Members Present: Juliette Bianco, Brenda Gray, Carol Sobetzer (Orford); Margaret Gladstone, Sandra Smith-Ordway (Fairlee); Doug Tifft (at large)

Administrators and Staff Present: Noelle Vitt, Head of Schools (Superintendent); Gail Keiling, SME Principal; Robert Sampson (Head of High School); Hank Plaisted (Director of Information Technology)

Others Present: Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion); Shannon Wilson, Eric Picconi, Samantha Wolf and Alex Marshall

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

II. Approve Board Minutes of April 8, 2008: Action – Motion was made to approve minutes from the April 8, 2008 Board meeting. Approved.

III. Public Input: Public had questions and comments on the Head of Middle School position in regards to interviewing, hiring, person selected for the position (M. Bridget Fariel), and number of years of the employment contract (one year). All people in attendance were told that there would be a “Meet the 08-09 Head of Middle School” potluck dinner on May 28th. Also, it was stated that the Strategic Plan will speak in regard to attaining and keeping staff when completed.

IV. Communications and Reports:
   A. Report of the Chair: Carol read a letter from the Vermont Association of Educational Office Professionals (VAEOP). The letter stated that Noelle Vitt had been nominated and selected as their Administrator of the Year. The Board congratulated Noelle on this honor. Carol then read an email from Noelle regarding the West Fairlee Board of Selectmen and that they and the town of West Fairlee may need space during the summer due to the possible closing of Bean Hall. Noelle will explore the need. Carol reported that the Board had received two resignations from Board members – Juliette Bianco who will be moving to Belgium and is leaving at the end of June and Doug Tifft who is resigning from the at-large position.

   Action: Motion was made to accept Doug Tifft’s resignation of the at-large Board seat and to approve his appointment to open Fairlee Board seat. Also, to accept Juliette Bianco’s resignation with the Orford Board seat to be open as of the July Board meeting. Approved.

   B. Report of Head of Schools: Noelle reported that she had not heard from the Orford Academy Task Force yet regarding the bidding out for the technical assessment. She announced that next Tuesday Ms. Fariel would be giving a talk to the Orford Historical Society, based on research done under “Flow of History” Grant. Noelle said that Rivendell is not listed on AYP but every school will be listed eventually. Jan Cole will work to see what students have not improved. Noelle stated that the math curriculum group has been meeting. It is a great group. It is for preK-12 topics. They have spoken about “The Final Report of National Mathematics Advisory Panel” - deepening work in algebra. A three-minute video was then shown regarding covering fewer topics but more in depth, with algebra on as central focus. There will be a recommendation for new 7/8 math curriculum. Eric Picconi spoke about the Spanish trip with students Samantha Wolf and Alex Marshall. Hiking and sightseeing and slide show of sites in Spain.

   1) Action Plan Review (G. Keiling): Gail said she still needed to do final revisions and the new Action Plan will be posted on the Rivendell website. There is one new goal – number 8. Gail said that strategies are ongoing. The Board will review the Action Plan and come back with questions at the July meeting.

   C. Report of Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Doug distributed enrollment projections based on NESDEC report. He indicated that the Steering Committee met with three focus groups having their last meetings. Main objective is to mail goals and strategies and get feedback from public and staff. A culminating meeting with focus groups and Steering Committee is scheduled at the Academy Library on June 11th at 6:30 p.m.
May 29th – Orford Academy Task Force meeting – they would like a charge (renewed). Rivendell Executive Committee will meet for reviewing charge.

V. Business Requiring Discussion & Action:
   A. Personnel – Following resignations have been received: Scotty Harris, Elementary Teacher, Samuel Morey Elementary, she felt it was just not a right fit for her; Jeannette Regis, 7/8 Language Arts Teacher, is expecting her first child; Kate DalPra, School Nurse, to fit her family schedule and needs is going to DHMC, due to schedule and salary; Kate Traverse, Science Teacher, wants to go into research; and Bob St. Pierre, SPED Teacher (Life Skills) has accepted an administrator position at River Bend Career and Technical Center. Noelle reported that there has been very little interest in the CFO position. She has spoken to some Fortune 500 headhunters, they charge 22% of salary with a successful match. The advertising has been expanded to a wider area. Challenge is our location and competing with cities. Noelle will write to the Board to let them know if we have the money dollars for a search firm. This also fits with items Strategic Planning group has been talking about. **Action:** Motion made to authorize the Head of Schools (Superintendent) to employ Robert Half search firm if adequate funds available in Rivendell 207-2008 budget. The Board supported recommendation to wait to see if new candidates appeared. **Approved.**

B. Committee Assignments Draft:
   Community Engagement Committee: Brenda Gray (Chair), Bev Ash, Margaret Gladstone and Sandra Smith-Ordway.
   Finance Committee: Sandra Smith-Ordway (Chair); Heather Fahy and Carol Sobetzer.
   Long Range Planning Committee: Doug Tifft (Chair), Juliette Bianco, Trevor Law and Jennifer Ricker.

C. Process for Filling Board Vacancy:
   Doug suggested an ad be put in the newspapers for the two openings, as well as on the website. These positions are a short commitment as the appointed member only fills out the remainder of the year until the elections again on March 28, 2009. Someone needs to be appointed to the at-large position at the June meeting.

D. Change of Time for June Meeting to 6:00 p.m.: **Action:** Motion was made to move Board meeting on June 2, 2008 from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. **Approved.**

VI. Business Requiring Discussion Only (out of original order):
   It was discussed that Rivendell Trails Association will be holding a trail completion ceremony on June 7, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. The Board requested that Doug Tifft represent the Board. Doug accepted.

V. E. Executive Session: **Action** – Motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss REA Grievance, Personnel and Concern regarding a Student. **Approved.** Board went into Executive Session at 8:37 p.m. Board came out of Executive Session at 9:08 p.m. **Action:** Motion was made to approve the following spring coaches – Shawn Clough, MS Baseball; Todd Pierson, MS Softball; and Penny Brooks as coaching assistant. **Approved.**

VII. Adjourn: **Action** – Motion made to adjourn meeting. **Approved.** Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Gladstone
Recorder