Members Present: Carol Sobetzer, Mel Emerson, Juliette Bianco (Orford); Margaret Gladstone, Allen Avery, Sandra Smith-Ordway (Fairlee); Trevor Law (Vershire); Heather Fahy (West Fairlee); Doug Tifft (at-large)

Administrators Present: Noelle Vitt (Head of Schools), Mary Bronga (WSE Principal), Gail Keiling (SME Principal/Head of Elementary Program)

Others Present: Gary G. Baker & Arthur L. Bettencourt (NESDEC), Raymond Proulx and Margaret MacLean

I. Call Meeting: Carol Sobetzer called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Doug Tifft, chair of Long Range Planning Committee.

II. Strategic Planning Interviews: The Board listened to three presentations regarding possible strategic planning processes. The Board asked questions of all three regarding focus, time lines, and costs. A forth presenter, Herb Pandiscio of Avon Educational Search Consultants, was unable to attend but the Board had a letter explaining his perspective on strategic planning.

There was a discussion regarding what the Board wants out of the strategic planning process, what it should look like, and whether or not we needed to hire someone or possibly do it ourselves. There was agreement that we need someone outside of the District to help us with this process.

It was decided that Juliette and Heather will begin reference checking and Doug would talk with Herb Pandisio to see if he was still interested and would be able to meet with the Board at the May 1st meeting.

III. Public Comments: None.

IV. Executive Session: None

V. Business Requiring Action
   A. Hire a Strategic Planning Consultant: It was agreed that at the May 1st meeting the Board will make a decision regarding who to hire.

VI. Transact any other business that needs to be considered: None

VII. Adjourn: Action: Motion made to adjourn meeting. Approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Sobetzer
Recorder