Members Present: Cicely Richardson (Orford); Sandra Smith-Ordway, (Fairlee); Jennifer Shatney, Dawn Stever (W. Fairlee); Jennifer Ricker (Vershire)

Members Absent: Mark Avery, Bruce Lyndes (Fairlee); Marc DeBois, Vanessa DeSimone (Orford); Kathy Hooke (Vershire)

Administration and Staff Present: Joan Holcombe (Westshire Principal), Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Gail Keiling (Head of Elementary Schools/SME Principal), Tammy MacQueen (Visions Director), Michael Galli (RA Dean of Students)

Others Present: Gay-C Gahagan (Journal Opinion), Christina Moreland (Student Rep)

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. Board Chair stated that there was not a quorum of Board members present so no action could be taken by the Board during this meeting but items could be discussed.

II. General Public Comments: None at this time.

III. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: K. Gelenian requested that an overnight field trip be added under Item VI. New Business.

IV. Presentation/Guests:
A. SummerScapes/VISIONS (T. MacQueen): MacQueen presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2011 SummerScapes Program. She also presented data on the VISIONS budget. Discussion ensued on sustaining the program in the future, the 21st century grant which is in the second of a five year grant, fees were raised to $7 and have received no complaints, ideas to help raise money (i.e., providing childcare, other grants, material fees for workshops like rocketry), ideas to get more Westshire students to attend and meeting the needs of the Westshire community, majority of students at after school are Title I students and have data that students are becoming more successful in school from attending program, how to market summer program especially to schools outside our District, ran a vacation camp last year and planning to do one in February and April of 2012, and noted that VISIONS has full and partial scholarships available. Board thanked MacQueen for the presentation and for the great work by the VISIONS staff and her.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept):
A. Minutes (September 13, 2011): Edits were noted.
B. Superintendent Report (written): In addition, Needham added: a $3.12 oil lock for fuel had just occurred, the Director of Operations and she had met with Michael Gilbert the Orford Emergency Management Director, a student car accident happened today after school on the Academy lower school driveway and safety issues were being looked at.

Head of Schools Report (written): Gelenian added to his report: NEASC report is done, working on Phase II of curriculum, talked about what is happening at teacher in-services with groups of teacher working together, students starting a school newspaper, extra support for students during the school day with Alternative Education Consultant is working well, School Counselor Nancy Hall has fit right in, NECAP scores have been announced, Academy science scores were not good (13% Grade 8, 5% Grade 11 – met standard) but Gelenian felt the Academy was already addressing this with added chemistry and no break in science from one year to next, Academy family night was held at Vershire and
one is being planned West Fairlee. Shatney asked Gelenian if there was still a bus issue and he stated no. Shatney then expressed concern about empty or near empty buses in the Westshire area. Needham will address this concern with the Director of Operations.

C. **Principal Reports (written):**

Keiling’s additions to report: Science NECAPs were 78% met standards (4th grade) which is great, she requested that Gelenian ask the Dean of Studies to put together an analysis to look at where students are struggling on the NECAPs, she commented that looking at the history from where Westshire was when RISD started really has improved and credit goes to the Westshire staff, and that the Walk to School Day this morning was very well attended.

Holcombe’s additions: Science NECAPs were 83% met standards (4th grade) which is great, and that she had participated in the Cross Rivendell Trail Ramble which was a very interesting event.

1. **Student Representatives Report (written):** At Gelenian’s request, Moreland related about the recent Academy assembly about whom students feel responsible for. The topic was Universal Obligation and was put together by students and their teacher. Richardson asked about the student proposed vending machine and discussion ensued regarding the need for snacks after school, meeting federal wellness guideline, Visions possibly selling snacks instead, and not interfering with lunch program. Needham stated that the students had done a great job researching, investigating and following the process and that she is now following up with the vendor and would report back at the November Board meeting. Galli stated that Student Government was really working on being responsive to what their constituents wanted. Moreland explained the make up of Student Government representatives and that grades 7-12 were represented.

VI. **Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action):**

A. **Board Goals for 2011-2012:** Smith-Ordway asked for any more feedback and stated that Richardson had some good points at the last meeting. Final format will be ready for the next meeting for Board approval.

B. **At Large Board Member Position:** Smith-Ordway stated that five people were interested in the position: David Ricker (Orford), Kathy Blanchard (Orford), Margaret Gladstone (Fairlee), Cheryl Howe (Vershire) and Kathie Kilinski-Sobeck (Vershire). Board and people in attendance spoke about what they knew about the candidates. Smith-Ordway said that the Board needed to come up with a criteria on how to make a choice and if they need any further information from the interested parties. Feedback should be sent to Smith-Ordway.

Question raised on what the Board can do if a Board member is not attending meetings and fulfilling their membership duties. Needham pointed out that Board members are elected officials and unless they resign, they are on the Board until their term expires. It was suggested that the Board Chair have a discussion with the member.

C. **Committee Updates**

1. **River Bend Representative** – Meetings are quarterly and presently Smith-Ordway is attending but would like another Board member to be the rep.

VII. **New Business (Receive Information & Possible Action):**

A. **Overnight Field Trip:** Trip is for RISD French students to go to Quebec City, Canada, on November 10-13, 2011. Board will have to take action at November meeting. Smith-Ordway informed Gelenian that from past practice and tonight’s brief discussion the reality is that Board will probably vote favorably, so planning should continue.

B. **Correspondence:** Board received letters from REA regarding their intent to negotiate successor agreements for the Teachers Unit and the Educational Support Personnel Unit.
and requesting to schedule the first negotiation session. Needham will work on dates with Marc DeBois, Chair of the Board’s Negotiations Committee.

VIII. **Future Agenda Items (Discussion):** October 4 Items: Consent Agenda, Board Goals 2011-2012, At Large Board Member, Overnight Field Trip; Professional Development In-service; Long Range Plans to Address Flux in Population, Community Outreach, Grants, Global Language for 6th grade, Policies to be Revised, Student Presentations, Department Reports (Curriculum-Nov; Tech-Dec.)

IX. **Anticipated Executive Session (Discussion), 1 VSA & 313:** None.

X. **Adjournment:** Meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Perryman