Members Present: Marc DeBois, David Ricker (Orford); Bruce Lyndes, Margaret Gladstone (Fairlee); Kathy Hooke, Jean MacDonald (Vershire); Kevin Dexter, Sarah Rinehimer (W. Fairlee); Kathy Blanchard (at-large); Cameron Day (RA Student Rep)

Members Absent: Mark Avery (Fairlee); Michael Smyth (Orford)

Administration and Staff Present: Mike Harris (Superintendent); Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal); Michael Galli (RA Dean of Students);

Others Present: Cicely Richardson (JO), Bonnie McCouch (Orford)

I. Call to Order (M. Harris): Harris called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Board Reorganization (M. Harris): Harris called for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. DeBois (Chair) and Avery (Vice Chair) were nominated and seconded. DeBois was elected as Chair and Avery was elected as Vice Chair. DeBois welcomed newly elected Gladstone (a former Board member) to the Board.

III. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: A discussion regarding Orford Academy Building Task Force was added to agenda.

IV. General Public Comments: None.

V. Hiring Process:
   A. Superintendent Search Committee: Committee for the Superintendent position will consist of three Board members (Hooke, Blanchard, and Ricker), one student, and two teachers (one of whom will be selected by the Union), three administrators whom will be selected by the principal, and two parents. Rinehimer will seek out a Vermont parent.
   B. SME Principal Update: The Samuel Morey Principal Committee will consist of the Superintendent, two Board members, two parents, two teachers, Director of Special Education, two administrators, and one student. There have been 22 thus far which are being reviewed by the Leadership Team. Blanchard and Gladstone will be the two Board members on this committee. There is an April 4th meeting.

VI. Act 46 Update: Survey was sent out and 160 people responded. Orford residents made up a majority of the responses. Orford residents have voiced stronger sentiments about importance of keeping the Academy in town. Vershire and West Fairlee citizens expressed less attachment to the physicality of the school. DeBois spoke with Rebecca Holcombe, VT Secretary of the Agency of Education, whom spoke highly of our schools. Discussion of a large supervisory union ensued. There may be benefits in Special Education cost savings, however, according to Holcombe this option may not even be viable. The Board felt the loss of autonomy and lack of financial savings of joining a SU made this a “closed door” option, one which the Board unanimously expressed disinterest. It was decided the Board would wait until the April meeting to decide whether or not to continue on with the planning grant work.
VII. **Orford Task Force Update**: Task Force is moving forward with the initial planning surrounding the conversion of the 1851 building as is on its current footprint. There is some concern this space, without the adjacent parcel, may be too small for the intended twenty unit facility.

VIII. **Executive Session, 1 VSA § 313:**
   A. **Personnel:**
      Action: Motion made to go into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss personnel item with Superintendent. **Approved.**
      Board came out of Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.
      Action: Motion made to extend Harris’ Superintendent’s contract for 12 more months (until June 30, 2017). **Approved.**

IX. **Adjournment**
   Action: Motion made to adjourn. **Approved.**
   Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Recorded by:
Sarah Rinehimer
Board Secretary/Member

Note: All Board votes were unanimous unless noted otherwise.