RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
District Office – Orford, NH
September 3, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Marc DeBois (Chair), Cicely Richardson, David Ricker, (Orford); Bruce Lyndes, Mark Avery (Vice Chair), Grover Boutin, (Fairlee); Kathy Hooke, Jennifer Ricker (Vershire), Kathy Blanchard (at-large)

Members Absent: Mike Fanizzi (W. Fairlee)

Administration and Staff Present: Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools), Gail Keiling (Head of Elementary Schools/SME Principal), Tammy MacQueen (WES Principal), Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Michael Galli (RA Dean of Students), Gary Collins (Director of Operations)

Others Present: None.

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: None.

III. General Public Comments (Listen & Defer Action to Future Mtg.): None.

IV. Presentation
   A. Building Tour - West Wing: Collins showed the Board the work completed in the West Wing, which included the Weight Room, Kitchen and Gym. Needham thanked Collins and his staff for a job well done and for being under budget.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept):
   A. Minutes
      1. Board – August 6, 2013
      Action: Motion made to approve the consent agenda with noted changes. Approved

VI. Informational Reports (written):
   A. Superintendent Report (written): Needham asked the Board for feedback on how to present the West Wing project to the public. She’d like to highlight the project being under budget, the savings Paulson obtained by renegotiating the bond and other positive events at Rivendell. Could it be part of Homecoming? The Administration will work on the details. Board members should think of at least 10 people to personally invite to the open house.
   B. Head of Schools Report (written): In regards to summer reading and the beginning of school, Gelenian spoke about the impact of Carmen Tarleton speaking about forgiveness to the RA students and others in attendance. Other speakers included Peter Tse, Robert Bryant, Bruce Elder and Dan Moriaty. The students are organizing a fundraiser in support of the Gray girls to help with their future expenses. He also discussed the Survivors Garden that was on display on the green in Orford. He spoke about the student advisor co-directors putting together Wordals from answers students gave to questions posed to them. Gelenian wants to start planning now for a teachers’ summit with UVEI, Plymouth State University and other area schools. He was asked to expand on the students lost to Rivendell. Economic and custody issues are the main reasons why. Those students that failed to earn enough credits are still in the school system and are being provided resources to be successful students and were not promoted.
      1. Student Representative (written): None.
   C. Elementary Reports (written): Keiling spoke on Inspiring Kids (non-profit organization) working with the 6th grade elementary students on community service. SME will be holding a sport equipment sale for some time in October – 2/3 to seller and 1/3 to the CSO. MacQueen thanked the new WES Food Service Manager, Pauline Prior, for the vegetarian meals prepared for a student. She spoke about the students that came from the recently
closed Wellspring school and that they are doing great. She’s hopeful that others will also decide to come to WES.

VII. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action):
   A. Board Position (West Fairlee Rep) Appointment: The position is still vacant.
   B. Hiring Update-2013-14 Teachers: Scott Riess was hired as the English Teacher, Donald Bazzell as the Visions Director, Carol Sobetzer as Alternative Educator/Social Studies & Upper House Elective Teacher, and Nicki Barsamian’s position changed to Upper House Elective/Social Studies Teacher.
   C. Strategic Plan Process/Retreat: Boutin spoke on the need to update the Strategic Plan. He asked each Board member to select a goal to review and update as needed. Boutin will spearhead this project, with the goal of having the plan updated for approval by February, 2014, then present at the Annual District Meeting March 2014. The Board agreed to add a line item to the Board agenda to discuss the process each month starting in October. The Board is still waiting for the summary of the retreat moderator, Harry Frank. Extra copies of “The Essential Work of Vermont Board” were given to Board members that could not make the retreat. The Board thanked Mark Avery for the use of the Inn and the food provided.

VIII. New Business (Receive Information & Possible Action):
   A. Policy H-3 – Community Use of Facilities: Needham noted that this is not a mandatory policy, but an important one. She will provide the actual policy at the next meeting, but noted that it was written at the start of Rivendell and needs to be revised.
   B. Correspondence: None.

IX. Future Agenda Items (Discussion):
   SummerScapes presentation (MacQueen-Oct), Visions (Bazzell-Nov), Community Outreach, Grants, Global Language for 6th grade, Policies to be Revised (ongoing), Student Presentations, Department Reports, Individualized Student Needs, Recruiting Process

X. Anticipated Executive Session: None.

XI. Adjournment (Action)
   Action: Motion made to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Approved.

Recoded by:

Esther Dobbins-Marsh
District Clerk/Treasurer