Members Present: Carol Sobetzer (at-large); Vanessa DeSimone, Cicely Richardson, Marc DeBois (Orford); Sandra Smith-Ordway, Bruce Lyndes (Fairlee); Jennifer Shatney (W. Fairlee); Jennifer Ricker (Vershire)

Administrators and Staff Present: Gail Keiling (Interim Superintendent), Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Gary Collins (Director of Operations), Bridget Fariel (Dean of Studies), Michael Galli (Dean of Students)

Others Present: Leda Amanaditis, Kathy George, Charles Buttrey

I. Call Meeting: Meeting was opened at 6:34 p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: None at this time.

III. General Public Comments: None at this time.

IV. Presentation/Guests
   A. Thetford Board Member – Charles Buttrey
      Buttrey asked to address the Board to open discussion regarding aligning with a different supervisory union due to declining enrollment. Thetford would like to begin discussions about the possibility of collaborate with other districts to deliver better education to students without increasing taxes to its residents. Thetford hopes to begin discussion by the beginning of school. The Board discussed the possibility of entering into discussions with Thetford and agreed Board members Carol Sobetzer and Cicely Richardson will represent Rivendell at these discussions.

   B. Renovations Update – Gary Collins
      Collins handed out a renovations update report to the Board for the district office space. He reported that the work is going well and hopes to be able to paint the walls in a few weeks. The work has been done within the budgeted amount and plans to move the office into the new space soon after school begins. Collins also reported that work on the sprinkler system in Memorial Hall has begun and he has received favorable quotes for the new boiler.

      Collins stated that Samuel Morey Elementary presently uses Casella Waste for trash and cardboard. Floyd’s Rubbish Removal has expressed interest in being the vendor for trash at SME, but not cardboard. Currently, Floyd’s is our trash vendor at Rivendell Academy and Casella picks up RA’s cardboard. If we switched to using Floyd’s for SME trash with Casella picking up the SME cardboard, this would result in an increase of cost, but we would be helping to support a local vendor. Collins requested that the Board consider this and advise him.

      Collins went on to report that he hopes to have a vendor contract for bulk purchasing of custodial supplies by September. He also stated that he and Orford Police Chief Kilmer have applied for a COPS Grant to replace doors that do not secure properly.
Action: Motion made to move VI. Ongoing Business, A. Hartford Tech Transportation before the Consent Agenda. Approved.

VI. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action)
Keiling reported that she has arranged transportation of three students to Hartford VoTech Center with Thetford Academy. A van is available, at this time, to transport these students to Thetford at a cost of $2,700 for the driver. Keiling stated that the Board needs to consider two issues, cost and setting precedent. After a discussion the Board agreed that any future requests be considered individually on a case by case basis, but felt that the three students should be provided transportation for school year 2010-2011 to Thetford.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept)
A. Minutes (June 8 and June 22, 2010)
B. Superintendent Report (written): Keiling reported that a packet regarding Rivendell has been sent to Piermont for 7th and 8th grade offerings. Some Piermont community members are looking at area schools for about 20 middle school students. Richardson asked for an update on the Orford Academy Task Force. Sobetzer stated that she will forward an e-mail received from Ann Duncan-Cooley to Board members and then discuss it at the August meeting. Richardson pointed out that the resolution the task force submitted was the exact one that was submitted in 2006. Sobetzer said that the task force requires charge from the Board in order to speak with engineers, contractors and consultants and also to begin fund raising.
C. Head of Schools Report: Sobetzer explained to Gelenian the Head of Schools Report process. Gelenian introduced Michael Galli, Dean of Students, briefly spoke about the new staff and that he would like to establish a family meeting night once a month. He would also like to schedule a pot-luck with staff members before school begins. Gelenian reported that he plans to use senior advisory for working on senior projects to extend the time and use a team of teachers to work with and assist seniors.

Fariel explained new course offerings in science, social studies and English to address the “Profile of the Graduate” and the plan to expand offerings next year. Fariel also stated that she felt that Rivendell was under-advertised and asked the Board to consider being more visible and better known with the direction of Rivendell.

Action: Motion made to approve consent agenda with corrections to the minutes of June 8 and June 22, 2010. Approved.

VI. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action)
B. Board Retreat Date: Sobetzer stated that the Board Retreat is scheduled for August 10, 2010. She also said that that there is a contract for Superintendent who will begin on August 1, 2010.

VII. New Business (Receive Information & Possible Action)
A. Correspondence: Sobetzer shared a letter written by G. Keiling in response to a letter received regarding pre-school and comments made by Rivendell preschool teachers at a previous Board meeting.
B. Teachers Contracts: To be discussed in executive session.

VIII. Strategic Action Plan
A. Update of Process: Keiling explained that this will be reviewed and discussed at the retreat.
IX. Future Agenda items (Discussion)
   A. Articles of Agreement regarding Election Procedures (D. Hooke)
   B. Orford Academy Building Task Force
   C. Montshire Museum/Dartmouth Partnership
   D. Academy Handbook
   E. Student Report on TIPS Program
   G. Memorandum of Understanding with Orford Chief of Police

X  Anticipated Executive Session (Discussion & Possible Action): Action - Motion made to go into executive session at 8:38 pm. Approved. Board came out of executive session at 9:12 p.m.

Action: Motion made to give G. Keiling permission to hire a 2nd grade teacher at Samuel Morey Elementary School and a social studies teacher and a special education (life skills) teacher at Rivendell Academy. Approved.

G. Keiling informed the Board that she had the received and brought with her the corrected deed giving the old West Fairlee school building back to the town of West Fairlee.

XI. Adjournment (Action): Action: Motion made to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Clifford
District Clerk