RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
District Office – Orford, NH
January 5, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Marc DeBois, David Ricker, Michael Smyth (Orford); Mark Avery, Bruce Lyndes (Fairlee); Kathy Hooke, Jean MacDonald (Vershire); Kevin Dexter (W. Fairlee); Kathy Blanchard (at-large); Cameron Day (RA Student Rep)

Members Absent: Sarah Rinehimer (W. Fairlee); Grover Boutin (Fairlee)

Administration and Staff Present: Mike Harris (Superintendent), Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Gail Keiling (Head of Elementary/SME Principal), Jan Cole (Director of Special Education), Richard Paulson (CFO), Michael Galli (RA Dean of Students), Tammy MacQueen (WES Principal)

Others Present: Cicely Richardson (JO), Mark Burger (Orford), Jolene Vogelien (Orford)

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. DeBois welcomed new interim Superintendent, Dr. Michael Harris. Harris stated he looks forward to being helpful to the District and Board.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: DeBois stated would need to add item F under VIII regarding Financial Management Questionnaire.

III. General Public Comments: None.

IV. Presentation: None.

V. Consent Agenda
   A. Minutes
      1) Board – December 1 & 8, 2015
         Action: Motion made to accept consent agenda, with changes. (Ricker, Avery) Approved (unanimous).

VI. Informational Reports (written)
   A. Superintendent Report: There were no questions on Needham’s report, however, DeBois reported that there was no word from Vermont on the Act 46 Study Grant that had been requested. He also reported that the Thetford Elementary School Board was meeting tonight and waiting to hear about the grant status. Ricker asked if the study group could meet before grant approval and DeBois said yes but would not be part of the grant.

VII. Ongoing Business
   A. FY17 Budget: DeBois reported that he had contacted Vermont AOE regarding a provision in the New Hampshire-Vermont Interstate School Compact (Title 16 Chapter 15, §783, Article XIII (H)), which Ricker found when doing research: “Neither state shall amend its legislation or any agreement authorized thereby without the consent of the other in such manner as to substantially adversely affect the rights of the other state or its people hereunder …” DeBois was questioning this in regards to the spending thresholds and penalties being imposed by Vermont’s Act 46 and hoped to have an answer before the January public budget forums. Discussion ensued on this and the budget: should NH DOE be contacted too, tax rates, equalized pupil, penalty only applying to VT taxpayers, extra dollars to be added to budget for over cap penalties, cutting about $300,000 more out or paying up to a $240,000 penalty, what schools giving up with this budget (some were: afterschool program, Special Education teacher, reduction in teacher positions, applying surplus from last year). DeBois asked if the Board wanted to use the surplus of $150,000 from FY15 to apply to FY17, with the provision that if Rivendell gets State relief, the Board could change this decision. After much discussion, the Board agreed to use $100,000 of surplus toward FY 17. DeBois reiterated that the budget coming to the public budget forums would be with $285,000 above the cap and paying the penalty (if Rivendell is held to it). Discussion ensued on a number of items (i.e., how to approach State representatives, the town of Orford’s tax situation, doing a strong job of
presenting the information to all the District’s voters. Paulson reported that Orford’s shave of ADM was going down next year from 38.32% to 34.52%. Blanchard stated that Orford’ tax problems were a number of things but not Rivendell’s fault.

B. **Strategic Plan**  
   **Action:** Motion made to approve Strategic Plan as presented. (Ricker, Lyndes) **Approved** (unanimous).

VIII. **New Business**

A. **Physical Education Graduation Requirements (K. Gelenian):** Gelenian distributed graduate requirement and said that Advanced Health Concepts would be replacing Physical Conditioning. He further stated that there are three requirements for graduation for PE and with this change, they would be: Health, Advanced Health Concepts and a PE class. The PE class would be waived if the student is a full time JV or Varsity athlete in an organized school sport. He would like to have this made effective this year with the third trimester. **Action:** Motion made to approve change to Physical Education Graduation requirements as presented effective this year. (Hooke, Ricker) **Approved** (unanimous).

B. **Revised 2015-16 School Calendar:** Per former Superintendent Needham’s written report, change was switching the March 1, 2016, teacher inservice/no school day to February 29, 2016.  
   **Action:** Motion made to approve revision to 2015-16 school calendar as presented.  
   (MacDonald, Lyndes) **Approved** (unanimous).

C. **School Calendar 2016-17:**  
   **Action:** Motion made to approve 2016-17 school calendar as presented. (Hooke, Avery) **Approved** (unanimous).

D. **Tuition 2016-17:** Gelenian reported that Warren had approved a six year agreement with Woodsville for all Warren students to attend 9-12 there, unless parents paid tuition themselves at another school. He stated that some Warren parents had reported that they are trying to get a petition together for a warrant article for a Warren revote for school choice. Gelenian reported that any current Warren students at the Academy are grandfathered.  
   **Action:** Motion made to approve 2016-17 tuition as presented, $15,000 (grades 9-12). (Lyndes, Hooke) **Approved** (unanimous).

E. **Correspondence:** DeBois reminded Board to make sure to channel emails through Perryman so there is an electronic record.

F. **Questionnaire:** DeBois stated that copies of a completed financial management questionnaire that Vermont requires each District fills out were distributed. He stated that the Board chair has to certify that the Board has reviewed the questionnaire, so he requested that Board members review it for his signature at the February meeting.

G. **Ice Rink (added to agenda):** Board question regarding a possible ice rink at the schools. MacQueen reported that there was no longer a winter program being run by the support staff on Thursday afternoons, however, Rivendell Recreation Council was still running the ski program. The ice rink question had been asked by Rivendell Rec but MacQueen said when the District’s insurance company was asked it had been a liability insurance issue (requiring locked fencing, supervision, etc.). MacQueen said that she has offered to work with Recreation Rec during the summer to come up a plan maybe for next year. Discussion ensued on whether the skiing program is equitable for students, possibility of an ice rink on town property, volunteers for winter programs receiving information too late, possibility of insurance rider for ice rink on school property, good resources in the area for help with programs (i.e., Aloha, Mountain School, etc.).

IX. **Future Agenda Items**  
   Common Core, Crisis Response, Community Outreach, Policies to be Revised (ongoing), Student Presentations, Department Reports, Act 46, Budget, HOS Evaluation

X. **Executive Session, 1 VSA § 313:**

A. **Personnel**  
   1) **REA Negotiations (Teacher Unit)**  
   2) **Personnel**
**Action:** Motion made to go into Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. (Hooke, Avery) **Approved** (unanimous).
Board came out of Executive Session at 7:48 p.m.

**Action:** Motion made to ratify Rivendell Education Association (Teacher Unit) collective bargaining agreement. (Ricker, Avery) **Approved** (unanimous).

**XI. Adjournment**

**Action:** Motion made to adjourn. (Blanchard, MacDonald) **Approved** (unanimous).
Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Recorded by:
Penny Perryman, CEOE
Executive Assistant/HR Manager