A. TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS: The responsibility for and the cost of transportation of a student to and from home and school and to and from school and the area vocational center, and any state aid for such transportation shall accrue to the member school district in which the individual student resides, unless by vote at a future district meeting such responsibility and/or cost allocation is shifted to the interstate district. The Interstate School District shall provide transportation and assume costs for any school related activities such as field trips or athletics as the School Board of the Interstate District determines is appropriate.

Discussion: The School Board will need to assist the District Office in determining the method for calculating the correct proportional share of transportation costs. The past method of calculation is unclear but seems to have been based on a mileage basis. However, the origin of the mileage figure is unclear and varies annually.

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the School Board vote to place the following warrant article before the voters at the March 2019 Annual School District Meeting, as required in Article A above, in order to provide the District Office with a clear, defensible means of calculating transportation beginning in FY 2021. “Shall the voters of the District authorize the School Board to calculate the cost allocation for transportation based on ADM (average daily membership) beginning in FY 2021?”

For FY 2020, it the recommendation of the Superintendent that the District Office use the same percentage distribution of transportation costs that were listed in the 2018 Annual Report of the Rivendell Interstate School District. Those costs were: NH (Orford) – 21.79%; VT (Fairlee, West Fairlee, Vershire) – 78.21% (33.93%; 23.95%; 20.33%).
D. RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRADES: The Interstate District shall be responsible for the education of students from Kindergarten through Grade 12. The school board of the Interstate District may also choose to extend its services to pre-school students and adult students. The school board is further authorized to consider enrichment programs, including, but not limited to, programs extending beyond the school day and to form consortia with other schools and educationally related enterprises to provide a wider range of educational opportunities.

Discussion: Currently, Vocational Tuition is shown as an expense to the member district (NH or VT towns). NH is charged the full cost and reimbursed by the State of NH for tuition and transportation costs according to its practices. VT students are charged to the VT towns; however, the State of VT pays its vocational tuition directly to the vocational school, not to the VT towns. Therefore, the VT towns do not receive credit for the portion of funds sent directly to the vocational schools.

It is the advice of legal counsel and the Superintendent that the vocational tuition for all RISD students should be paid by the interstate district and allocated by ADM to each member district. Reimbursements from the State of NH should be credited to Orford, and the tuition the State of VT pays directly to the vocational schools should be credited to the VT towns, as it is a reimbursement in a different form. This would remove Vocational Tuition as a separate line in the budget expenditure summary documents for member specific expenditures. Instead, it will be calculated as part of the Net Operating Expenses as described herein.