RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Public Budget Forum
District Office – Orford, NH
January 11, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Marc DeBois (Chair), David Ricker (Orford); Bruce Lyndes, (Fairlee); Kathy Hooke, (Vershire); Kathy Blanchard (at-large); Kevin Dexter (W. Fairlee)

Members Absent: Cory Austin, (W. Fairlee); Mark Avery, David Gagner (Fairlee), Vanessa DeSimone, (Orford); Jean MacDonald (Vershire)

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)

Public Present: Mark Burger, Elizabeth Schwendler, Bonnie McCouch, Laura McDaniel, Craig Tomlinson, Ann Green, Robb Day, Sara Day, Mark Blanchard, Chris Crowley, Cathy Eastburn, Jordan Sutherland (Orford); Doug Tifft (Fairlee)

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

II. 2018-19 Preliminary Draft Budget:
Elaine Arbour went through the proposed budget highlighting changes. The original proposed budget showed a 4.1% increase. With the work of Administrators, they were able to bring it down to a 1.01 % increase. At 6:53 Marc DeBois opened up the floor for questions and comments. There was discussion around tuition students. We have shown a steady increase over the last few years particularly in 9th grade. The Tuition rate will increase to $15,400 but is still below what area schools are charging. Keri Gelenian will be visiting current tuition schools in the near future and has been working very hard to recruit those students. Chelsea High School will be closing and has students interested in attending Rivendell. We currently have a bus not too far from there that would be able to pick those students up if they chose to attend. Current Tuition towns are Bradford (plus 2 School Choice students), Warren, Piermont, and Corinth. Cost per pupil was also a topic of conversation, how it is calculated, what is taken into consideration when those calculations are made. Increasing our tuition students will offset some of that cost. Mental Health is becoming a frequent topic in all schools across the country. It is the plan of the board and administration that we need more program design to get this started. The goal of the board is to maintain our quality of education. The board and administration were praised for their hard work in bringing in more tuition students, bringing the previously proposed budget down by 3%, and providing students with opportunities such as the Rivendell Abroad Program. These are the things that are appealing to other students and their families in other towns.

III. Adjourn
Action: Motion was made to adjourn. (7:57 PM) (Lyndes/Dexter). Approved.
Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Recorded by:
Angel Parkin
Administrative Assistant

Note: All Board votes were unanimous unless noted otherwise.