I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. 
Cory Austin, newly appointed Board member from West Fairlee, introduced himself and spoke briefly of his participation in the Rivendell community.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation:
- Add VT School Choice to New Business, E
- Add Warren and Piermont 2017-18 Tuition Rate to New Business, F

III. General Public Comments: Lance Mills spoke about River Bend Career & Technical Center and feels number of Rivendell students attending is low. Board commented that this was discussed at the Board’s Public Budget Forum recently and said that neither the Board or administration were telling students they could not go, it is a student and family decision if they want to attend, budget for next year includes additional money as the estimate for students to attend River Bend and Hartford Technical Center is higher than the past (35 students estimated) and the Board fully supported it.

IV. Presentation
A. Rivendell Academy Fitness Center (J. Graham & D. Perry): James Graham spoke as Demetres Perry, RA student, was unable to attend. A Fitness Center Expansion Proposal done by Graham and Perry was distributed with drawings. Proposal would expand current Fitness Center by using a current theater costume closet, part of the West Wing kitchen/lunch room area, then add a half wall in entry corridor which would secure the area and allow of the addition of new equipment (spin bike area, training area, etc.). Graham believes private donations, perhaps grants, and allowing community use for a small fee would raise money needed for equipment and RISD maintenance could do the basic labor. Harris and Gelenian thought it was a good proposal. Board overall reaction was favorable, assumed this was phase 1 and Graham would come back with phase 2. Board thanked him.

V. Consent Agenda
A. Minutes
1) Board – January 10, 2017
2) Public Budget Forum – January 17, 2017
Action: Motion made to approve consent agenda. (Lyndes, Ricker) Approved.

VI. Informational Reports
A. Superintendent Report: Harris elaborated on Search Committee, pleased with pool of candidates, interviewed 5 and invited 4 back for school tours and second interview (Nan Parsons, Carl Chambers, Elaine Arbour and Kate Segal). Plan is that after second interview then top two finalists will go to Board, then a public forum. Harris reiterated from written report that he had attended both NH and VT superintendents’ meetings and gave a brief update. He stated that the independent financial audit for FY16 has been received with no notes or corrections of
substance, and if anyone wants a copy, let Perryman know. Harris spoke of an article that was cited in the Superintendent interviews regarding per pupil spending at Rivendell being 8 or 9 in the country and that he and Paulson had been looking into it as data was wrong. Paulson has contacted the source and corrected it.

B. Head of Schools Report: Gelenian reported that Arts Alive program is running and a new artist coming, didn’t get Rowland Fellowship this year – don’t usually get consecutively, and talking with River Bend about providing Driver Education.

C. Elementary Principals Report: MacQueen and Foxall reported had celebrated 100th day of school with various activities and to please check the schools’ blogs.

VII. Ongoing Business
A. Local Auditor Opening (VT & NH): None.
B. FY 18 Budget & Public Forum Update: No update on forum and budget to stand.
C. Superintendent Search: Discussed in Superintendent’s report earlier in meeting.
D. Update on Orford Citizens Committee: See below.
E. Rivendell Review Committee:
   1) Charges: DeBois and Harris will work on drafting up charges.
   2) Membership: DeBois reported that since no Board member from NH has volunteered to be on the Committee, another way to fill the NH quota will need to be found, perhaps adding a second Orford community member. Burger volunteered to be on Committee. Discussion ensued on this time spent on this, mostly Orford driven, all four towns being involved, keep Rivendell moving in right direction, and set scopes so it is forward looking with efficient use of time. Harris offered to get community members from all four towns with help from Gagner.

VIII. New Business
A. 2017-18 School Calendar: Brief discussion. Action: Motion made to approve the 2017-18 School Calendar as presented. (MacDonald, Lyndes) Approved.
B. Warrant (pending any petition articles): After brief discussion, 2017-18 budget request of $10,526,145 with $30,000 for capital expense. Action: Motion made to approve warrant, as presented, with $10,526,145 budget article, pending any petition articles. (Lyndes, Ricker) Approved.
C. Personnel Updates: One item for Executive Session.
D. Correspondence: Blanchard reported talking to a reporter on the telephone regarding the status of the superintendent search.
E. Vermont School Choice: Discussion regarding this program which is for students who have a town high school but do not want to attend it and can select another Vermont high school to attend (Rivendell has been in this agreement/program since beginning) with deadline dates for application. However, this means accepting students from Vermont under this program with no dollars or ADM following them, but the fact that students want to come to Rivendell instead of their town high school shows Rivendell is doing something right. This program should not be confused with towns that have school choice because they do not have a high school in their town – tuition is received and ADM counts in those cases. Board is supposed to set annually the number of students they will accept under the Vermont School Choice program which has been 5 students the past few years. Action: Motion made to accept no more than 5 students under the Vermont School Choice Agreement. (Gagner, Ricker) Approved.
F. Warren & Piermont 2017-18 Tuition Rate: Harris Action: Motion made to set RISD’s 2017-18 tuition for Warren and Piermont at $100 less than Woodsville’s announced 2017-18 tuition rate. (Ricker, Lyndes) Approved. (Avery opposed.)

IX. Future Agenda Items
Common Core, Crisis Response, Community Outreach, Policies to be Revised (ongoing), Department Reports, Orford Academy Building Task Force, Vision for Food Service, Head of Schools Evaluation, Rivendell Review, Prepare for District Meeting, Celebrating 20 years from Rivendell Envision
X. Executive Session
   A. Personnel
   B. Negotiations
   Action: Motion made to go into executive session at 8:02 p.m. (Hooke, Blanchard) Approved. Board came out of executive session at 8:07 p.m.
   Action: Motion made to accept Cheryl St. Pierre’s resignation with regret. (Lyndes, Blanchard) Approved.
   Action: Motion made to ratify Rivendell Education Association (Education Support Personnel Unit) collective bargaining agreement. (Hooke, Ricker) Approved.

XI. Adjournment
   Action: Motion made to adjourn. (Lyndes, Smyth) Approved.
   Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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

Note: All Board votes were unanimous (Chair abstains) unless noted otherwise.