RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
District Office, Orford, NH
July 10, 2012

Members Present: Cicely Richardson, Marc DeBois (Orford); Sandra Smith-Ordway (Chair), Bruce Lyndes, Mark Avery (Fairlee); Jennifer Shatney (W. Fairlee); Jennifer Ricker, Kathy Hooke (Vershire), Kathy Blanchard (at-large)

Members Absent: Vanessa DeSimone (Orford), Dawn Stever (W. Fairlee)

Administration and Staff Present: Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Hank Plaisted (Director of Information Technology)

Others Present: Allen Martin, Chris Crowley, Terry Harwood, John Karol, Bob Bacon, David Ricker

I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: None

III. General Public Comments: None

IV. Presentation/Guests:
   A. Orford Citizens Group – Crowley stated that the group wants to focus on the cost to operate Rivendell is too high. The group would like the Board to look into changing how Rivendell is funded by each town. Smith-Ordway stated that Hooke and she met with this Orford group the previous Saturday to discuss their letter sent to the Board. This is a continuation of that discussion. Hooke stated that Vermont calculates its taxes based on different standard than NH – Vermont has income sensitivity that caps the amount of taxes being paid as one example. Crowley detailed his perception of problems with equalized pupil spending and suggested that Orford students be included in the formula. Crowley also said that the cost per student at Rivendell is $21,000, which is pretty close to the Vermont average, and Vermont is rated as #1 in the country for cost per student. Also, he said that Rivendell has a declining student population notably in the Vermont towns, but costs aren’t decreasing at the same rate. This group would like all four towns to come together to see how costs can be reduced at Rivendell and balance out how much each town pays towards the bottom line and feel that the Articles of Agreement need to be amended to accomplish this. Hooke described the process to change the Articles of Agreement. Needham suggested that maybe the analysis of this situation could become a project for Tuck students.

   B. Technology (H. Plaisted)(written report) – Plaisted presented the 2012-2015 Technology Plan that Gabi Martino and he developed. He said that instruction around technology is improving at the teacher and student levels. He addressed what the Board is responsible for as outlined in the Plan. Some costs associated with technology are driven by the Common Core requirements and new reports required by Vermont. In addition to upgrades to software, these will require additional work from the administrative staff due to coding changes to our course catalogs.

V. Consent Agenda (accept)
   A. Minutes (June 5, 2012) – (Changes noted.)
   B. Superintendent Report (written) – Needham heard from the insurance company regarding the old Orford Academy building and they have said that access to the building must be limited due to safety. She also addressed the problem with the playground equipment – currently it’s not safe to use and due to its unsafe condition it is not being used and removal is being investigated. She will check with Gary Collins for an update regarding the status of having the equipment fixed or replaced.
   C. Head of Schools Report (written) – Gelenian discussed the WISE presentation on healthy relationships. Smith-Ordway asked if the Pregnancy Center will be invited to present as well. He
stated that there are currently have 130 kids in the Visions program and SAT results from this year's junior class have 23 test scores over 500. Gelenian suggested changing the policy on extra-curricular eligibility with much discussion from Board members.

D. Principal Reports (written)
Action: Motion made to approve consent agenda with changes to minutes. Approved.

VI. Ongoing Business
A. Auditor Appointment – Nothing yet, still working on
B. Committee Updates
   1) Finance/Long Range Planning – The May 29, 2012 and June 19, 2012 meeting minutes were in the Board packet.
   2) Community Engagement/Policy – The June 13, 2012 meeting minutes were in the Board packet.

VII. New Business
A. Correspondence – Kathy Hooke presented her resignation from the Board effective 7/11/12. She has recruited Jean MacDonald from Vershire to serve until the annual meeting in March 2013.
   Action: Motion made to accept Kathy Hooke’s resignation from the Board with regret. Approved.
   Smith-Ordway expressed the Board’s appreciation to Hooke for her time and expertise while serving on the Board and that she will be missed.
   Action: Motion made to appoint Jean MacDonald to fulfill Hooke’s term through March 2013. Approved.

   Lyndes stated that he was approached by a member of the Fairlee Scholarship Committee requesting that replacements be found for all three members as they had all served for many years. It was discussed that this might go to the Fairlee Select Board for action. Lyndes and Smith-Ordway will bring to the Select Board to determine how this needs to be handled.

   Needham presented the following hires for the 2012-2013 school year: Laszlo Bardos, Math; Anthony Kunecki, Physical Education; Hollie Ketterer, 60% FTE, Speech-Language Pathologist; and Mary Boyea, 40% FTE, Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant.
   Action: Motion made to confirm new hires as presented for the 2012-2013 school year – Approved

VIII. Future Agenda Items
   Website update, Long Range Plans to Address Flux in Population, Strategic Planning (Next Steps), Community Outreach, Grants, Global Language for 6th grade, Policies to be Revised, Student Presentations, Department Reports, Board Goals, NEAS&C, 4 Year Science Progression

IX. Anticipated Executive Session – The Board entered Executive Session at 8:36 p.m.
A. Personnel – Contract Negotiations
   Board came out of Executive Session at 9:02 p.m.
   Action: Motion made to accept the resignation effective immediately of Bridget Fariel as Westshire Principal. Approved.
   Board went back into Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. and came out of Executive Session at 10:11 p.m.

X. Adjournment: Action: Motion made to adjourn. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Recorded by:

Esther Dobbins-Marsh