Members Present: Carol Sobetzer (at-large); Vanessa DeSimone, Cicely Richardson, Marc DeBois (Orford); Sandra Smith-Ordway, Bruce Lyndes, Mark Avery (Fairlee); Jennifer Shatney (W. Fairlee); Jennifer Ricker (Vershire); Student Representatives: Nick Ludwig & Will Ricker

Administrators and Staff Present: Gail Keiling (Head of Schools/Superintendent), Richard Paulson (Chief Financial Officer)

Others Present: Gay-C Gahagan, Judy Siemons, Heidi Peyton, Todd Spayth, Leda Amanatidis, Georgette & Dan Ludwig

I. Call Meeting: Meeting was opened at 6:33 p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: None at this time.

III. General Public Comments
The public in attendance asked a variety of questions about RA Principal position, advertising and interviewing for that position, the curriculum coordinator and dean of students positions, and the guidance counselors at the Academy. The Board answered that the current principal job description at the Academy had changed and the current principal can apply for the position. This position has been advertised and the interview committee will set a time for interviews. The curriculum coordinator will take on more responsibility due to the fact that the full time superintendent, who handled most of this job, would be going to half-time. The dean of students will be fulltime and the same FTE of guidance counselors will remain for the Academy.

IV. Student/Teacher Presentation & Recognition
A. Student Board Reps Report (N. Ludwig & W. Ricker)
Student representatives reported that Winter Carnival went well, winter sports are winding down and with February break things were quiet at this time.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept)
A. Minutes (February 2, 2010)
B. Head of Schools (Superintendent’s Report - written)
C. Finance Committee Minutes
Action: Motion was made to approve the minutes of February 2, 2010 as amended. Approved.

VI. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action)
A. 2010-2011 Budget Approval/Disapproval
After discussing the budget and the fact that difficult economic times continue with recovery not in the near future, the Board felt that now was not the time to raise the budget. It was explained that teacher negotiations were at an impasse and the budget does not reflect an increase for teacher salaries. Also a $120,000 drop in revenue from Vermont has a large impact on the current situation. Each Board member gave their opinion regarding the budget and felt that a 1.27% increase was too much and agreed to cut the increase to a 1% increase.
Action: Motion was made to present to the voters a budget at the annual district meeting at 1% over the 2009-2010 budget for a total of $9,418,590. Approved

B. 2010-2011 School Calendar
Action: Motion was made to accept the 2010-2011 calendar as printed. Approved

C. Next Step for Reorganization of District: G. Keiling stated that she, Dr. Valentine and Ms. Fariel have met and scheduled weekly meetings to plan for next year.

VII. New Business (Receive Information & Possible Action)
A. Warrant for District Annual Meeting
Action: Motion was made to approve and sign the Warrant for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Approved

B. Interview Committee for Superintendent and Head Schools/RA Principal
G. Keiling distributed a draft of hiring protocols for the interview committee. It was decided that an elementary teacher should be part of the committee. Board representatives for the committee will be Vanessa DeSimone and Jennifer Ricker; community representatives discussed were Carol Suich and Leda Amanatidis, both from Vermont. Keiling will speak with Penny Randall to see if anyone from New Hampshire contacted her about being part of the committee.

C. Negotiations Update: Continue to be at an impasse.

D. Personnel: Nothing at this time.

E. Correspondence: None.

VIII. Strategic Action Plan
A. Update of Process: Keiling included information regarding this in her written report.

IX. Future Agenda items (Discussion)
A. Orford Academy Building Task Force
B. Preschool Presentation

X Anticipated Executive Session (Discussion & Possible Action)
A. Personnel Issue
Action: Motion was made to go into executive session at 9:41 p.m. Approved. Board came out of executive session at 10:07 p.m.

XI. Adjournment (Action) - Action: Motion made to adjourn at 10:08 p.m. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri L. Clifford
District Clerk