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

Members Absent: Mike Fanizzi (W. Fairlee), Grover Boutin (Fairlee)

Administration and Staff Present: Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Michael Galli (RA Dean of Students)

Others Present: Anne Duncan-Cooley, Olivia Beleau, Kelly Monahan, Jill Larson, Barry Larson, Matt Parker, Kathy Wright

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Executive Session (Discussion), 1 VSA 313
   A. Student Issue
      Action: Motion made to go into Executive Session at 5:31 p.m. Approved.
      Board came out of Executive Session at 5:43 p.m.
      Action: Motion made to waive Policy F24, Weapons Policy, with understanding that a follow-up intervention plan as developed by Special Education services will be implemented as indicated. Approved.

   B. Legal issue
      Action: Motion made to go into Executive Session at 5:44 p.m. Approved.
      Board came out of Executive Session at 6:22 p.m. No action taken.

III. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: None.

IV. General Public Comments (Listen & Defer Action to Future Mtg.): Galli spoke about his concern about the CSO and the need to keep the organization intact. DeBois stated that the Board will address this under new business.

V. Presentation/Guests: None.

VI. Consent Agenda (Accept):
   A. Minutes
      1. Board – June 3 and 13, 2014
      Action: Motion made to approve the consent agenda. Approved.

VII. Informational Reports (written): None (provided in September)

VIII. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action):
   A. Financials: Needham reported that Dick Paulson will provide the financial reports at the next Board meeting.

   B. Auditor Position Appointment: Needham reported that the position is still open.

IX. New Business (receive Information and Possible Action):
   A. CSO: Needham reported that the District Administration had been told that the CSO voted to dissolve, they were asking the District to take over K-6 program, and that the dissolution was filed with the State and the process was followed according to the by-laws of the CSO. Needham, Keiling, DeBois, Avery and Bob Thatcher (RA Athletic Director) had met to discuss the process for the District to possibly take over the programs for K-6. The District would need to hire a coordinator and coaches to start the soccer season. Coaches would need to get fingerprinted for criminal record checks because they would be considered school employees, if being paid. Thatcher has access to a handbook from another school
that addresses policies for K-6 programs. Needham said the program could be similar to the one run by the CSO, but it would impact the budget by $20,000-$30,000 per year. For this year there will be unused funds from the CSO that will be turned over to the District. Blanchard asked if another CSO can be formed. DeBois stated that the reason CSO was dissolved was due to lack of volunteers. Gelenian asked if the Student Athletic council can help. DeBois said they could as volunteers. Monahan spoke about the beginnings of the CSO and that it’s been a great way to bring the four towns together. She asked how the CSO can dissolve without community input. Needham stated that the administration was not involved in the process of the CSO dissolving and are only acting on what was reported to them. Needham’s concern is to make sure that soccer happens in the fall for the students. Wright asked who she can contact at the State to make sure the dissolution was legal. Needham suggested the Vermont Secretary of State. Gelenian said that if the CSO was dissolved legally, Wright should ask the State if the same by-laws can be adopted by a new organization. Needham stated that they would give Wright a week to determine the status of the CSO. The District will proceed with organizing soccer for K-6 for this season. Wright will report back to Needham on the CSO status.

B. Policy Review:

1. First Readings (Revisions)
   a) Public Participation at Board Meetings, Code C3
   b) Public Complaints about Personnel, Code D10
   c) Budgeting, Code E2
   d) Fiscal Management and General Financial Accountability, Code E3
   e) Student Activities Fund Management, Code E4
   f) Student Attendance, Code F32
   g) Animals in the Classroom, Code G2

   Board discussed potential revisions to some of the above policies.

2. Second Reading – Possible Action
   a) Interscholastic Sports/Extra Curricular Activities, Code F15

   Action: Motion made to approve the policy with noted changes. Approved.

C. Correspondence: Rivendell Academy will have an exchange student from Austria this year. Gelenian reported that he has notified the placement agency that if there are any issues, the agency will need to respond ASAP.

   Action: Motion made to approve acceptance of the exchange student at Rivendell Academy. Approved.

   Needham had received correspondence from the Vermont School Boards Association regarding the fall regional meetings and reminded the Board of them. Also, Needham reported she had received a “Notice of Hearings” from the VT Public Service Board regarding a “Petition of The Helicon Group, L.P., d/b/a Charter Communications, for renewal of its Certificate of Public Good to provide cable television service in 46 municipalities.”

X. Future Agenda Items (Discussion):

   Strategic Plan Process (Sept), Energy Audit report (Sept), Orford Academy Building Task Force, Crisis Response, Community Outreach, Policies to be Revised (ongoing), Student Presentations, Department Reports, Student Enrollment (Sept)

XI. Anticipated Executive Session (Discussion), 1 VSA 313

   Action: Motion made to enter Executive Session for a personnel issue. Approved. Board entered Executive Session at 7:46 p.m. Board came out of Executive Session at 7:55 p.m.

XII. Adjournment (Action)

   Action: Motion made to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Approved.

Recorded by:

Esther Dobbins-Marsh
District Clerk/Treasurer