RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD RETREAT
Lake Morey Resort – Fairlee, VT
August 18, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Marc DeBois, David Ricker, Michael Smith, (Orford); Bruce Lyndes (Fairlee); Kathy Hooke, Jean MacDonald (Vershire); Kevin Dexter, Sarah Rinehimer (West Fairlee); Kathy Blanchard (at-large)

Members Absent: Mark Avery & Grover Boutin (Fairlee)

Administration and Staff Present: Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Jan Cole (Director of Special Education), Gail Keiling (Head of Elementary Schools/SME Principal), Tammy MacQueen (SME Principal)

Others Present: None

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

2. **Review and Edit Expectations for this Retreat:** No changes.

3. **Strategic Plan, including Act 46 discussion (D. Ricker facilitator):**

   DeBois thanked Ricker for being facilitator and putting together a brief PowerPoint. The PowerPoint showed the Rivendell region and surrounding school regions, as well as possible options and scenarios the Board might want to consider and what the benefit to Rivendell might be, as at this point, as an interstate school district Rivendell is exempt from Act 46. DeBois said these ideas are to start the Board thinking and then would be considered in more depth at future Board meetings. Many options and scenarios presented and discussed. Some were: partnering with other towns (Thetford, Strafford, Sharon) and NH towns (Lyme, Piermont), possible elimination of buildings and staff, expanding tax base, changing Rivendell grade configuration (i.e., preK-8, choice 9-12, SME preK-4 and RA 6-8, Rivendell stays with small enrollment means if other schools are combining RISD education programs as well as sports program will suffer, all students having equal opportunities, making decisions now that will affect students in the next 10-15 years, Rivendell dealing from a position of strength now as RISD is not being forced to do this, reminder that RISD is part of a planning grant, watch Windsor Central Supervisory Union as they are going through the process now, etc.

   Meal Break at 6:24 p.m. until 6:50 p.m.

   DeBois stated that the next part of the Retreat is looking at what the Board’s next steps are. Each Board member and administrator individually stated what they thought the next steps should be. Consensus was that DeBois would invite Thetford to a meeting. Also, will let Strafford, Piermont, Lyme and Warren know about the meeting and meeting is a public meeting anyway. DeBois will contact Thetford tomorrow. Board members interested in attending meeting: Hooke, DeBois, Ricker and Blanchard.

4. **Executive Session (Discussion), 1 VSA § 313**

   Action: Motion made to go into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. **Approved.**

   A. Personnel
      1. Superintendent
      2. Head of Schools

   Board came out of executive session at 8:20 p.m. Brief discussion ensued.

   Action: Motion made to go back into executive session at 8:30 p.m. regarding another personnel matter. **Approved.**

   Board came out of executive session at 8:35 p.m.

5. **Other Business:** None.

6. **Adjourn:**

   Action: Motion made to adjourn. **Approved.** Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Recorded by:
Penny Perryman, CEOE
Executive Assistant/HR Manager