I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: Needham stated that there needed to be an addition under “Ongoing Business, Policy Review” for the revised Federal Child Nutrition Act/Wellness Policy. DeBois stated that the Strategic Plan will be moved to after the “Presentation/Guests” due to Frank’s presence.

III. General Public Comments: None.

IV. Presentation/Guests:

A. Orford Academy Building Task Force – Needham stated that Duncan Cooley was present and that she was recommending that the Board approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place of the former one approved. The revised one removes reference to the Housing Coalition.

Action: Motion made to approve the revised MOU with AHEAD (replacing the former one) which will replace the former one. Approved.

Duncan Cooley explained the Task Force with the signing of the MOU have completed the charge that they were set up to do and wondered what the Board’s feeling was on whether the Task Force needed to continue with a new charge or be abolished. She presented a replacement charge that the Task Force had drafted. (Charge is attached). After a brief discussion, Board took action.

Action: Motion made to approve the new charge to the Orford Academy Building Task Force. Approved.

Duncan Cooley stated that next should be speaking with the community about this to start doing some ground work. Brief discussion on ways to help make public such as a brief statement for the community to view at the Annual District Meeting, something on RISD website, etc. Duncan Cooley said that the Task Force can talk about it at their next meeting. Board thanked the Task Force for all their hard work.

VII. Ongoing Business: (Moved)

D. Strategic Plan: Ricker announced that there was a change in language in one sentence. Then said they wanted Board to review and give them feedback. Discussion ensued why Goal 1 is all about the Academy and not any mention of elementary. After discussion, decision was made to change the language and Goal #1 was changed to: For the Rivendell School District to become the PreK-12 school district selected by parents, students and teachers who value strong academic focus and individual attention in a small school setting.” No other changes in the presented plan were made.

Action: Motion made to approve document as amended to take forward to the community. Approved.
Discussion also held on getting plan out with Survey Monkey and using the various listservs, etc. Frank added that it was a good plan but now need to know how to bring it back to the Board to show how goals are being met and then make sure it functions as a working plan. DeBois thanked Frank for his help and guidance during this time.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept):
  A. Minutes
    1) Board – January 6, 13 & 22, 2015: (2 changes noted by Cicely in 1/6/15)
       Action: Motion made to approve the consent agenda re above Board minutes, with changes as noted. Approved.
    2) Public Budget Forums – January 6 & 13, 2015: (1 change noted by Cicely in 1/6/15)
       Action: Motion made to approve the consent agenda re Public Budget Forum minutes, with change as noted. Approved.

VI. Informational Reports
  A. Head of Schools Report: Lyndes asked about computers in reference to Gelenian’s written report and Gelenian said that Plaisted and Ackerman were discussing/working on it. Gelenian stated his concern was that he didn’t want the warranty to run out on them and he will be following up with Plaisted and Ackerman. Gelenian reported that there had been no announcement yet from Rowling Foundation Grant. MacDonald asked about locking doors after hours at the Academy and Gelenian briefly explained how doors being locked after hours had affected practices, parents, etc. Blanchard asked about calculus students and Gelenian explained that through Running Start program Academy students are able to take a course through a community college and eligible for three college credits. It was up to the students to decide if they wanted to and then the student/parent had to pay the fee. Upon Board question if any students were not taking course because of the inability to pay the fee, Gelenian said he would check into it.
      1) Student Government Report: None.
  B. Elementary Reports: MacQueen shared that they had held a sports day, had two new students in process of enrolling for remainder of year, Westshire had won $1,000 from Labels for Education which will be used to purchase various playground items, and they were preparing for 100th day which is a literacy and math based celebration. Keiling reported that Samuel Morey also had two new students enroll.
  C. Superintendent Report: No additions or comments.

VII. Ongoing Business:
  A. Auditor Position Appointment: Nothing new.
  B. Annual District Meeting Planning
      1) Budget 2015-2016: Needham said she assumed Board will organize things similar as before and Board agreed. Discussion ensued on pictures that play on screen in gym as voters are gathering, Avery and Lyndes presentations, Needham preparing budget flyer to send out week before meeting (show variances on it), highlighting success stories, using café to have various student items set up for voters to see as arriving, videos being prepared, filmmaker in Vershire who MacDonald will talk with, Needham spoke of parameters in the election hall itself, student greeters to welcome people (Galli suggested National Honor Society or Student Government and Blanchard said maybe 6th graders also). DeBois said student participation and work being highlighted in café would be up to Administrators to arrange. DeBois asked if Board had any more questions/comments on the budget being presented of $9,961,522 which is 2.02% increase.
         Action: Motion made to approve 2015-2016 operating budget to present at Annual District Meeting of $9,961,522. Approved.
         Action: Motion made to approve the sum of $50,000 for future capital needs reserve to be added to the Warrant for the Annual District Meeting. Approved.
  C. Policy Review
1) **Responsible Computer, Network & Internet Use, Code G11:** Needham explained that this was a much simpler version that VSBA has recently done and she recommended it for Board approval.

**Action:** Motion made to approve as presented Responsible Computer, Network & Internet Use, Code G11. **Approved.**

2) **(Addition to Agenda) Federal Child Nutrition Act/Wellness Policy Code F21:** Needham stated that the policy needs to be updated because of federal changes in nutrition and the current policy had appendices with more detailed guidelines with it. She stated that this was a first reading of the revision and asked Board members to email her if they had any comments before the next meeting.

VIII. **New Business**

A. **New Hire (replacement) & Resignation:** Needham said that Keiling had found an outstanding candidate for the Kindergarten teacher position (Clarisse Benoit) and Matthew Acquilano, the Samuel Morey Physical Education teacher, had resigned effective at the end of this school year, as he will be moving from the area. Keiling gave some brief information on Benoit at the Board’s request.

**Action:** Motion made to approve the Clarisse Benoit as the SME Kindergarten teacher for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year. **Approved.**

**Action:** Motion made to accept Matthew Acquilano’s resignation effective at the end of the 2014-15 school year with regret. **Approved.**

B. **Warrant (pending any petition articles):**

**Action:** Motion made to approve warrant pending any petition articles. **Approved.**

C. **Superintendent Evaluation Process:** DeBois reported that Blanchard and Hooke had volunteered to review and come up with a process. Hooke and Blanchard gave some background on what they had done (reviewing VSBA website regarding Superintendent Evaluation and looking at the pieces that pertain to Rivendell’s Superintendent, having Needham do a self-evaluation, reviewing staff that reports to Needham and their areas of expertise, etc.). They added that the unique nature of the way Rivendell has the Superintendent position set up makes this quite challenging.

D. **Correspondence:** Needham reported the annual independent audit reports by Angolano & Company had had arrived and copies were available for anyone who would like one. She stated that the only problem mentioned had to do with recordkeeping of Title I forms and that was already being corrected.

IX. **Future Agenda Items**

- Common Core
- Crisis Response
- Community Outreach
- Policies to be Revised (ongoing)
- Student Presentations
- Department Reports
- Annual District Meeting Final Planning
- Superintendent Evaluation

X. **Executive Session, 1 VSA§ 313**

A. **REA Negotiations**

B. **Personnel**

**Action:** Motion made to go into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. **Approved.**

Board came out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

XI. **Adjournment (Action)**

**Action:** Motion made to adjourn. **Approved.** Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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