Members Present: Carol Sobetzer (at-large); Vanessa DeSimone, Cicely Richardson, (Orford); Sandra Smith-Ordway, Bruce Lyndes, Mark Avery (Fairlee); Jennifer Shatney (W. Fairlee); Jennifer Ricker (Vershire)

Administrators and Staff Present: Gail Keiling (Head of Schools/Superintendent), Donna Valentine (Head of High School, Rivendell Academy)

Others Present: Cheryl Howe (West Fairlee parent)

I. Call Meeting: Meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: None at this time.

III. General Public Comments: None at this time.

Action: Motion made to move Consent Agenda before Student/Teacher Presentation. Approved.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept)
   A. Minutes (December 1 & December 15, 2009)
   B. Head of Schools (Superintendent’s Report - written)
   C. Finance Committee Minutes

Action: Motion was made to accept the Board minutes of December 1 and December 15, 2009 as amended. Approved.

Action: Motion made to move Ongoing Business before Student/Teacher Presentation. Approved.

VI. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action)
   A. Next Steps for Reorganization of District
      G. Keiling stated that a two to three year plan with the new grades 7 through 12 configuration was needed. Points to consider are scheduling, personnel, supplies/books, plan to involve faculty for collaboration in an effort to get them involved and ask for faculty to assist with the handbook as well. Keiling felt that the Board should begin by having an administrative team in place and form an interview committee for the superintendent position.

IV. Student/Teacher Presentation & Recognition
   A. RA Student/Parent Handbook (D. Valentine): D. Valentine presented information on the changes made in the Rivendell Academy Student/Parent Handbook. The format was put into alphabetical order for ease, information on the high school and middle school would be separated by paragraphs for clarity and a change in the use of cell phones during school would be by permission only.
   B. Student Board Reps Report (N. Ludwig & W. Ricker): Not present for the meeting.
   C. High School Schedule (D. Valentine): Dr. Valentine reported that the change from trimesters to semesters was focused on the student and allowing more flexibility. There have been challenges and for feedback a survey will go out to students next week.
Keiling asked Valentine to speak about the Plato software. Valentine stated that she was trying to identify gaps in learning from an additional source other than just the NECAPS. Plato software would be used for two purposes, one being for a class such as foreign language and the other a math and English guided test that would process an assessment to show where gaps in learning are and assist with credit recovery. The software will also be used during lab and from 3:00-5:00 p.m. time will be made available in the library.

VII. New Business (Receive Information & Possible Action)
A. Tuition Rate for 2010-2011: G. Keiling spoke with the Finance Committee regarding tuition and reported that CFO, Dick Paulson, suggested that the Board leave the tuition rate the same as it is in line with Oxbow High School. Keiling stated that Liz Sunde is interested in promoting Rivendell to recruit tuition students.
Action: Motion made to approve tuition of $12,200 for the fiscal school year 2010-2011. Approved.
B. 2010-2011 School Calendar: Postponed - will be discussed at a future meeting.
C. Personnel: Will be discussed later during executive session.
D. Correspondence: S. Ordway said a letter was received from the West Fairlee Board of Selectmen requesting a change in due dates for school payments. Ordway stated that D. Paulson spoke with them for clarification and gave them the due dates of the other towns.

S. Ordway also wanted the Board to know that an update on pricing for the sprinkler system in the middle school has been received and a company has offered to stand by their estimate of several years ago. This would mean that, instead of trying to raise $150,000 for the system, it would only cost $40,000. She questioned if the cost could come from the capital reserve fund. This was briefly discussed.

VIII. Strategic Action Plan
A. Update of Process: G. Keiling stated the Resource Development Task Force would meet next week; everything is in line for 2010 and reviewing the transitions with regard to the reorganization.

IX. Future Agenda items (Discussion)
A. Orford Academy Building Task Force
B. District Action Plan: C. Richardson suggested that the New Hampshire and Vermont legislators be invited to a meeting for an update on legislation concerning education. Richardson will speak with NH legislators and Ordway will speak with VT legislators.

X. Anticipated Executive Session (Discussion & Possible Action)
A. Personnel Issue
Action: Motion made to go into executive session at 8:10 pm. to discuss personnel needs for 2010-2011 school year. Approved. Board came out of executive session at 8:29 p.m.

XI. Adjournment (Action): Action: Motion made to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Approved.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Clifford
District Clerk