RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING  
Westshire Elementary School, West Fairlee, VT  
April 6, 2010

Members Present: Carol Sobetzer (at-large); Vanessa DeSimone, Cicely Richardson, Marc DeBois (Orford); Sandra Smith-Ordway, Bruce Lyndes, Mark Avery (Fairlee); Jennifer Shatney (W. Fairlee); Jennifer Ricker, Kathy Hooke (Vershire); Student Representative: Will Ricker

Administrators and Staff Present: Gail Keiling (Head of Schools/Superintendent), Hank Plaisted (Director of Information Technology), Teddy Valencia-Reichert (Science Teacher), Kathleen Foltz (EEE/ECP Teacher), Robert Reade (ECP Teacher)

Others Present: Beverly Ash, Gay-C Gahagan

I. Call Meeting: Meeting was opened at 6:32 m.

II. Board Reorganization: This was done at the Special Board Meeting on March 31, 2010.

III. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation:
Action: Motion made to hear Overnight Student Trips under New Business (VIII, B) after General Public Comments. Approved.

IV. General Public Comments: None.

MOVED:

VIII. New Business

B. Overnight Student Trips
1) Odyssey of the Mind Finals Trip (May 26-30) - T. Valencia-Reichert reported that the 9th and 10th grade teams are traveling to Michigan State, fundraising efforts continue.
2) Middle School 8th Grade Trip (June 14 & 15) - Valencia-Reichert reported trip is to Lake George and also has educational component—the students will study water quality, GPS and environment while also enjoying Six Flags. Students raised 100% of money for trip.
3) Senior Class Trip (May 23-25) - Valencia-Reichert reported for Eric Reichert, a Senior Class Advisor, that this trip is also to Six Flags.
4) Life Skills (June 4-6) - Keiling presented that students are attending Special Olympics @ UVM.

Action: Motion made to approve the above overnight student trips. Approved.

V. Student/Teacher Presentation & Recognition

A. Student Board Reps Report (W. Ricker): Ricker reported that Seniors are receiving responses from colleges, students from France are visiting this week, and the play is moving along nicely and is scheduled for May 14 and 15.

B. Preschool (K. Foltz & R. Reade): A PowerPoint presentation was shown by K. Foltz and R. Reade describing and illustrating the program as research-based and in 9th year with emphasis on literacy, numeration, and social interaction as main focal points. Presently 36 preschoolers enrolled; 18 at each school; the two groups come together twice a year for activities. Family involvement is 90-100% of parents attend field trips, 20% of parents are on steering committee, 50% of parents volunteer, and 100% of parents visit. Brief discussion regarding the difference between RISD Early Childhood Program (ECP) and Head Start—RISD does not have the density of economically qualifying children required by the federal government to Head Start Program. Foltz commented that RISD ECP and Head Start have different focuses and RISD ECP has highly trained, licensed teachers, while typically only the Director of a Head Start program is so qualified. There’s a long waiting list for RISD ECP and Foltz and Keiling presented a cost-analysis comparison of RISD ECP with local pre-schools. RISD is less expensive and research will be done regarding raising the tuition rate that would affect only families paying full rate and expectation is that raising tuition for full paying families will not decrease enrollment.
VI. Consent Agenda (Accept)
   A. Minutes (March 2, 2010)
   B. Head of Schools (Superintendent) Report (written)
      1) Technology and District Office: Keiling reported that District received the 21st Century Grant which is $80,000 annually for five years for the Visions Program with RISD matching that amount through budget, revenue and other grants. Brief discussion regarding contact with the Abby Group and its food service proposal. Keiling suggested a District committee to explore food service programs. Keiling reported that Oxbow School Board would like to continue conversations in partnering – perhaps video advanced placement classes.

      Brief presentation by Hank Plaisted requesting funding for two more paid full days per week in next year’s budget and summer for technology specialist.

      Action: Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda items, with March 2, 2010 minute amendments, and including having Head of Schools (Superintendent) review budget for funds to pay additional two days per week and summer for IT staff. Approved.

VII. Ongoing Business
   A. Annual Meeting Review: Discussion regarding future Board preparation to answer the public’s various questions and to look at issues that were of public concern this year at Annual Meeting.
   B. Approve Teacher Contract Renewals for 2010-2011 – Action: Motion made to approve teacher hires/renewals as presented by Keiling for the 2010/2011 school year. Approved.
   C. Update on Reorganization of District: Interviews for Head of Schools/RA Principal continue, with second interview of possible candidate scheduled for April 12, 2010 with Board only at 4:30 p.m. via Skype.

VIII. New Business
   A. Negotiations Update: Continue to be at impasse.
   B. Overnight Student Trips (moved to early in meeting)
   C. Board Dates for the Reminder of 2009-2010
      1) May 4 and June 2 – Action: Motion made to accept dates. Approved.
   D. Board Committees Regrouping: Board members instructed to communicate their preferences for committee memberships via email to Board Chair.
   E. Open School Board Seat – West Fairlee - Action: Motion made to appoint Beverly Ash to vacant West Fairlee Board seat. Approved.
   F. Correspondence: None.

IX. Strategic Action Plan
   A. Update of Process: None at this time.

X. Future Agenda Items
   A. Articles of Agreement regarding Election procedures (D. Hooke)
   B. Orford Academy Building Task Force
   C. Montshire Museum/Dartmouth partnership
   D. Raptor Retail

XI. Anticipated Executive Session
   A. Board Issues/Roles - Action: Motion made to go into executive session at 8:52 p.m. Approved.
      Board came out of executive session at 9:50 p.m.

XII. Adjournment (Action) - Action: Motion made to adjourn at 9:51 p.m. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L. Sarazin
Board Recording Secretary