Members Present: Marc DeBois, David Ricker, Michael Smyth (Orford); Mark Avery, Bruce Lyndes (Fairlee); Kathy Hooke, Jean MacDonald (Vershire); Kevin Dexter (W. Fairlee); Kathy Blanchard (at-large)

Members Absent: Cory Austin (W. Fairlee), David Gagner (Fairlee)

Administration and Staff Present: Mike Harris (Superintendent); Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal); Michael Foxall (SME Principal); Jan Cole (Director of Special Education), Doug Pilcher (RA Teacher)

Others Present Who Signed In: Mark Burger, Bonnie McCouch, Chris Crowley (Orford)

I. Call to Order: DeBois called meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: DeBois informed the Board that their informational reports had been included in their packets and so agenda item VI was deleted. Also, item VII B regarding tuition rate setting for Piermont and Warren students was deleted because the necessary information was not yet available. Also, IV Presentation was moved to end of meeting.

III. General Public Comments: None.

IV. Presentation: Moved to later in meeting.

V. Consent Agenda

VI. Informational Reports – Deleted.

VII. Ongoing Business
   A. Annual District Meeting
      1) Budget Flyer. Harris reported that Penny Perryman and he were preparing the budget flyer for distribution. Suggestions were made by Board members for more substance including data about educational outcomes, per pupil costs, student-teacher ratios, the teacher contract, etc. Harris was asked to solicit feedback via email from Board members with the hope of getting responses by Monday.
      2) Rivendell Planning Process 20th Anniversary: Board members noted from Doug Tifft’s email that the first meeting of the Rivendell Planning Committee was held on July 9, 1997 and that the Articles of Agreement were signed on July 9, 1998. Members expressed some uncertainty as to whether the celebration would be more appropriate in 2017 or 2018. It was agreed to defer this decision to a later meeting.
   B. Tuition Rate for NH Students: Deleted.
   C. Superintendent Search: Harris recounted the Board’s interview of Elaine Arbour the previous week and the Board’s decision to authorize him to offer her a contract. He reported that Ms. Arbour and he have exchanged emails about terms and he anticipated sending her an actual contract the next day.
   D. Update Rivendell Review Committee: Harris distributed a handout listing the confirmed membership of the committee along with a statement of its charge that he had drafted. Harris reported that one spot on the committee remains unfilled but that he was awaiting a response for that. The Board members expressed satisfaction with the charge statement as follows: (a) to examine the current practices of the School District regarding the apportionment of expenses and the allocation of state aid in order to determine the District’s compliance with the Articles
of Agreement, and (b) to report to the School Board with findings and recommendations. Part (a) will include the examination of topics including the calculation of ADM, preschool enrollment counts, the allocation of special education expenses, and the role of the auditors. 

**Action:** Motion made to approve the charge statement for the Rivendell Review Committee as stated. (DeBois, Ricker) **Approved.** The Board confirmed its expectation that the committee could subsequently proceed with its work.

**VIII. New Business**
**A. Special Meeting for Reorganization NLT 3/31/17**

**Action:** Motion made to hold the Reorganization Meeting of the School Board on March 28, 2017, at 6:30 PM at the District Office. (Hooke, Smyth) **Approved.**

**B. Personnel Updates:** Harris informed the Board that he had filled the vacant 7th/8th grade special education teaching position by promoting Laura Taylor from her prior paraprofessional position. 

**Action:** Motion to approve the hiring of Laura Taylor as a 7th/8th grade special education teacher. (Blanchard, Ricker) **Approved.**

**C. Correspondence:** DeBois noted that there was no correspondence.

**IV. Presentation:** Gelenian spoke about his plans for a presentation regarding Project Based Learning on March 21st prior to the District Annual Meeting.

**IX. Future Agenda Items:** The following topics were suggested: the 20th anniversary celebration, a review of the District meeting, and the Orford Task Force. Members discussed the format for the District meeting and agreed that Marc DeBois would speak first followed by Bruce Lyndes.

**X. Executive Session**
**A. Personnel**

**B. Legal**

**Action:** Motion made to enter executive session at 7:19 PM. (Smyth, Lyndes) **Approved.**

The Board returned to public session at 7:45 PM.

**XI. Adjournment**

**Action:** Motion made to adjourn. (Hooke, Smyth) **Approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:49.

Recorded by:
Michael Harris, Superintendent

Note: All Board votes were unanimous (Chair abstains) unless noted otherwise.