I. Call Meeting: Carol Sobetzer called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

II. Approve Board Minutes of January 16, 2007 and February 13, 2007: The time that the Board came out of Executive Session was omitted from the minutes of January 16, 2007. Time was noted as 9:15 p.m. Action: Motion was made to approve the minutes of January 16, 2007 with correction and to move approval of February 13, 2007 minutes to the next meeting. Approved.

III. Public Input: None

IV. Communications and Reports: A. Report of the Chair: 1) Correspondence: Carol mentioned numerous emails received from David Fracht regarding the budget and thanked the District Office personnel and Allen Avery for their work in responding to these emails. Allen also thanked the District Office staff for their work. B. Report of Head of Schools: On behalf of Bob Sampson Noelle reported the Raptors semi-final appearance in Barre, VT. Noelle also reported attending a dress rehearsal for the one-act play. The Montshire Museum, as part of our partnership with them, will be hosting Rivendell Academy on Friday, March 9 beginning at 5:30 p.m. There is also a dedication of the mural at Westshire at 8:30 a.m. on March 9. Noelle mentioned the new painting in the Middle School hallway and the installation of the lockers. The climbing wall was installed over February vacation. Noelle reported working hard at getting information on the new pilot website and that it should be operational by the week ending March 16. There will be a meeting of the math teachers, Nicole Saignor, Noelle Vitt and the Principals about Nicole’s role in the mathematics departments. Noelle commented that the level of detail in the budget preparation was extraordinary and thanked Allen Avery for his meticulous work. The annual report is almost complete and Noelle thanked Penny Randall for her organization and Sandra who will complete the finishing touches. Carol mentioned having an item on the agenda for the student representative at the next meeting. Penny M. commented on the math program stating that the Upper House classes are really challenging without much additional support and therefore students are electing to take easier courses after 9th and 10th grade. Carol asked if students feel they have an avenue/procedure to report the lack of support? Penny said students are basically at the mercy of the teacher’s schedule. C. Reports of the Committee Chairs: 1) Long-range planning: Doug reported that they will be meeting next Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. which conflicts with the Orford Town meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to see where they are at with the search for a search committee for strategic planning. The committee is also working on planning the March 20th presentation with Gary Baker and is looking at the April meeting to have three (3) firms lined up to conduct interviews with. 2) District Technology Committee: There was a request from the Board to help identify individuals from the communities that might be able to serve on the committee. Noelle suggested advertising for
volunteers through the newsletter or Journal Opinion. 3) Finance Committee: Allen Avery reported the 2007-2008 budget is now complete. He explained a surplus of approximately $165,898, which is additional revenue to be applied to the 2007 tax rates in the various towns. This is three years of adjusting entries that were not made by previous financial managers and was detected by Nancy Hassam. The anticipated surplus of $151,491 is projected with this year’s budget with the majority coming from the Special Education budget. Allen went over the projected tax rate by town. The committee will meet on March 20 at 6:15 p.m. to review how the budget will be presented at the annual meeting. Allen distributed a draft of a newsletter to be available before annual meeting. The SPED surplus is not a guarantee as a student with need could move into District at any time. This is only a projection based on the immediate numbers. Noelle suggested changing the wording to “projected.” Sandra suggested breaking down the explanation by value of your home and what your projected taxes would be. The Finance Committee will consider adding this information to the newsletter so that it was an apples to apples comparison. Noelle suggested having the tax rate calculation sheets available at school meeting. Doug questioned again if we can carry forward the surplus money. Allen said this money could be allocated to the Maintenance Reserve Fund. 4) Old Orford Academy Task Force: The Task Force will meet Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Doug asked what he should be reporting to the Task Force regarding how much financially the School Board is able to kick in for technical assistance. There is no warrant article to allocate these funds or money factored in the budget for this support. Noelle suggested that possibly some of the surplus be allocated to this if the Task Force makes a formal request/proposal to the Board.

V. Business Requiring Discussion & Action: A. Technical Assistance for Old Orford Academy Action: (see above) B. Warrant Approval and Signing: Warrant was passed around and signed with no discussion. C. Change April Board Meeting Date: Noelle is unable to attend the originally scheduled meeting so it will be moved to April 9th. Action: Motion was made to change the April Board meeting from April 3rd to April 9th. Approved. D. Approval of Faculty Contracts: Action: Motion was made to take the agenda out of order and move discussion of faculty contracts to executive because of sensitive matters regarding some teacher contracts. Approved. E. Charging Procedure for School Lunch: There was discussion about a policy that would allow students and staff to only charge up to $10.00, but students could still get a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, if they were hungry. Margaret felt that information needs to go home prior to change, however, it was noted that the students have already been notified about this decision and know they are not allowed to charge. Action: Motion was made to only allow charging of food through the Food Service Program up to $10 per student/staff member and that no person may purchase lunch while having a balance that totals $10 or more. If hungry, students may have a “free” peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Approved.

VI. Business Requiring Discussion Only: A. Policy: Community Use of Facilities: Noelle spoke about group use vs. individual use of the facilities and clarified that outside the buildings on the grounds is at your own risk. It is when you permit the use that the insurance issue comes into play. It was suggested that a sign might be displayed to indicate that. Noelle suggested thinking about this issue and discussing it again at the Board meeting in April. Noelle will suggest to Mary Bronga (faculty CSO representative) to bring the idea of incorporating this to the CSO Board about use of the buildings as they carry an insurance binder. B. Personnel: Noelle brought forth the following nominations as endorsed by Bob Sampson - Coaches: Eric Reichert, Varsity Baseball; Lance Mills, Varsity Softball; Robert Thatcher, JV Baseball; Gerry Suich, JV Softball; Don Mitchell, JV Softball. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of not enough students to support each of these teams. Action: Motion was made to hire the above named coaches subject to an adequate number of student athletes to support the teams. Approved. Sandra asked about feedback forms now that basketball season was over. Noelle will talk to Bob Sampson and Bob Thatcher regarding evaluations for winter and fall sports and for
all activities that involve a coach. C. Future Agenda Items 1) April – Policies: a. Second Readings – Admission of Non-Resident Students, Code F20; Curriculum Development, Code G1; Tobacco Prohibition, Code E1 – Revision b. Revisions: Participation of Home Study Students in School Programs Board has these readings and those needing revision Noelle is still working on. c. New: River Bend Transportation. Noelle has no formal recommendation from Bob Sampson. Noelle asked for feedback from the Board as whether to eliminate students driving back and forth to River Bend. Noelle feels that Bob Sampson needs to make a formal request for this policy. Margaret spoke about the individual driving approval process at each school, but mentioned that it seems to be less monitoring of who is actually getting into what vehicle and when. Noelle stated that Bob Sampson doesn’t want to get involved with this monitoring. Margaret said she felt this issue needed to be presented to the Board; Noelle said it would be in May. 2) Presentations: a. World Languages & Westshire 5th grade performance – April b. Possibly adult education speaker. Music – May c. Science – June Noelle spoke about the policy of admitting foreign exchange students briefly before Cami Buster presented an exchange student who is in transition at her house. Cami asked about the possibilities of the Board accepting her if someone within the District wanted to house her. This exchange student would be here until June. Currently, we have one exchange student. Cami asked permission for her enrollment at Rivendell Academy if she is accepted within the District. Action: Motion was made to accept the enrollment of this foreign exchange student upon the recommendation of the Head of HS and completion of all necessary paperwork. Approved. Action: Motion was made to move to executive session at 8:07 p.m. Approved. Board came out of Executive Session at 8:37 p.m.

VII. Adjourn: Action: Motion was made to adjourn. Approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Gray
Interim District Clerk/Treasurer