RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
District Office – Orford, NH
December 19, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Marc DeBois (Chair), Vanessa DeSimone, David Ricker (Orford); Mark Avery, Bruce Lyndes, (Fairlee); Kathy Hooke, Jean MacDonald (Vershire); Kathy Blanchard (at-large)

Members Absent: Cory Austin, Kevin Dexter (W. Fairlee); David Gagner (Fairlee)

Administration and Staff Present: Elaine Arbour (Superintendent); Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal); Tammy MacQueen (WES Principal); Michael Foxall (SME Principal); Michael Galli (Dean of Students); Jan Cole (Director of Special Education); Dick Paulson (Chief Financial Officer); John Jakubens (Director of Operations); Ross Convertino (Athletic Director); Matt Joska (IT Director)

Public Present: Mark Burger, Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion)

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. 2018-19 Preliminary Draft Budget: Elaine Arbour presented a revised budget based on school board priorities and previous conversation. She detailed some of the expense adjustments which brought the revised total number down 1% from the previous budget presentation; approximately a 3% increase over this past fiscal year. Arbour discussed potential changes to the structure of elementary administration and the AD/Transportation & Facilities Use Coordinator. Arbour suggested considering a tuition increase to remain competitive and attractive. There was discussion about the current and historical number of tuition students that attend Rivendell Academy; administrative will provide numbers to the Board. There was some discussion about using federal funds as an option to help cover the operating costs of Visions. Other expense saving options discussed included cutting funds from elementary partnerships and reducing field trips; cutting RA Library Media Specialist, as there is less need for a traditional librarian; reducing paraprofessional staffing (special and regular ed); reducing number of days for special education administrative assistant; and, cutting additional funding from athletics and ground. Arbour also proposed adding an additional $50,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund. Kathy Hooke would like to see the capital reserve replenishment as a separate warrant article. There was discussion about the current cost of field trips per student and the need to prioritize what’s most important. David Ricker stated that there is a great deal of community support for the sports programs and wondered if creating a separate warrant article for specifically sports related expenses made sense. Mark Avery expressed some concern about revenue being up. Kathy Blanchard strongly encouraged keeping the elementary partnerships in place and Ricker agreed. There was also some general discussion about the elementary administration proposal and Arbour said we have an opportunity now to think differently about how best to support two buildings with new skill sets and expertise. Hooke advised that the plan must be sustainable. Preschool at the Academy was briefly discussed.

III. Executive Session (Discussion)
Action: Motion made to go into Executive Session at 7:49 PM. (Ricker/Avery) Approved. Board came out of Executive Session at 8:31 PM. (Lyndes/Ricker).

IV. Transact any other business that needs to be considered

V. Adjourn
Action: Motion was made to adjourn. (8:32 PM) (Lyndes/Ricker). Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.
Recorded by:
Brenda Gray
Executive Assistant/HR Manager

Note: All Board votes were unanimous unless noted otherwise.