RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
District Office – Orford, NH
May 7, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Mike Fanizzi (W. Fairlee), Jennifer Ricker (Vershire)

Administration and Staff Present: Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Tammy MacQueen (WES Assistant Principal), Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Gary Collins (Director of Operations), Jennifer Ellis (RA Art Teacher), Michael Galli (RA Dean of Students), Nicki Barsamian (RA teacher)

Others Present: Christina Moreland (Student Rep); Stefanie DeSimone (RA student); Jack Guadagni (RA student); Andrew Winter (Twin Pines Housing Trust); Anne Duncan-Cooley (Orford); Nancy Chandler, Don Bagley and Roger Van Winkle (Warren School Board)

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: None

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

IV. Presentation
A. Warren School Board (D. Bagley): Bagley discussed that the town of Warren had voted to allow school choice between Woodsville, Rivendell and Plymouth. The Warren School Board had some questions around logistics of the school day and other issues. Needham will pull together the information they requested, along with the school calendar for the 2013-14 year, and send to D. Bagley. A brief discussion ensued on tuition rates and transportation costs. Needham explained how the tuition rate is set according to Vermont.
B. New York City Art Trip (J. Ellis): J. Ellis provided a slide show of the trip to New York, with eight students. S. DeSimone, J. Guadagni and N. Barsamian also spoke about the trip. Ellis discussed the fund raising they did to help offset some of the expenses and stated they would like to make this trip every other year.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept):
A. Minutes
   1. Board – April 2, 2013
   2. Annual Meeting – March 27, 2013
   Action: Motion made to approve the consent agenda. Approved.

VI. Informational Reports (written): DeBois mentioned that this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week. In appreciation of the Rivendell teachers and staff, the Board decided to purchase and plant two blueberry bushes at each school.
A. Superintendent Report (written): MacDonald asked if there are any wellness programs around gun safety. Currently there are not. Lyndes asked the status of the asbestos removal project. Needham said prep work has started, and bids are coming in close to their estimate. The District Office will need to move during the work.
B. Head of Schools Report (written): Gelenian reported that Porter Miller is scheduled to address the students. He asked if the Driver Education car can be used by the Summer School program instructor. The Board agreed that this could not happen. A Board member offered a vehicle for her use. Lyndes asked the possibility of having more Warren students attend Rivendell. Gelenian said they had a good feeling after meeting with the Warren students. D. Ricker wants to make sure that information about Richard Otis’ scholarship gets publicity.
   1. Student Representative (written): Moreland reported that they are adjusting the book list for 7th and 8th grade readers and they have been working with Celise Johnson, Food Service Director, looking into the lunch menu for next year.
C. Elementary Reports (written): MacQueen spoke on the summer program and some changes they are making. She talked about the 3rd-4th grade position – looking to have a team of two teachers – one for math and science and one for reading and writing. She feels this will help
with the transition to the 5th-6th format. Currently they have 19 children signed up for pre-school. She’s still interviewing for a pre-school teacher.

VII. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action)

A. Old Orford Academy Building Task Force Update: Duncan-Cooley spoke about the work they’ve started with Twin Pines Housing and the Technical Assistance Grant opportunity. Winter addressed the old Academy building being used for housing – they would look at 16-20 one and two bedroom units. After some discussion, DeBois suggested the Board hold a special meeting for just this topic. MacDonald asked that the Board receive a copy of the proposed agreement to review prior to the meeting. Winter stated a decision needs to be made prior to the end of May, 2013, to apply for a grant this year. The Board will hold a special Board meeting on May 21, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. If any Board members want to take a walk through the old Academy building, they should contact Penny Perryman in the District Office to set up an appointment.

B. Board Position (West Fairlee Rep) Appointment: Still working on this

VIII. New Business (Receive Information & Possible Action)

A. Overnight Trip (Senior Class Trip): The senior class is planning on going to Lake George and camping overnight for two nights, with appropriate chaperones. 
Action: Motion made to approve the Senior Trip. Approved.
B. Meal Prices for 2013-2014: 
Action: Motion made to approve the meal price increases for the 2013-2014 school year, as stated in Needham’s report. Approved.
C. Process for Individual Budget Requests (i.e., enrichment): Needham would like a process to follow when individuals request funding. Gelenian, Needham and Keiling will draft protocol for this.
D. Correspondence: The French Trip group sent a thank you card for the funding the Board provided to help support their recent trip. Needham received a letter asking if the Rivendell Early Childhood Program wants to partner with an area preschool. Needham will respond to the letter. A student is requesting tuition assistance to attend the St. Paul’s summer program. The Board decided not to support this request. Lyndes was asked by a community member about a basketball coach being hired without the position being advertised. DeBois had asked the athletic director about this and was told when there are internal candidates they advertise in-house (which they did).

IX. Future Agenda Items (Discussion)

Strategic Plan Process (June), Community Outreach, Grants, Global Language for 6th grade, Policies to be Revised (ongoing), Student Presentations, Department Reports, Individualized Student Needs, Recruiting Process, End of Year (June), Academy Building (June), Board Retreat (August)

Action: Motion made to enter Executive Session at 7:58 p.m. Approved.

X. Anticipated Executive Session:

A. Student Discipline
B. Personnel
C. Negotiations

Board came out of Executive Session at 8:32 p.m.

XI. Adjournment (Action): Action – Motion made to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Approved.

Recorded by:

Esther Dobbins-Marsh
District Clerk/Treasurer