RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
District Office – Orford, NH
May 6, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Marc DeBois (Chair), Cicely Richardson, David Ricker, (Orford); Mark Avery (Vice Chair), Bruce Lyndes (Fairlee); Jean MacDonald, Kathy Hooke (Vershire), Sarah Rinehimer (West Fairlee); Kathy Blanchard (at-large)

Members Absent: Grover Boutin (Fairlee); Mike Fanizzi (W. Fairlee)

Administration and Staff Present: Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Tammy MacQueen (Westshire Principal)

Others Present: Quenla Haehnel, Andrea Haehnel, Maxwell Green, Ryan Fauci, Bea Green, Richard Otis, Ruby DiCarlo, Michael Delaney, Wiatt Suich and Jack Winagle (RA Students)

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

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: Under New Business the Chair added Orford Committees, student overnight trip and Teacher Appreciation gifts.

III. General Public Comments (Listen & Defer Action to Future Mtg.): None.

IV. Presentation
   A. Peru Trip (M. Rizos & Students): A slide show was presented and the students talked about their experiences in Peru. The group of 10 students stayed in Cusco and visited the Amigo’s Spanish School and the Ausangate Bilingual School; the Sacred Valley where they watched a demonstration of wool spinning and weaving; the Inca Trail taking a two day hike to Machu Picchu. They shared photos of the Cloud Forest and other beautiful scenery.
   B. Robotics (K. Browne & Students): A slide show was presented and students discussed the process to create their robots. There are 11 students from grades 7-12 that are members and all four teams qualified for the NE Regional Competition. The students ended with a demonstration of what their robots can do.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept):
   A. Minutes
      1. Board – March 25, 2014
      2. Annual District Meeting – March 18, 2014
   Action: Motion made to approve the consent agenda. Approved.

VI. Informational Reports (written):
   A. Elementary Report (written): MacQueen spoke about the summer program and that sign-ups have already started. She’s very excited about the interest level from Rivendell students as well as students from other towns. She spoke about Farm-to-School and mentioned that Vershire has donated many plants to the program. Each class will have their own garden next year.
   B. Superintendent (written): Needham reported on the Teacher contracts and said the majority have been returned, with no requests for extensions so far. She has received five resignations and has begun the process to replace these teachers. She asked Board members to contact CFO Dick Paulson, if they had questions on the financials in the Board packet. She was asked about the results from the Vermont School Energy program but told the Board that the results are not available yet. Needham asked the Board for a motion to accept the resignations of Crystal Larocque, Meredith Hyder, Kate Davison, Robert Thatcher and Don Bazzell.
   Action: Motion made to accept these resignations with deep regret. Approved.
C. **Head of Schools (written):** Gelenian reported that the teachers and students are very proud of the decline in failing grades. He feels that the Academy is doing a better job with at risk students in providing support and making small changes that have better results. Along with fewer students failing, the number of those making the honor roll went up. The Academy is working to change the 7th and 8th grade special classes to end the day with physical education, art or music classes.

**VII. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action):**

**A. Strategic Plan Process/Retreat (G. Boutin):** Deferred until the June Board meeting.

**B. Auditor Position Appointment:** Needham reported that she had received a letter from Peter Berger declining the auditor position. It was suggested that she contact the person that received the second highest number of votes, Russ Collins. Needham will contact him.

**VIII. New Business (receive Information and Possible Action):**

**A. Overnight Trip:** K. Browne requested approval for a Southwest overnight trip for 12 students over spring break in April, 2015.

**Action:** Motion made to approve the overnight trip. **Approved.**

**B. New Orford Committees:** Blanchard spoke about the Scholarship Committee that has been formed to work with the Orford Trustees of Trust Funds to benefit Orford students. Richardson spoke about the town of Orford’s Long Range Facilities and Services Planning Committee that she will be a member of. The Committee will be working with the Upper Valley/Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission.

**C. Gifts to School for Teacher Appreciation Week:** The Board decided to purchase two blueberry bushes for each school (four for the Academy because the two purchased last year didn’t survive the winter) in appreciation of the Rivendell teachers.

**Action:** Motion made to approve the purchase of blueberry bushes. **Approved.**

**IX. Future Agenda Items (Discussion):**

Orford Academy Building Task Force, Crisis Response (June), Community Outreach, Grants, Global Language for 6th grade (June), Policies to be Revised (ongoing), Student Presentations, Department Reports, Recruiting Process, Building Use Policy (June), Athletic Eligibility Policy (June), Financials (June), Reflections on Multi-age Classrooms

**X. Anticipated Executive Session (Discussion), 1 VSA 313:**

**A. Negotiations/Personnel/Legal Issue –**

**Action:** Motion made to go into Executive Session. **Approved.**

Board entered Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. Board came out of Executive Session at 9:22 p.m.

**Action:** Motion made to deny Rivendell Education Association’s request regarding additional sick time. **Approved.**

**XI. Adjournment (Action)**

**Action:** Motion made to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. **Approved.**

Recorded by:

Esther Dobbins-Marsh
District Clerk/Treasurer