Members Present: Marc DeBois (Chair), David Ricker, Vanessa DeSimone (Orford); David Gagner, Jon Lester (Fairlee), Kathy Hooke, Maria Koehler (Vershire), Kevin Dexter (West Fairlee); Kathy Blanchard (at-large)

Members Absent: Cory Austin (W. Fairlee); Bruce Lyndes (Fairlee)

Administration and Staff Present: Elaine Arbour (Superintendent); Keri Gelenian (RA Principal); Tammy MacQueen (WES Principal); Michael Foxall (SME Principal); Michael Galli (Dean of Students); Jan Cole (Director of Special Education)

Public Present: Christine Bills, (Orford); Matt Jung (Fairlee); Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion)

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

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: Add Section IIIA: Nomination of Vice-Chair

III. General Public Comments: None

A. Nomination of Vice-Chair Kathy Blanchard nominated Kathy Hooke as vice-chair. Dexter seconded the nomination. Hooke accepted and nomination was unanimously approved.

IV. Presentation

A. Service Recognition – Mark Avery Marc DeBois thanked Mark Avery for his 9 years of service on the Rivendell School Board and presented him with a 9-year service award. Avery accepted the service recognition and spoke of the incredible collaboration of the Board.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

1) Board March 6, 2018

Action: Motion made to approve consent agenda. (Gagner/Ricker). Approved.

VI. Informational Reports (written)

A. Superintendent Report: Elaine Arbour provided an update on the principal search and the composition of the interview committee. Arbour also stated that the principal and assistant principal positions are changing to both being year round. Arbour reported that the community conversation had approximately 50 people in attendance. The groups looked at 5 different building configurations and the goal was not to make a decision, but to help get creative ideas flowing. The leadership team will look at themes to narrow the field. Arbour reported that the federal food service will be onsite April 24 and 25 and Celise Johnson is preparing for that process. Arbour said she is working on standardizing nonunion contracts beginning with July 1, 2018 contracts. Arbour reported that Rivendell is part of the first cohort for the new financial software system for the State of Vermont with a go live date of October 1, 2018. The cost for training and licensing of the system is covered by State of Vermont. There was discussion about when the Board will meet Bill Little, the new Business Administrator. He will attend a meeting no later than August. Arbour reported that the principal search committee would be conducting interviews on Friday and would move a few individuals forward (potential site visits, reference check, follow up interviews, meet and greets) and plans to wrap up in the next week or two. Mark Avery spoke about a “flag of compassion” from a foundation in the Netherlands which represents human connection/compassion. He added that it generates conversation and discussion and has one for Rivendell if interested. Arbour will circulate Avery’s email about the flag and it will be discussed further at the next meeting.

B. Head of Schools Report: Keri Gelenian said the Trimester I and II honors reception was held on Thursday and SBAC testing is underway. He publicly acknowledged the phenomenal work
of Nick Pryer and Matt Joska in organizing the testing process. He will present grade data for Trimester II at the next Board meeting. Gelenian reported that Michael Galli has been gathering data to understand the social/emotional needs of students. Galli will use the same format for the elementary schools and will develop a “mini profile” to identify the students in greatest need. Gelenian spoke about a hover craft project with the 4th grade; a critical exploration around scientific concept. Laszlo Bardos is working with students and will connect with the 4th graders on the project. The Academy staff came up with a schedule that met criteria: common planning time among project teams and an expectation of collaboration, grade level teams that coach the skills of life and develop the culture of the school, collaboratively designed, rigorous, interdisciplinary projects, rearrangement of workspace and better utilization of staff expertise to create high quality, rigorous project and CE materials. He mentioned the desire to have a 3-d printer. Gelenian reviewed the open positions at the Academy and said Academy summer school letters went out for those in jeopardy.

C. Elementary Schools Report: Tammy MacQueen spoke about the Jump Rope for Heart event and reported working on the SummerScapes program. Michael Foxall said there was a good turnout on conference day, but suggested looking at the structure because one day is not enough time to complete all conferences. He also spoke about SBAC coordination and schedule.

VII. Ongoing Business  
A. School Safety: Arbour said the leadership team has been working to develop a bigger vision for school safety in a way that focuses on the mission and values of the district and have been reviewing building practices and protocols from each principal. There was further discussion about lockdown and fire drills, door monitors/buzzers and other security measures.

B. Ratify Teacher REA Agreement: Action: Motion was made to ratify/approve the Teacher REA agreement as presented (Ricker/Hooke) Approved.

C. School Board Training: Arbour distributed a Roles and Responsibilities of the Board document as refresher and introduction to new members and mentioned a training scheduled for April 10th at 5pm in Montpelier. Any Board member interested in attending should email Brenda Gray by tomorrow and should also send any specific topics of interest for future discussions.

VIII. New Business  
A. Equity Discussion: There was brief discussion of the definition of equity in education and that all students should be making learning progress.

B. DataPath Update: Arbour briefly explained that Future Planning Associates has provided notification they are discontinuing services as a provider at the end of April and that we have signed an agreement with a new provider, DataPath, who has been vetted through VEHI. We are hopeful for a smooth transition.

C. 2018-2019 Teacher Nomination List:  
Action: Motion was made to approve the 2018-2019 Teacher Nomination List as presented (Ricker/Gagner) Approved.

D. Job Descriptions:  
1) Action: Gagner mentioned concerns about job descriptions not mentioning the FTE, but Arbour explained that is specific to the contract. Action: Motion was made to approve the Administrative Assistant – Special Education Job Description, Facilities Evening Supervisor Job Description and the Elementary Assistant Principal as presented (Gagner/Ricker) Approved.

E. Personnel Updates  
Resignations: Action: Motion was made to accept the letter of resignation from Doug Pilcher (Ricker/Dexter) Approved. Action: Motion was made to accept the letter of resignation from Richard Paulson (Blanchard/Ricker) Approved.  
Correspondence: Arbour briefly referenced the financial reports as informational only and brief discussion followed.

IX. Future Agenda Items
20th Anniversary, Crisis Response, Community Outreach, Department Reports, Vision for Food Service, Cooperation w/Thetford Academy, Electronic Devices, Elected Local Auditors’ Role, ALICE – Active Shooter Response Training, Keys and Access to Buildings, Rivendell Review Committee Report (May or June); Administrative Nominations (May); REA ESP Contract (May); School Safety/Values (May); Approve Annual Meeting Minutes (May); Flag of Compassion Discussion (May); Marketing Committee Update (May); Integrated Field Review Report (May); Superintendent Evaluation Process and Timeline (May)

X. Executive Session
Action: Motion made to move into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. (Hooke/Ricker). Approved.
Action: Motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 8:41 p.m. (Ricker/Gagner). Approved.

XI. Action: Motion was made to adjourn (Blanchard/Dexter) Approved.
Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Recorded by:
Brenda Gray
Executive Assistant/HR Manager

Note: All Board votes were unanimous unless noted otherwise.