RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Rivendell Academy, Orford, NH
October 20, 2009

Members Present: Cicely Richardson, Vanessa DeSimone, Marc DeBois (Orford); Sandra Smith-Ordway, Bruce Lyndes, Mark Avery (Fairlee); Jennifer Ricker, Deb Davidson (Vershire); Carol Sobetzer (at-large)

Administrators Present: Gail Keiling (Head of Schools/Superintendent), Gary Collins (Director of Operations), Dick Paulson, Jr. (CFO), Donna Valentine (Head of High School), Shawn Gonyaw (Westshire Principal), Eloise Ginty (Samuel Morey Principal)

Others Present: Several District teachers

Meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m.

C. Sobetzer stated that this meeting was simply to provide Board members with information about various options to reorganize the District and get their initial comments and questions so that the Board can then present these options to the Rivendell community who will be given a chance to ask questions and provide feedback.

Sobetzer explained that information from various public forums, the budget hearings, annual district meetings and the recent strategic planning process, was put together and when everything was taken into account it was determined that closing the middle school made the most sense financially and educationally. With that in mind, the Board was given three options for reorganizing the District that would streamline the decision making process, decrease our administrative costs and building costs and help us to continue to improve our educational program for our students.

Sobetzer then distributed three different options for reorganization that included flow charts for administrative structure, current costs vs. the cost of each option and an educational rational for the benefits and challenges of each option. During discussion G. Collins pointed out that there would be an increase in bussing costs with Option C (K-4 at SME and 5-8 at WSE) that was not included in the projected costs for that option. B. Lyndes requested that Collins also figure out the cost savings of energy usage if the Memorial Hall wing of the middle school were closed to students.

M. DeBois questioned what we would do if we got an increase in students at the elementary schools should we move to a K-8 at SME and WES since it would already be a tight fit. Keiling was asked to get floor plans of each of the buildings and put together plans of where classes would be located in each of the three options.

Jon Sands pointed out that it would be important to look at how we would schedule the gym for sports and other events without the middle school gym and he also thought it was important to look at where the students would get on and off the bus.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Recorded by:

Carol Sobetzer