Members Present: Sandra Smith-Ordway, Allen Avery, Margaret Gladstone (Fairlee); Doug Tifft (at-large); Juliette Bianco, Carol Sobetzer, Mel Emerson (Orford); Harry Black, Trevor Law (Vershire); Bev Ash (West Fairlee)

Administrators and Staff Present: Gail Keiling (Head of Elementary Schools)

Others Present: Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion)

I. Call Meeting: Carol Sobetzer called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m.

II. Executive Session to Interview for Samuel Morey Elementary Principal Position

III. Approve Board Minutes of January 29, 2008: Action: Motion was made to approve the minutes of January 29, 2008 with the following changes: Under Section E (Nominations to Strategic Planning Group) Focus Area Number 3 members change Make to Mark Debois. Under Section F (Rural Partnership Grant) change Mel Emerson to Melanie Emerson. Approved.

IV. Public Input: None

V. Communications and Reports:
   A. Report of the Chair: Carol shared information regarding a Vermont Legislative update she receives that she thought other Board members might find useful.
   B. Report of Head of Schools:
      1) Middle School Written Report
         Noelle was not present so Carol suggested that Board members email Noelle with questions and/or concerns regarding Paul Fassler’s written report.
   C. Reports of the Committee Chairs:
      1) Long Range Planning (D. Tifft)
         Doug reported that the Strategic Planning Committee had a very successful meeting on Thursday and solicited feedback from other Board members that were present. Doug spoke about a master calendar that he circulated with the focus area groups meeting schedule. Doug was publicly recognized for all of his efforts in organizing the Strategic Groups and meetings. Action: Motion was made to add to the following members to the Strategic Planning Committee: Carol Sobetzer (ex-officio), Gail Keefer (RA teacher replacing Jon Sands), Paula Driscoll (Westshire teacher), Andy Perkins (Vershire) and Danielle Sweet (Vershire). Approved.
      2) Negotiations (M. Emerson)
         Mel reported that the committee would like to have teacher support staff contract ready for adoption by February 25th.
      3) Finance (A. Avery)
         Allen thanked Board members for attending the public hearings. Public hearings were not well attended, but a lot of good dialogue still took place. Allen reported that there are still some personnel items that need to be resolved before the Finance Committee is ready to recommend a budget for approval.

VI. Business Requiring Discussion & Action:
   A. Adoption of 2008-09 Budget: See above.
   B. Chlorination Project Warrant Article: Delayed until the budget is voted on.

Doug spoke about an additional warrant article that may be on a future agenda which would fund a technical assessment study and document the Orford Academy building. Rivendell Academy students are working on this article and obtaining the required 10 signatures for the petition.

C. Personnel


1) Samuel Morey Elementary Principal Position
Action: Motion was made to hire Eloise Ginty for the 2008-2009 school year at Samuel Morey Elementary School pending a conversation with Noelle Vitt. Approved.

2) Other
Action: Motion was made to renew Robert Sampson for the 2008-2009 school year. Allen asked if there was an improvement plan associated with the renewal. Approved.

Action: Motion was made to schedule a Board meeting on February 25th for 6:00 p.m. at Westshire Elementary School. Approved.

Action: Motion was made to change the March School Board meeting from March 4 to March 18th for 6:00 p.m. at Rivendell Academy. Approved.

VII. Executive Session, as needed

VIII. Business Requiring Discussion Only:
A. Filing Dates and Open Board Positions
B. Future Agenda Item
1) Topics:
   a) Policy: Vehicular Idling (May)
   b) Reports (written) from School Heads
   c) Report from Orford Academy Task Force
   d) Tentative Approval of Education Support Personnel Unit Master Agreement
   e) Adoption of the 2008-2009 budget
   f) Adoption of the Support Staff Contract

XI. Adjourn: Action: Motion was made to adjourn. Approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Gray
District Clerk/Treasurer