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

II. Approve Board Minutes of May 6 and June 10, 2008:

Action: Motion was made to approve the minutes of both May 6 and June 10, 2008 with corrections of typos. Approved.

III. Public Input: none

IV. Communications and Reports:
A. Report of the Chair: Carol welcomed Gail at her first meeting as Head of Schools; introduced Bruce & Marc as new Board members.

B. Report of Head of Schools:
1) Transition Report – Introduced Chris White, Kathleen McGowan, Shawn Gonyaw and Eloise Ginty, the new principal at Samuel Morey Elementary.

2) Math Curriculum Presentation – Gail reported that a committee of Bridget Fariel, Noelle Vitt, Joe Beasley, Kathleen McGowan, Christopher White, and Ted Gaine reviewed the program. Kathy commented on the report (National Mathematics Panel Adv). A write up was provided to Board on the four integrated programs looked at. The one chosen had: rigor; new learning; it follows the elementary program; goes up to high school which is a consideration for high school curriculum; fits well, has content that is critical; practical, technology based, explanation, applications, reading and writing elements; lots of programs available so teachers can reach all students. Program is called Transitions for 7th grade; Algebra for 8th. Even though it’s called Algebra it is an integrated curriculum. Kathy remarked that Joe Beasley was on the committee and he was very comfortable with the text as a transition to 9th grade. This is going to take the students further if they get through the entire program. There was more discussion and questions and answers regarding this subject. Gail will ask Tracy Page (Middle School Secretary) to put on list serve an invite to review materials if parents are interested. Carol thanked the committee for their hard work in evaluating and recommending this new program. Gail mentioned that Chris White and Kathy McGowan will be going to a workshop to meet with others who are using this program.

3) Gail reported on the following:
   a) End of year transition – Went smoothly; one day was preK-12 faculty; collaboration and working together was the focus; “while what we work on is important it is important how we work.” Each school presented a PowerPoint of their school year in review.
   b) New Hires: Hired teachers for social studies and mathematics at high school. Still need Language Arts and Guidance at the Middle School.
   c) CFO – Gail has contacted Robert Half (recruiter) and they have two candidates for interview. Prior to this we offered the position to a candidate, who declined and another candidate withdrew. Nancy Hassam is staying on week to week which is much appreciated. She is working under a letter of agreement that states daily rate that goes week- by-week; no leave or benefits and does not lead to full time employment.

   d) Trails coordinator: close to a hire – offer is going out. Had some wonderful applicants.
f) Academy schedule: Bob Sampson worked very closely with Bridget Fariel (Head of Middle School) and Nancy Hall (High School Counselor) on the schedule. The Electives schedule of every other year doesn’t make it easy. Recommends we take a look at the whole overall schedule to see how that could work. Gail will talk to Bridget who is coming in over the summer to work on this. There was extensive discussion on this, such as whether it is time to address the complete MS and HS schedule being more coordinated, as this would help show colleges a more solid schedule. Gail agreed. There are a lot of good things happening with the schedule: specifically social studies – the two teachers are teaching the same class (American Studies in 9th & 10th) which opens up collaboration. This was a goal for the schedule: also building in common planning times for teachers who teach the same class. Board encouraged communication with parents so they’re aware of this great change. The hope is that each class will be known for the class vs. the teacher who teaches it.

g) At a previous Board meeting teachers expressed concern with the large class size in 9th grade. Gail reported that this includes tuition students.

h) Gail reported that she had met with Jon Sands the new president of REA.

i) Gail reported on a member to member agreement regarding athletics with Oxbow, Thetford and Rivendell. She is meeting with Bob Thatcher regarding coach expectations and how to get out word regarding how students can participate. Doug asked is this might be a model for perhaps an arts program or some other program. Gail agreed this could work – lots of opportunity for collaboration. Brenda raised concern about how that affects the soccer team? Does that affect the number of students who play? Margaret clarified that it is seven total students from Thetford and RA. Mark asked what the cost was? Students would need to pay for that. Doug took that further to say does it make sense for our academic classes as well?

j) Regarding the Summer Program – Cost of transportation is a challenge. Tammy got a letter confirming approximately $50,000 for money this year.

k) Liz Sunde has agreed to continue working as an independent contractor on grant writing.

l) Gail and Deb O’Brien met with parents about tables vs. desks. Coordinating how to move forward with conversation. Parent night will be scheduled to discuss/present.

m) NEASC – there is frustration about time to finish. Gail is committed to finding the team/teachers the time. Visiting committee is next May.

V. Business Requiring Discussion & Action:

A. Executive Session – Action: Motion made to go into executive session at 7:40 p.m. Approved. Board came out of executive session at 8:13 p.m.

B. Board Committees: Moved Margaret to Finance, Mark to Long Range Planning, and Bruce to CEC. Each committee is to draft up charges to drive each committee in conjunction with the Strategic Plan. Use of building was questioned – Carol said it was usually done at District Office. Long Range Planning will meet with Ray and put together the Strategic Plan and then present to the full board for adoption.

C. Personnel – Teachers & Fall Coaches Action: Margaret made the motion to hire the following at the Academy - Stephen Johnson as Social Studies Teacher; Natalie White as Spanish Teacher; and Michelle Colville as Spanish Teacher (MS/HS) Approved.

Gail put forth nominations for Coaches. Action: Trevor Law made the motion to nominate: Robert Thatcher for Athletic Director; Shawn Clough for Assistant Athletic Director; Aaron Barber for Fall Cross Country Coach; Robert Thatcher for Varsity Boys Soccer Coach; and Joy Michelson for Yearbook Advisor. Approved.

Discussion revolved around process of hiring/rehiring/evaluation, how the evaluations/recommendations will be held to a standard. Question of whether the other positions were advertised such as: MS Girls & Boys Soccer, Varsity Girls Soccer, and possibly JV Girls Soccer, Middle School Play, Cabaret and One Act Play co-curricular positions.

D. Request for Special Board Meeting (July 7) and Retreat (August). Gail reported those serving on the Rivendell Head of High School Search Committee are: Sheila Connelly, Dale Ricker, Bridget, Brenda and Margaret, and herself. Action: Motion made by Sandra
to hold a Special Meeting of the Board to interview Academy Principal on July 7 at 5:30 p.m. at RA. **Approved. Action:** Carol made the motion to allow the Executive Committee to schedule a Board Retreat on August 4 or 5th depending on the others who need to attend. **Approved.**

Reminder that July 8th Retreat is confirmed for the MOU law enforcement training meeting at Academy Library for the Board and Administration.

VI. **Business Requiring Discussion Only**

A. **Orford Academy Task Force Update (D. Tifft)**

Doug reported that the Task Force met and solicited six architectural firms to bid on work; Paul Dalton wrote up specs; four responded; Gary Collins, Paul and one other person opened the bids. Two of them fall into the range requested. Randall Mudge and UK Architects are being invited back. Gary, Gail and Paul have some questions to ask/interview. Also, the Task Force met last week and they will be sending questions as well to incorporate. This is the opportunity to get a full assessment, structural analysis, code, etc. as well as the cost of construction for inhabitancy. This will help the Board to evaluate how this could move forward and what is required. The Board would be presented with the information in order to choose an architect to move the project forward. Mark Blanchard is also working with the Task Force to create a non-profit to perhaps raise funds for the future of the building. Doug recommends inviting the task force to talk to the Board before a charge is set out. This would make it easier and more streamlined to organize the information and effort. Jim Morel is still the contact; he has transferred chair responsibilities to Anne Greene. Cassie Pike and Ryan Murphy are the student representatives and they have done a good job.

B. **Future agenda Items**

1. **Topics:**
   a) Coaches, expectations, for August meeting.
   b) Carol received a written notice from VT School Board that school has to have a policy on animal dissection and adopted by the district no later than November 1.
   c) August: Student hearing, Bob Thatcher, Bridget Fariel regarding schedule, two policies, and bids for Academy building; school board committee charges.

VI. **Adjourn. Action:** Motion made to adjourn. **Approved.** Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Smith-Ordway
Recorder