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

Administrators and Staff Present: Noelle Vitt, Head of Schools (Superintendent)

Others Present: Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion)

I. Call Meeting: Carol Sobetzer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Approve Board Minutes of February 12, 2008: Action: Motion was made to approve the minutes of February 12, 2008. Approved.

III. Public Input: None

IV. Communications and Reports:
   A. Report of the Chair:
      Support staff contract to be presented at a future date.
   B. Report of Head of Schools:
      Noelle spoke about the defacement that occurred at the Academy over the February break and reported that the situation is close to being resolved. It was suggested that the offending students come to the Board to apologize; the Board will consider. Noelle reported that Veronica White is not returning. She said that we are considering preparing food at the Academy and delivering it to Westshire Elementary School on a trial basis. For the next several weeks, the meal prep is occurring at Westshire. Noelle spoke about Eric Picconi’s request for Family Medical Leave and also mentioned that he will be taking students to Spain in April for ten days. Noelle read aloud Joy Michelson’s letter of resignation.
   C. Reports of the Finance Committee:
      No report. Doug inquired if the Finance Committee kept minutes and requested that they be included in packets.

   Action: Motion was made to take agenda items out of order and move Executive Session ahead of business requiring action. Approved.

   Board came out of Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

V. Business Requiring Discussion & Action:
   A. Adoption of 2008-09 Budget:
      Allen highlighted the increases and decreases in the proposed budget and spoke about the tax implications for each town. There was discussion about specific budget items. Action: Motion was made to adopt the 2008-2009 budget as presented. Approved. The Finance Committee was publicly recognized for their hard work in putting together the budget.
   B. Warrant
      The Board is still awaiting the motion petition sheet for a proposed warrant article to approve $19,500 for the technical assessment of the old Orford Academy. Action: Motion was made to approve the warrant for the Annual District Meeting. Approved.
   C. Special Olympics Race
      Noelle spoke about a proposal from the Wellness Committee to have an annual road race around Lake Morey. Different Rivendell groups will benefit from the proceeds. By consent Noelle will move forward.
   D. Executive Session
E. Personnel
1) Teachers
2) Administration
3) Coaches
The following people were recommended to the Board for spring coaches: Lance Mills, Varsity Softball; Gerard Suich, JV Softball; $1.00 Assistant Softball coaches - Don Mitchell and Suzette Pratt; Eric Reichert, Varsity Baseball; Bob Thatcher, JV Baseball; Justin Bonnett, Golf; $1.00 Assistant Golf Coaches - Sam Hanford and Larry Duffy.

**Action:** Motion was made to approve the coaches as listed above. There was some discussion about coaching evaluations not occurring. Noelle will follow up with Bob Sampson regarding this process. It was clarified that if there was not a team for any reason, the District does not disperse the coaching stipend. **Approved.** Sandra also mentioned that we are not always getting skiers to their meets at the right time.

**Action:** Motion was made to move meeting on March 18 to 6:30 p.m. **Approved.**

VII. Executive Session, as needed

VIII. Business Requiring Discussion Only:
A. Future Agenda Item
1) Topics:
   a) Policy: Vehicular Idling (May)
   b) Reports (written) from School Heads (March 18)
   c) Report from Orford Academy Task Force
   d) Tentative Approval of Education Support Personnel Unit Master Agreement

XI. Adjourn: **Action:** Motion was made to adjourn. **Approved.** The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Gray
District Clerk/Treasurer