Members Present: Carol Sobetzer, Marc DeBois (Orford); Margaret Gladstone, Sandra Smith-Ordway (Fairlee); Beverly Ash, Heather Fahy (W. Fairlee); Trevor Law, Jennifer Ricker (Vershire)

Administrators and Staff Present: Gail Keiling, Head of Schools (Superintendent); Donna Valentine (Head of HS); Kirsten Surprenant (RA Teacher); Nancy Hall (HS Counselor); Jon Sands (RA Teacher)

Others Present: Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion)

I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: None.

III. General Public Comments: None.

IV. Student/Teacher Presentation & Recognition
   A. NEASC Update (Kirsten Surprenant): Kirsten reported that the 6-12 teachers are working on accreditation self-study. There are seven areas where indicators will be turned into a report. October 24th the faculty will review and accept. The next step is looking at evidence. On May 3rd NEASC visiting team will arrive for four days. They will do interviews, sit in on every class, take a building tour, and visit w/students. On Wednesday they will write their reports for the seven standards. Donna Valentine said it will be a good picture for us and a very positive process. Then in ten years the study is repeated. Donna stated that it is a great marketing tool if you are accredited.
   B. High School Update (Donna Valentine & Nancy Hall): Donna and Nancy updated the Board on the Art, Labs, Advisory and failing students at the HS. Art - Students were surveyed as to what they would like in Art. Donna checked locally and Dartmouth and VTC do not have art classes. Labs- They are offered to all students. Students are placed where they need most help. It is not a teaching period and there are some difficulties because students don’t get credit. The end goal of lab should be flexible and individualized. Kirsten said that all students have access to teachers and teachers can support students. Advisory - Advisory is time to build relationships with students, work on time management, student identity, etc. – to build “one-on-one” relationships. It wraps the student around a support system. Connect Edu connects students with college and sets up applications. Nancy has been to a training in regards to this program. Failing Classes - Donna reported that most students fail two or more classes in a year. Interventions and an after-school program are being looked at to help students so they don’t fail. Donna claims we need to look at individual needs. Looking at a virtual learning academy – great for enrichment.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept)
   A. Minutes (July 14 and September 9, 2008)
   B. Long Range Planning Committee Report (written): Minutes of
   C. Community Engagement/Policy Committee Report (written): Minutes of
   D. Head of Schools (Superintendent)’s Report (written): Gail spoke about the protocol for co-curricular coaches and advisors. Carol asked for Gail to speak at a later meeting about strategies developed to address science NECAP scores (need to
look at scientific inquiry and how to embed in curriculum). **Action:** Motion made to approve Consent Agenda items. **Approved.**

VI. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action)

A. Policies (second/final reading):
   1) **Animal Dissection, Code G10 (new policy) – Action:** Motion made to approve Code G10 as final reading. **Approved.**
   2) **Life Threatening Food Allergies, Code F14 (revision)** - One change under School Responsibility, bullet 10, from “child’s school” to “child’s class.” **Action:** Motion made to approve Code F14 policy revision with above change as final reading. **Approved.**

VII. New Business (Received Information & Possible Action)

A. **New Hires - Action:** Motion made to hire Laura Forauer as the School Nurse for the elementary schools (part-time); to hire Kris Widmann as the Middle School Guidance Counselor (part-time); and to hire Gordon Christie-Maples as the Middle School Fall Play Coach. **Approved.**

B. **Correspondence – None.**

C. **Head of Schools (Superintendent) Goals** – This process has been varied over the years. This year Gail will write down her goals, then in February she will show evidence of being able to reach her goals, and then the Board will write a letter after they meet with Gail. Gail will add a goal of working towards NH certification. Gail stated that she is attending “new” superintendent meetings presented by VSA which she finds very helpful.

VIII. Strategic Action Plan

A. **Update of Process (T. Law):** Trevor stated the LRP Committee has met twice and is going through the whole plan looking for detail, etc. LRP wants the Plan to be a Board and community plan and are still hoping to get in on the November agenda for approval. **Action:** Motion made to move the monthly Board meeting in November to November 18, 2008. **Approved.**

IX. Future Agenda Items (Discussion)

A. Foreign exchange students for 2009-2010 – two from India 10th and 11th graders.

B. **Science**

C. Strategic Action Plan – complete reading

XI. Adjournment (Action)

**Action:** Motion made to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. **Approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Gladstone
Recorder