RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Rivendell Academy, Orford, NH
September 13, 2011

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

Administration and Staff Present: Joan Holcombe (Westshire Principal), Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Michael Galli (Dean of Students), Jan Cole (Special Education)

Others Present: Katie Ruff (Student Representative)

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. General Public Comments: None at this time.

III. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: No changes were made.

IV. Presentation/Guests:
   A. Special Education (Jan Cole): Cole gave a brief history of Special Education (SPED) and reviewed the VPIX facts sheet that the Board received. SPED is responsible for ages 3-22 as required by federal law. Students that qualify for SPED services are to be incorporated into the classroom and receive special services as outlined by state and federal laws. Funding comes from the federal government and some states – Vermont is one of those states. To qualify for special services, children must go through a three step process to determine eligibility. A major challenge is for students that need extra help, but don’t meet the criteria to receive special services. Also, as federal funding has been cut for mental health services in the public sector, schools are providing more of these services. Currently Rivendell has 15-16% of its population receiving special services which tracks with the percentage of the budget allocated to SPED. Cole stated that students who attended Rivendell’s pre-school are succeeding at the high school level better than students who attended other pre-schools.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept):
   A. Minutes (July 12, 2011 and August 2, 2011)
   B. Superintendent Report (written): It was requested that the summary of enrollment by location not include Pre-K students. It was asked if Needham knew if the towns could access the AlertNow system. She indicated there was a cost to join and each town might want to look into this for emergency planning.
   C. Head of Schools Report (written)
   D. Principal Reports (written)
      1. Student Representatives Report (written)

ACTION: Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda with minute changes. Approved.
VI. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action):
   A. Policies – Adoption
      1. Admission of International Students, Code F20A
         ACTION: Moved to accept the final reading as amended. Approved.
      2. Interscholastic Sports/Extracurricular Activities, Code F15
         ACTION: Moved to accept the final reading as amended during meeting. Approved.
   B. Board Goals for 2011-2012 – Adoption: Moved to the next Board meeting.
   C. Committee Updates: The Board still needs a representative for River Bend.

VII. New Business (Receive Information & Possible Action):
   A. New Hires/Resignations:
      ACTION: Motion made to accept the hiring of Nancy Hall (RA School Counselor) and Dan Newsted (RA Mathematics Teacher). Approved.
      ACTION: Motion made to accept the resignation of Tiffany Russo. Approved.
   B. Correspondence: The Board received a thank you note from the Odyssey of the Mind students. The Board Chair emailed the District towns to notify them that the at-large board position is vacant and reminded the Board members of the Vermont School Board conference being held at Lake Morey October 20th-21st.

VIII. Future Agenda Items (Discussion):
      Board Goals for 2011-2012; Parental Options for Kindergarten between Samuel Morey and Westshire; Tammy MacQueen – Vision Program/Summer Program summary; Professional Development Inservice; Long Range Plans to address Flux in Population; Community Outreach Grants; Global Language for Elementary Students; Department Reports (Curriculum – Nov, Technology – Dec)

IX. Anticipated Executive Session (Discussion), 1 VSA & 313
   Action: Motion made to enter an Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. – Approved. Board came out of executive session at 8:58 p.m.

X. Adjournment
   Action: Motion made to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh
District Clerk