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

Administrators and Staff Present: Noelle Vitt (Head of Schools), Bob Sampson (Head of High School), Paul Fassler (Head of Middle School), Gail Keiling (Head of Elementary Schools), Barb Griffin, Hank Plaisted, Jon Sands, Gabi Martino, Kathleen Foltz

Others Present: Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion), Kathy Young, Laurie Barr, Cheryl Howe, Jessica Gould, Nathan Gould, Aimee McFafe, Lyndon McFafe, Jennifer Tilden

I. Call Meeting: Carol Sobetzer called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. Approve Board Minutes of May 29, 2007: Action: Motion was made to approve the minutes of May 29, 2007 with a few typo corrections. Approved.

III. Public Input: See discussion in Communications and Reports.

IV. Communications and Reports: A. Report of the Chair: Carol reported on the status of the Westshire Elementary School Principal, Mary Bronga. Mary was offered 90% employment, but declined to accept this offer. B. Report of Head of Schools: Noelle introduced a small group of 5th graders that shared their Hulbert Outdoor experience. 1) Science: Bob Sampson explained the proposed science curriculum changes. There was discussion about course names, instructional time and interference with elective offerings in scheduling. 2) Technology Plan Presentation: Hank briefly described the Technology Plan and said there were some minor changes to be made as suggested by the Technology Committee. There was discussion regarding technology assessment and measurement. 3) Curriculum Consultant Report: Noelle referred to Nicole Saignor’s end of the year report. There was limited discussion about “still to do” work and 6th grade math curriculum. 4) Report Coaches/Evaluations: There was discussion about high school coaches developing their own assessment/evaluation form for players and the possibility of designing a consistent form to be used by all coaching staff and how we ensure that a formal evaluation process is being followed. Noelle suggested that the Board consider the possibility of delaying NEASC for one year. C. Reports of the Committee Chairs: 1) Finance: a) Preschool: Finance Committee feels that a SME preschool is warranted and funding could come from the 2007-2008 budget. There was discussion about the money needed as start up costs, the number of students that could attend, the preschool waitlist, faculty children attending, advantages to the program at two sites, limited preschool experiences in the Upper Valley, limited quality daycare in the Upper Valley, our tuition rates, fundraising opportunities, whether out of district students could attend and the number of students in the classroom. b) Vans: Finance Committee recommends trading in three vans to get two vans that are approved and allocating $5,000 in additional funds to cover bussing contracted expenses for essential academic field trips. c) Orford Academy Task Force: Maintenance reserve fund will not cover the $15,000 request and recommends an article in the 2008-2009 warning. Jim Morel expressed disappointment in the Orford Academy Task Force ruling, but understood the reasons behind the Board’s decision. The Academy Task Force will continue its work. d) Second Grade – Samuel Morey Elementary: Projected as 22 students to date and Finance Committee is recommending a second 2nd grade teacher. There was discussion about classroom capacity “breaking point,” classroom sizes, year-by-year evaluation. There was also discussion that CD in Fairlee can offset the Food Service shortfall. Curriculum coordination will continue to be funded from monies left from Nicole Saginor’s vacant position. 2) Negotiations: No change in status. 3) District Technology: Sandra summarized the technology meeting. 4) Long-range planning: Doug reported that Ray Proulx is excited to start his work with the District. Noelle asked Board members to send vacation time to Penny Randall.
V. Business Requiring Discussion & Action: A. Approval/Disapproval of Technology Plan: 
Action: Motion was made to approve the technology plan. Approved. 
B. Personnel, 1) Westshire, 2) Systems Administrator, 3) Teacher Hires: 
Action: Motion made to hire Stephanie Hazlett as .6 MS guidance. Approved. 
Action: Motion made to hire Lori Derosier as an elementary teacher at Samuel Morey. Approved. 
Action: Motion made to hire Katherine Traverse as the HS science teacher. Doug was concerned that she is a young teacher and Noelle said she has a presence and very mature. Approved. 
C. Request for Tax Anticipation Notice: Action: Motion made “We, the Rivendell Interstate School District Board authorize Carol Sobetzer, Chair, to sign the Tax Anticipation Loan Agreement, along with Brenda Gray, Treasurer. The purpose of this loan is to borrow up to three million dollars from Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank in anticipation of taxes.” Approved. 
Action: Motion made to have June 19 be a half day (early release) for students. Approved. 
Action: Motion made to move the professional day of January 22, 2008 to September 19, 2007. Noelle explained that the reason for this request was that September 19, 2007 is the regional professional day, which was decided after the RISD calendar was approved. Approved. 
Action: Motion made to approve the changes in the science curriculum and that consideration be given to change the name of the courses to better reflect the content of the course. There was some discussion that people could be upset if there is no chemistry course offered and that identifying the concepts taught in a chemistry course should be investigated. Approved. 
Action: Motion made to approve hiring another elementary teacher at SME for second grade. There was discussion about hiring someone that could hold an alternative/flexible position if the enrollment numbers drop. Noelle asked for clarification if the position gets funded now or only if the number goes over 22 enrolled students. Gail asked if a full time aide could be considered if the number stays at 22. Approved. 
Action: Motion made to approve the Spanish trip scheduled for April 8-20, 2008 to Spain (a walking trip). Approved. 
Action: Motion made to approve Anna Alden to coach the Cabaret. Approved. 
Action: Motion made to expend the funds to establish a preschool at SME with funds coming from the 2007-2008 budget and the 2008-2009 budget will have a continuation of funding for the preschool. There was some discussion that the initial conversations about the preschool indicated that it would be self-supporting. The Finance Committee found upon further investigation that it would cost money to establish the preschool. Approved. 
D. Executive Session: Action: Motion made to adjourn and move to executive session at 9:09 p.m. Approved. Board came out of Executive Session at 9:29 p.m. 
Action: Motion made to delay NEASC for one year. Approved. 
Action: Motion made to give the Board Executive Committee authority to approve provisional hires over the summer. Approved. 
VII. Adjourn: Action: Motion made to adjourn. Approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Gray
District Clerk/Treasurer