Members Present: Sandra Smith-Ordway, Allen Avery (Fairlee); Doug Tifft (at-large), Carol Sobetz, Mel Emerson (Orford); Beverly Ash (West Fairlee); Harry Black (Vershire)

Administrators and Staff Present: Noelle Vitt (Head of Schools)

Others Present: Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion), Jan Cole (Director, Special Education), Tracy Martel (SME SPED teacher), Gail Keiling (Head of Elementary Schools)

I. Call Meeting: Carol Sobetz called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

II. Approve Board Minutes of September 18, 2007: Action: Motion was made to approve the minutes of September 18, 2007 with the following changes: Under Communications and Reports, Section 2. Athletic Director and Assistant Athletic Director Job Description: remove the word “global.” Add Board came out of Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. Approved.

III. Public Input: None

IV. Communications and Reports:

A. Report of the Chair: Ray Proulx will be in the District on October 9, 2007. Carol mentioned that the form to provide feedback from the Strategic Planning Meeting is available on the web page. On November 2 there is a Vermont School Board training; members should let Noelle know if they are interested in attending. Carol will discuss Under Business Requiring Discussion the size of board membership.

B. Report of Head of Schools: Noelle commented on the articles that were sent to members in their Board packets.

1) Global Assessment Plan (Lyn Parker Haas) Lyn performed a brief activity with the Board. Lyn spoke about the goals of the assessment plan. Board members provided feedback regarding the purpose statement of the Local Comprehensive Assessment Plan. There was discussion regarding daily classroom assessment, philosophy, accountability, how to teach students strategies for test taking, evaluation of teachers from the students they have taught, involvement of students in self-assessment, measurement of the District’s success in terms of growth, intersection between assessment and curriculum and assessing vital results of personal and social responsibility.

2) Special Olympics (T. Martel) Tracy proposed a K-12 Special Olympics team. She would like to participate in the NH games at Dartmouth. The estimated cost of the program is $1000.00/year with additional costs for “uniforms.” Fundraising should cover these expenses. The Board fully supports Tracy’s request. Noelle will come back to the Board with a formal proposal with the details of how the program will work (i.e. insurance, van usage, coach’s contract, etc).

3) Bussing in West Fairlee Noelle referred to two independent bussing reports included in the Board packet. The recommendation from the reports is to keep the bus route as is. Noelle sent the reports to Mrs. Otis and to all members of the West Fairlee Select Board and clerk. No one has contacted Noelle to discuss this issue any further.

C. Reports of the Committee Chairs

1) Finance Allen briefed the Board about the findings and discussion from the last Finance meeting. The committee proposes that at each regular Board meeting the Finance Committee have a period of time for open discussion with Board members. Discussion about posting the Draft Budget to the District website. Budget Advisory Committee is continuing discussion about how to get more active participants. The next meeting is October 23rd.
V. Business Requiring Discussion & Action:
   A. Personnel Action: Motion was made to approve Joy Michelson as the Yearbook Advisor for 2007-2008. Approved.
   Action: Motion was made to approve the Art Trip to NYC on November 12-14, 2007. Approved.

B. First Reading of Policies:
   1) Admission of Homeless students, Code F19: Noelle briefly discussed the policy and asked Board members to send any typographical errors to her. Under Enrollment add: No student shall be admitted without the approval of the Head of Schools (Superintendent). **Action:** Motion was made to approve Code F19 Admission of Homeless Students as a first reading subject to editorial corrections. **Approved.**
   2) Budgeting, Code E2: Add: #10 - Conforms to all state regulations regarding reporting of such information. **Action:** Motion was made to approve as first reading with amendments. **Approved.**
   3) Fiscal Management and General Financial Accountability, Code E3: Under description 1: remove “or expenditures of over $5,000 not planned in the budget. **Action:** Motion was made to approve Policy Code E3 as a first reading as amended. **Approved.**

C. Other:
   Carol briefly spoke about the reduction of Board size from 11 to 7. Carol will add this item to October 16 agenda.

D. Executive Session, as Needed **Action:** Motion was made to move to executive session at 8:28 p.m. **Approved.**

VI. Business Requiring Discussion Only:
   A. Future Agenda Items:
      1) Topics:
         a) Strategic Planning Schedule
         b) October 16 – PreSchool & SPED
         c) November 6 – VISIONS

Board came out of Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

VII. Adjourn: **Action:** Motion was made to adjourn. **Approved.** The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Gray
District Clerk/Treasurer