RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
District Office, Orford, NH
March 6, 2012

Members Present: Cicely Richardson, Vanessa DeSimone, Marc DeBois (Orford); Sandra Smith-Ordway (Chair), Bruce Lyndes, Mark Avery (Fairlee); Jennifer Shatney, Dawn Stever (W. Fairlee); Kathy Hooke, Jennifer Ricker (Vershire), Kathy Blanchard (at-large)

Members Absent: None.

Administration and Staff Present: Gail Keiling (Head of Elementary Schools/SME Principal), Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Michael Galli (RA Dean of Students), Bridget Fariel (Dean of Studies)

Others Present: David Ricker (Orford)

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. General Public Comments: None.

III. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: Smith-Ordway stated there were some needed revisions. The first to move Warrant for Annual District Meeting under VII. New Business to immediately. Secondly, under IX. Anticipated Executive Session an item needs to be added, items are now: A. Student Issue, B. Contract Negotiations, C. Personnel.

VII. New Business, B. Warrant for Annual District Meeting – March 31: Smith-Ordway read the draft warrant, with seven articles and a budget of $9,405,978. ACTION: Motion made to accept Warrant as presented and read. APPROVED (all). Board members signed Warrant.

IV. Presentation/Guests
   A. NECAPs (B. Fariel/K. Gelenian) – B. Needham introduced NECAP presentation and explained how it assists the schools. Bridget presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining trends and classes. She stated that the teachers will be looking at data on Thursday. Brief discussion on science data and how with changes to Academy science classes the hope is that this will positively affect scores in future. Bridget also stated that graph comparisons are in the Annual Report.

V. Consent Agenda
   A. Minutes (February 7, 2012) – Changes noted.
   B. Superintendent Report – Needham added to her report that she had received recommendation to hire Gerry Suich as Grades 7 & 8 Baseball Coach and Eric Reichert as coaching assistant ($1 contract). She also requested the Board vote on changing the April meeting from April 3rd to April 10th. Smith-Ordway asked about foreign exchange student that was on Needham’s written report and K. Gelenian stated that he had looked over application and everything looked good. Board requested that one or more of the current foreign exchange students come give a brief report to the Board before they leave the Academy.
   C. Head of Schools Report – K. Gelenian added that they are looking into a Facebook page for the school. Discussion ensued regarding inappropriate comments being posted, security concerns, who would be monitoring and how often, what would be posted by school, etc. Gelenian said he would like to see it up in about a month and would come back for Board approval first. Smith-Ordway asked about the Community Directory that is a fundraiser for the yearbook and why Dartmouth Printing was no longer printing it
for free. Gelenian stated that the Yearbook Teacher had said they would print but paper cost would be $1000, so she is working with the yearbook company on putting out a business directory through them as a fundraiser.

D. Principal Reports – Keiling explained that the elementary play is a folk tale type. No other additions.

1. Student Representatives – M. Galli reported that no student rep in attendance as they are studying for finals. He added that Student Government had held one of the best winter carnivals in years for grades 7-12 and Academy was very proud of them.

ACTION: Motion made to approve consent agenda with changes to minutes and changing the School Board meeting date to April 10. APPROVED.

VI. Ongoing Business

A. Personnel – Resignation Acceptance: Needham stated that the Board needed to act officially on Joan Holcombe’s resignation as Westshire Principal effective at the end of this school year. Needham stated that Holcombe was certainly thanked for her service, commitment and caring, to which the Board added their agreement.

ACTION: Motion made to accept Joan Holcombe’s resignation effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year as Westshire Principal. APPROVED.

VII. New Business

A. Preparation for Annual District Meeting – March 31
Needham distributed rough draft for budget information flyer, stating it would be mailed out after the Annual Report. Discussion ensued on additions/changes. Needham requested that any additional changes or suggestions be sent to her by March 12th at the latest. Needham said that Administrators have been reminding employees who are residents to come to meeting and bring their friends and hope that the same thing is going on by other groups in the community and the Board. Smith-Ordway also asked about students who are old enough to vote being encouraged to do so.

Smith-Ordway also asked Gelenian at this point if RA is still recruiting tuition students from area towns without high schools. Gelenian stated that he has been calling the Principal at Lyme about different things going on and he thinks he just needs to go down there. He stated that transportation for students from Waits River is a problem. He is talking with School Counselor about making contact at schools and bringing students in to check the Academy out.

C. Strategic Plan Update: Smith-Ordway stated that the Finance/Long Range Planning Committee needs to meet and that this item will be put on agenda for next meeting.

D. Correspondence: None. Comments made that Ice Jamz and the program the 6th Grade did with Orford Historical were very good. Galli thanked Mark Avery in regards to Ice Jamz because his support was pivotal. Gelenian stated that M. Galli deserved a round of applause for all his work on Ice Jamz. Keiling also stated that letters praising the 6th graders had been received after their presentation.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

Professional Development In-service (May); Long Range Plans to Address Flux in Population, Community Outreach, Grants, Global Language for 6th grade, Policies to be Revised, Student Presentations, Department Reports, Board Goals, NEASC, Board Reorganization (April)

IX. Anticipated Executive Session – Action: Motion made to go into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. Approved. Board came out of Executive Session at 9:27 p.m.

A. Contract Negotiations (Support Staff & Teachers) - Action: Motion made to approve negotiated agreement with REA (Teacher Unit) for the 2012-2013 year which reflects a salary increase of three percent (3%). Approved.
B. Personnel – Action: Motion made to go back into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. Approved. Board came out of Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.

X. Adjournment: ACTION – Motion made to adjourn. APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Recorded by:

Penny Perryman