RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
District Office – Orford, NH
January 6, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Marc DeBois (Chair), Cicely Richardson, David Ricker (Orford); Mark Avery (Vice Chair), Bruce Lyndes (Fairlee); Kathy Hooke (Vershire), Kathy Blanchard (at-large)

Members Absent: Grover Boutin (Fairlee), Mike Fanizzi (W. Fairlee), Jean MacDonald (Vershire), Sarah Rinehimer (West Fairlee)

Administration and Staff Present: Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Gail Keiling (Head of Elementary Schools/SME Principal), Janet Cole (Director of Special Education), Michael Galli (RA Dean of Students)

Others Present: None.

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: Needham stated that the ad hoc committee on Strategic Planning would like a few minutes under Ongoing Business regarding meeting schedule and under New Business would need a motion regarding a teacher resignation.

III. General Public Comments: None.

IV. Presentation/Guests:
   A. Robotics Video – Gelenian explained that the video he hoped to show had not been made yet. Instead he displayed the RA Facebook page which had a short Robotics video on the recent Middle Earth VEX Challenge help at RA (put together by one of RA’s students and covered by the press), then he segued into other items on the RA Facebook page, speaking of how many “hits” items were getting, how important this type of media is for the school (marketing and perception), Rowlings Foundation grant, and why technology is so important. Keiling said pages should be done for the elementary schools also.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept):
   A. Minutes
      1) Board – December 2 & 8, 2014
      Action: Motion made to approve the consent agenda. Approved.

VI. Informational Reports:
   A. Superintendent Report: Nothing additional from Needham. Brief discussion on tuition rates at other schools compared to RISD.
   B. Head of Schools/RA Principal Report: Gelenian reported that the group working on the Rowlings Foundation grant had made it through the first round. Brief discussion on VT School Choice (grades 9-12) and Needham explained with VT School Choice the dollars stay with the sending school and receiving school gets student but no additional funds.
      1) Student Government Report: None.
   C. Elementary Principal Reports: Hooke commented that the InspiringKids program was great and Keiling agreed. Ricker commented that he had liked the SME holiday concert being split by lower and upper grades. Keiling said she had received positive and negative feedback from parents on this.

VII. Ongoing Business:
   A. Auditor Position Appointment: Nothing new.
   B. Annual District Meeting Planning
      1) Budget 2015-2016: Needham reminded that the budget to present at the Annual Meeting would need Board approval at the February meeting. DeBois stated that Perryman had distributed information and timelines on the Annual Meeting and reminded anyone whose term was up and planned to run for election to remember to fill out candidacy
forms. DeBois also reminded everyone that the next Public Forum would be at Westshire next week on Tuesday, February 13th.

C. Policy Review
   1) Emergency Closings, Code E6: Needham stated policy was ready for approval.
   2) Participation of Home Study Students in School Programs & Activities, Code F26: Needham said this one was also ready for approval. Richardson stated that there was numbering in this one that needed correction and Needham stated that it would be corrected before published.
   Action: Motion made to approve E6 and F26 (with formatting corrections). Approved.
   3) Responsible Computer, Network & Internet Use, Code G11: Needham stated that this was a first reading of this current version and it had been changed because VSBA had just come out with this new version which everyone (RISD technology staff and Needham) felt was much better.
   4) Strategic Planning Ad Hoc – Ricker said it had been interesting communicating but making sure to stay within the Open Meeting rules. He had wanted to talk about the ad hoc meeting schedule, however, since two of the members weren’t at this Board meeting, it was best to cancel discussion.

VIII. New Business:
   A. Calendar 2015-2016: Needham reported that the Leadership Team had made one revision today to the proposed calendar (moved a teacher inservice day from beginning of school year to end of school year). She reminded Board that Rivendell has to be in close alignment with River Bend Career & Technical Center. Discussion ensued on contingency days, using part of February break for some of them, must have certain percentage of students in attendance for contingency days to count, cyber days (NH allows and has an approval process for this, VT does not allow, changing graduation day to be later, having full student day on September 4th).
   Action: Motion made to approve the draft calendar as presented. Failed (5 against, 1 for, 1 abstained).
   Action: Motion made to approve an amended calendar with change of September 4, 2015 being a full school day which would change the last tentative school day to June 9, 2016. Approved (5 for, 1 against, 1 abstained).
   B. Tuition 2015-2016:
   Action: Motion made to approve 2015-2016 tuition at $14,800. Approved.
   C. Correspondence: DeBois stated Board had received a resignation letter from Cassandra Duggan, current SME Kindergarten teacher, as mentioned in Needham’s written report, effective close of business January 30th. Keiling added that Duggan’s spouse had accepted a position in another part of the country and they were relocating.
   Action: Motion made to approve Cassandra Duggan’s resignation. Approved.

IX. Future Agenda Items:
   Common Core, Crisis Response, Community Outreach, Policies to be Revised (ongoing), Student Presentations, Strategic Plan (February), Department Reports

X. Executive Session, 1 VSA§ 313:
   A. REA Negotiations
   Action: Motion made to go into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. Approved.
   Board came out of Executive Session at 8:06 p.m.
   Board decided to hold Special School Board Meeting after the Public Budget Forum on January 13, 2015, at Westshire for Executive Session only regarding negotiations and personnel.

XI. Adjournment (Action)
   Action: Motion made to adjourn. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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