faherty; Scott Brown, AIA, School Facilities; and Mary Johnson, Secretary Associate.

CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Ann Weisleder, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the May 14, 2008 minutes as written.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; PHASE 1 SITE PREPARATION DESIGN AND FUNDING APPROVAL CONSIDERATION, SAD #32, ASHLAND PREK-12 SCHOOL

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Mabel Desmond, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the consent agenda.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #35 NOTIFICATION OF COST SHARING CHANGE AND REQUEST FOR AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Connie Goldman, and unanimously voted by those present to grant an Amended Certificate of Organization to Maine School Administrative District #34.

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL
CONSIDERATION; GORHAM SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, PREK-5 ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FACT: The White Rock School in Gorham rated number 10 on the 2004-2005 Approved Projects List. The project will house grades preK-5 and will replace the White Rock School and portable classrooms at the Village and Narragansett elementary schools. The school has been designed to house 550 students.

A complete New vs. Renovation Study is on file with the Department of Education which supports the Department's recommendation to abandon the White Rock School and the site and build a new school on a new site. All appropriate State and local agencies have been contacted; and where necessary, documented approvals are on file. The building has been designed to High Performance standards and LEED guidelines.

The school will not only address the crowded and difficult conditions at the White Rock School, but it will also relieve crowded conditions in Gorham's other two elementary schools. The location of this school is also especially important to the community; it serves the northern section of the community. Once a site was found, the school planning went especially well due to extensive preplanning in Gorham.

The Superintendent has provided the following statement regarding the new school's impact on education in Gorham.

Discussions concerning a new elementary school in Gorham became more intensive in the 1990s and continued into the new millennium. These discussions were precipitated, essentially, by four factors. The first factor was the age, condition, and size of the present White Rock School. This building has limited space, as does the footprint of land that supports the School and its' programs. Attendant to the limitations of the facility is the lack of access to town water, town sewer, and to three-phase power. The second factor, attendant to the articulated in the first one, was the number of portables required to serve the educational program, and length of time that the School has needed to use them. The third factor was the need to significantly exceed the number of students that both the Village School and the Narragansett School need to accommodate given the small size of the White Rock School. Village and Narragansett are the other elementary schools in Gorham. The number of students at Village is over 250 more than the building was designed for, which has required the use of portables, while the student population at Narragansett is 125 more than that building was designed to accommodate, also requiring portables to support the educational program. The fourth factor that advanced these discussions was the decision made by the Gorham School Committee in April 2001 to reconfigure the three elementary schools from two schools of K-2 and one of 3-5 to three preK-5 schools. The rationale for that decision is as follows:

- *The concept of neighborhood schools would strengthen.*
- *Transitions for students from one school to another would be minimized in their K-12 journey to: one elementary school (preK-5); one middle school (6-8), a change that was enabled with the opening of the new middle school in 2003, and one high school (9-12).*
- *Each school would be large enough to offer a comprehensive educational program, yet small enough to foster a strong sense of community.*

- *The schools would provide programs and services as designed, developed, and implemented by the District, thus enabling a consistency and congruence in the elementary schools, yet respect the nuances of each school to supplement and complement those core teaching and learning programs and instruction.*
- *Families and children would be able to develop and sustain mutually respectful relationships with the school community over an extended period of time.*
- *Three preK-5 schools would advance flexibility for the delivery of the educational program and would relieve the overcrowding of the two schools that will remain in use, Village and Narragansett.*

It was evident that a more systemic approach to curriculum, assessment, and instruction was required across the District and the new school will provide the flexibility and the capacity our elementary school facilities to advance and sustain that core work. During the past two years the New Elementary School Building Committee and the preK-5 Transition Committee have dedicated many hours and resources that are intended to assure that this systemic approach will both enhance and expand the quality of our elementary school program. The design of the new School reflects the work of these two committees and the critical importance of the juxtaposition of the educational program with a facility designed to support and advance that program.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

The Gorham School Department is requesting Concept Approval for a preK-5 elementary school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

- The proposed Gorham Elementary School construction project is eligible for school construction under MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 609;
- The proposed project and authorized method of financing are in the best interest of the State of Maine and the Gorham School Department;
- The Gorham estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
- The Gorham Elementary School proposed project is in compliance with MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to special education facilities.

Project Information

Project: PreK-5 Elementary School

Superintendent: Ted Sharp

Principal: Margret Evans

Architect: Lyndon Keck, Portland Design Team

School(s) to be closed: White Rock Elementary School and Little Falls School

Project Budget Information

Total Project Cost: \$25,833,908

Local Only (no State participation): \$2,480,000

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$23,192,766

Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$161,142

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

THE CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THIS CONCEPT APPROVAL REQUEST AT ITS JUNE 2, 2008, MEETING.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to the Gorham School Department for a new preK-5 elementary school in Gorham, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the concept budget as presented.**

**This approval constitutes Concept Approval. Final Funding Approval may be subject to adjustment under Section 10, Subsection 1, of the State Board of Education Rules for School Construction Projects, which states:

“Final Funding Approval by the Commissioner establishes the Project Budget and takes place after construction bids have been received. At that time, the Commissioner may reduce the budget to finance the project, thus providing additional funds for other projects.”

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Ann Weisleder, and unanimously voted by those present to grant Concept Approval to the Gorham School Department for a preK-5 elementary school in Gorham.

REPORTS

Commissioner’s Report – Deputy Commissioner, Angela Faherty

- Reported on L.D. 2174 - Distributed a copy of the Resolve, Regarding Curriculum Requirements and Standards for Awarding a High School Diploma, along with a sample of the letter from Commissioner Gendron to Jim Carignan, Chair of SBE. The Resolve articulates the duties of the Diploma Stakeholder Group. Jim Carignan has appointed himself to this group and wants to share that role with Ann Weisleder. This is an open meeting and all Board members are welcome to attend the meetings but will not be allowed to speak as the Resolve states it will be a Stakeholder Group of seventeen. There is no funding or facilitator for this group and it is not clear if there will be minutes available from the first meeting. The meetings are scheduled to be held at the Department of Education, Burton Cross Office Building in Augusta.

Marilyn Temple Tardy:

- That she attended Westbrook Middle School on May 22, 2008 for a groundbreaking and the people in Westbrook were very pleased to see someone from the SBE present. It was awesome seeing the children as they got up on flatbeds and read quotes. It was a great day.

Jim Banks:

- That he attended a STEM dinner to recognize Math and Science teachers.

Ann Weisleder:

- That she had an opportunity to attend an agenda review meeting for the SBE.
- That she participated as a Board observer on the Program Review Team for Husson College – Master of School Counseling on May 30th.
- That she received an invite to attend The Building Global Maine Workshop that was held at the Orono campus on June 6th. The purpose of the meeting was to foster public/private partnerships to result in greater opportunities for institutions, organizations, and businesses to engage in economic and cultural interchanges and to expand international education programs in Maine. Jana Boody and Don Reutershan from the DOE were in attendance as well.

Justin Chenette:

- That last month he spoke at the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Center at the University of Maine Gorham Campus. The program brought together over fifty of the brightest sophomores across the state. It was a three day event and they learned about leadership, team building, and discussed issues that concern students. They reiterated that the biggest issues to students were: Funding of The Arts, Class Ranks, Teachers rushing through curriculum, and the most important issue is a need for a Universal Grading System.

Mabel Desmond:

- That she is reviewing the Making the Grade applications.
- That she attended the Commissioner’s Recognition Awards for Dropout Prevention at the Blaine House in May.

Connie Goldman:

- That she visited Thornton Academy – Teacher of the Year Candidate.
- That she participated as a Board observer on the Program Review Team for a college approval visit at Heartwood College of Art on June 3. An application to add a Master’s Degree with further data to be presented.

Phil Dionne:

- That he attended a Math and Science event with Jim Carignan.
- That he attended the third and final phase of the NASBE CTE Study Committee and a report will come out in October.
- That he wanted to take a moment to thank the Board for supporting him in his position as Vice Chair and to say it has been a great pleasure to do the extra duties that go along with the position.

Honor Wilkinson:

- That she attended a State Student Council meeting and did a short presentation on the initiative to get student members on local school boards. She distributed a pamphlet explaining the initiative to each student council member and their advisors. Honor passed out a survey asking what students thought were the most important educational issues right now. She got most of the surveys back and will be tallying them over the summer. She will also be doing a project this fall that follows up with the initiative in the Eastern region where the students will each get a copy of Jim Carignan's letter that was mailed to all superintendents on June 2, 2008. Honor will bring pamphlets to the next Board meeting to share with the Board members

Chair's Report

Chair Carignan reported on the following:

- That he attended several Educare Program meetings for Maine. By August 3, 2008 the three cities (Lewiston, Waterville and Portland) will need to come forward with their applications. Bangor backed out of the program.
- That he is working on the Annual Report for the Board.
- That he attended a Math and Science event with Phil Dionne.
- That the Board worked with Myan and received two great students to become members of the State Board of Education. Myan is looking for a way to stay connected. Part of the original proposal from NASBE is to commit to developing infrastructure around the State. Honor and Justin's work is bringing that forward. Myan would like to submit a proposal to MetLife by the end of June for further funding to support this development. They also want the State Board of Education to be on board with the process and part of the grant proposal. The SBE will not be meeting again until July 9. Jim asked if the Board would be opposed to Ann and himself taking the responsibility of reviewing the grant proposal. The Board agreed to Ann and Jim reviewing the grant proposal.
- That it has been an honor and privilege to serve as Chair of the Board for the past 4 years. It is important that the Board always remember that it is committed to all the children in Maine and all of our actions must be measured by very high standards.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A slate of officers were submitted during the May 14, 2008 Board meeting. Ann Weisleder was nominated for election as Chair and Constance Goldman was nominated for election as Vice Chair. No nominations from the floor.

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Jim Banks, and voted six in favor with two members abstaining (Ann Weisleder and Constance Goldman) to elect Ann Weisleder as chair and Constance Goldman as vice chair for the term of one year beginning on July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

State Board of Education unanimously agreed to adjourn the June 11, 2008, meeting at 3:06 PM.

