Members Present: Allen Avery, Margaret Gladstone, Sandra Smith-Ordway (Fairlee); Harry Black (Vershire); Doug Tifft (at-large); Carol Sobetzer, Mel Emerson (Orford); Heather Fahy, Beverly Ash (West Fairlee)

Administrators and Staff Present: Noelle Vitt (Head of Schools), Paul Fassler (Head of MS), Gail Keiling (SME Principal), Mary Bronga (WSE Principal), Tammy MacQueen, Jennifer Bottum

Others Present: Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion), Shirley Godfrey, Mary Daly, Kathleen Monroe, David Fracht, Debra Kingsbury, Trevor Law, Kathy Young, Cheryl Howe

I. Call Meeting: Carol Sobetzer called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. Approve Board Minutes of January 16, 2007: Action: Motion was made to approve the minutes of January 16, 2007. Approved.

III. Public Input: None

IV. Communications and Reports: A. Report of the Chair: Noelle received a letter from Jaguar Football requesting field availability, it was decided that they may use Rivendell fields as long as a Facilities Use Form is filled out and Rivendell students are involved. B. Report of Head of Schools: Noelle mentioned that she received a correspondence from John Kenyon from Washington, DC requesting copies of Rivendell’s transportation contract with First Student. (Out of order.) Margaret questioned the Use of Facilities for gym usage with groups rather than teams; this is to be a future agenda item. Carol addressed David Fracht’s request to have Grant money listed separate from all other monies, he felt it should be a bottom line item and the budget should be prepared the same. She stated that Mr. James responded with a letter regarding Act 68 requirements that stated Rivendell will need to present the voters an expenditure budget and a revenue budget that will include all dollars regardless of source. Carol explained that the Finance Committee will show all monies and it will be broken out in Federal and State Grants. Carol stated the Board’s appreciation of the valuable work that the Budget Advisory Committee has done. Carol distributed a 65% solution article that talked about homework and the 10 effects on No Child Left Behind Act. Noelle briefed the Board on how well things were going with developing evidence and goals with administrators; that the Annual Report will go to press on March 7th; on March 10th the web designer hopes to have a test site and will invite feedback from the community and they are already working on summer planning.

V. B 1. Tammy MacQueen and Jennifer Bottum reported on the challenges and benefits of their shared position in the Middle School and felt that different points of view with the same expectations have intensified instruction with reading and writing and has brought a higher level to the English classes they teach. IV. B 2. Mr. Fassler and Ms. Keiling spoke of their commitment to and the importance of elementary and middle school expectations and felt that they have come a long way and hope to continue to build on that foundation.

Action: Board moved to go into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. Approved. Board came out of Executive Session at 7:18 p.m.
C. Reports of the Committee Chairs:  1) Negotiations Committee: Mel reported that they are at a salary impasse and explained that it would go into Mediation Process.  

2) Long Range Planning: Doug had not arrived, Carol explained the need for a Long Range Planning and Search Committee. Action: Margaret made the motion that Board appoint the Long Range Planning Committee with the responsibility of reviewing and completing initial interviews of possible search consultants and determining finalists to be interviewed by the full Board. No discussion. Approved.  

3) District Technology Committee: Sandra had no formal report, she continues to look for one person per town and some staff or administration to form a committee.  

4) Finance Committee: Allen stated that he would combine this with the budget portion of the agenda.  

V. Business Requiring Discussion:  A. 2007-2008 Budget Discussion (Act 68 Requirements): Allen began by thanking the Finance Committee on a time consuming and tedious job and felt the Budget Committee needed to be redefined. He also explained the clear need for a full-time finance person in order to keep current and up-to-date. Allen went on to explain the taxes in Vermont and New Hampshire recommended and budget cuts within the District, Westshire Principal from .9 to .8, one new paraprofessional in the Elementary school, reduction of one full-time math person at the Academy, .2 reduction for Middle School Guidance and hiring a part-time person to assist in the Academy Library. He also reported that Special Education is on track and he is pleased with their progress. Margaret asked about teacher salaries and Allen anticipated a 4.0% increase and that they are still negotiating on benefits. Sandra asked about the high cost of substitutes and Allen stated that they are allocating more money to better cover staff/teacher absences. Mr. Fracht questioned the 2005/2006 Grants and felt it had been counted twice, Noelle was able to explain the process and show that it had not been counted twice.  

B. Rivendell Academy Arts Trip: Noelle asked the Board to review and approve a request for an overnight trip to New York for Rivendell Arts by Joy Michelson. Action: Margaret moved that the Board approve the Arts trip. There was no discussion. Approved.  

C. REA Side Letter: Action: Bev moved to approve the REA Side Letter in regards to Early Retirement. There was no discussion. Approved.  

D. Grant for $2,000: Noelle explained that Samuel Morey received a grant to build a reading garden. Action: Sandra moved to approve acceptance of the grant and the project. Approved.  

VI. C. Future Agenda Items: Bev requested that the Board invite Brian Emerson to come and explain his Adult Education Program that enables students to stay in school and graduate with their class. It will be put on the agenda for April.  

Action: Board moved to go into Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. Approved.  

Board came out of Executive Session at 9:47 p.m.  

Respectfully submitted,  

Sheri L. Clifford