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

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: None.

III. Executive Session:
A. Student Issue – Expulsion Hearing
B. Parent Request
   Action: Motion made to go into Executive Session at 6:31 p.m. (Avery, Lyndes) Approved.
   Board came out of Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. No action taken on these issues.

IV. General Public Comments: None.

V. Presentation: None.

VI. Consent Agenda
A. Minutes
   1) Board – March 1 & 22, 2016
   2) Annual District Meeting – March 15, 2016
   Action: Motion made to approve March 1 and 22, 2016, minutes with changes, and to table the Annual District Meeting minutes until the May meeting. (MacDonald, Lyndes) Approved.

VII. Informational Reports (written)
A. Elementary Schools Report: MacQueen reiterated items in her written report (poetry reading, her new blog and Westshire Facebook page) and highlighted the recent student banjo making and playing as part of Music class. Keiling spoke of involving students and Samuel Morey in the use of local and fresh produce and forging partnerships with local farmers/growers. She sees the potential for all three Rivendell schools to do this. Keiling also reiterated from her written report the visit of Harvard graduate students studying the teaching profession and who are visiting Samuel Morey on May 5th to see teachers in action. Board suggested she notify local media about the visit.

B. Superintendent Report: Harris said most major points of his report will come later in the agenda. He spoke of roofing projects needed for the two elementary schools this summer and will require money to come from capital reserve, which we will bring to the Board first for approval. Brief discussion on Samuel Morey roof. Keiling and Harris will both look into this, as well as warranty from Palmieri on roofs.

C. Head of Schools Report: Gelenian reported Social Studies interviews were completed and he would be forwarding a candidate to Harris for Board approval. He said the Search Committee was still doing Spanish interviews. Gelenian reported Chris White has gotten rid of plastic ware in the RA café. He also spoke of getting curriculum into deeper projects, critical explorers, and 10th grade roundtables.
1) Student Government Report: Day distributed information on the Raptor Con which will be on May 14th. He stated he had spent $250 and plans to keep costs at that. He has had posters posted at a number of area schools, on the Facebook page and website. The hope is that this will become an annual event and a way to generate money for student government.

VIII. Ongoing Business
A. Annual District Meeting Review: Discussion was held on how close the budget vote was, how few Vermont voters and parents were in attendance and what steps could be taken to get more voters out in the future. Avery suggested that the room next year be set up a little different in relation to were the town polls are in the room. Hooke will discuss this with Rivendell’s Moderator. Day asked about having some time where students could speak and how it was intimidating as a student to do that. Galli said that students didn’t feel empowered or safe to speak up. Hooke said that students speaking is usually very well received. Also, discussed having the budget flyer that goes out to public include more information.

1) Auditors Appointments: After a brief discussion MacDonald said that she would contact Ken Stella to see if he would be willing to be appointed for one of the auditor positions.

B. Head of Schools Evaluation: Harris reported the evaluation surveys had been returned with more than 200 replies. He will be receiving the data soon and plans to complete the process with a written summary and a meeting around the beginning of May.

C. Superintendent Search: As Harris has been extended for one year as Superintendent until June 30, 2017, after some discussion, it was decided that the Search Committee will hear from Harris in September/October regarding any suggested changes to the job description and then posting of the position would occur around Thanksgiving.

D. Administrative Hiring Process (Samuel Morey Principal): Harris reported that the Search Committee had 11 people on it, there were 22 candidates, the school administrators had reviewed applicants first and forwarded 11 to 12 to the larger committee, who then narrowed that down to five candidates for interviews on April 7th. Committee is then charged with sending one or two candidates to Board for an interview, after reference checks, visiting the schools and meeting staff/students. Board decided to hold a Special Meeting on April 25th with only one agenda item of candidate interviews in executive session.

E. Act 46 Update from Study Group: Hooke reported that it appeared Thetford wants to try to stay with Strafford and creating their own SU. DeBois said Thetford chair is to do the side by side (RISD not involved) and/or the SU model which RISD Board is not interested in. Discussion was held on whether RISD should continue in the study grant when the options being pursue are not in RISD’s best interest. Board decided to wait until the May Board meeting to decide. Blanchard pointed out that then the Board should communicate the Board’s decision to the Rivendell community. Hooke is scheduled to go to Rivendell Academy to talk to students about Act 46 tomorrow.

F. Piermont/Woodsville: DeBois asked if Board wants to contact Piermont Board chair to see what their true interest is in collaboration with RISD. Action: Motion made for DeBois to contact Piermont School Board Chair regarding their interest in collaboration with RISD. (Lyndes, Hooke) Approved.

G. Old Orford Academy Building: Duncan Cooley, who is the chair of the Orford Academy Building Task Force, reported that real things were really happening now with the building. She distributed preliminary architect drawings from Alba Architects and said HP Cummings has been selected as contractor - all have experience with dealing with historical buildings. She stated that the next big step is the feasibility study which is very important (need to make sure have the demand and what is built meets the demand). She will get Board a copy of the survey. Duncan Cooley anticipates will know that in a few weeks, reported that the Orford Selectboard was seeing a presentation in reference to a block grant (towns have to apply). She stated that if everything went perfectly and funding was received, construction could begin in late winter of this year or early spring next year, with occupancy in 2017. Question asked about the eligibility age for the senior housing, was it still 62 or older, and she reported she didn’t know yet. Board thanked her for attending.
IX. New Business
A. Approve Teacher Contract Renewals for 2016-2017: Harris briefly described teacher
renewals with cuts in some FTEs as decided previously.
Action: Motion made to approve teacher contract renewals as described by Superintendent.
(Hooke, Lyndes) Approved.
B. Authorization for Signatory on RA Student Activity Account and Others
Action: Motion made to approve adding Michael R. Harris to accounts at Wells River Savings
Bank and Woodsville Guaranty Savings and deleting Brenda L. Needham. (Hooke, Avery)
Approved.
C. Hiring/Resignation Updates: Harris reiterated from his written report the retirement of Wendy
Bergren, long time Special Education Teacher, and resignations of Lauren Melkonian (Special
Education Teacher) and Aimee Bittinger (Elementary Teacher).
Action: Motion made to accept resignation of Melkonian and Bittinger, as well as retirement of
Wendy Bergren with thanks. (Blanchard, MacDonald) Approved.
D. Correspondence: DeBois reiterated to Board to send any Board correspondence or emails to
Perryman so that is an official record.

X. Future Agenda Items
Common Core, Crisis Response, Community Outreach, Policies to be Revised (ongoing),
Student Presentations, Department Reports, Act 46, Head of Schools Evaluation Process, SME
Principal Hiring, Student Presentation, Operations Report/Presentation

XI. Adjournment
Action: Motion made to adjourn. (Hooke, Avery) Approved.
Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Recorded by:
Penny Perryman, CEOE
Executive Assistant/HR Manager

Note: All Board votes were unanimous unless noted otherwise.