RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Rivendell Academy, Orford, NH
November 1, 2011

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

Members Absent: None

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

Others Present: George Dyke (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: Added Sports Participation under New Business

IV. Presentation/Guests:

A. Curriculum (B. Fariel) – Fariel presented a PowerPoint presentation on the changes to the curriculum for the Academy adding Algebra II and Chemistry as graduate requirements. She discussed the work being done for the Program of Studies at the Academy and bringing back the Integrated Studies that was part of Rivendell’s original focus. Additional changes at the Academy are offering Physics at the 9th grade level, and Biology at the 10th grade level. Changes are also being made to the 5th and 6th grade curriculum and offering more cultural and geography studies at the younger class levels. Fariel also discussed the Common Core Standards and its effects on education. Other topics discussed: Grants being worked on for the greenhouse and Kindle Readers, Upper House Senior Projects and Career Internships.

V. Consent Agenda:

A. October 4, 2011 Consent Agenda:
   1. Minutes (September 13, 2011) as amended
   2. Reports (Superintendent, Head of Schools, Principals)

B. Minutes (October 4, 2011): As amended

C. Superintendent Report (written)

D. Head of Schools Report (written)
   Gelenian added that there will be final exams for grades 9-12 this year

E. Principal Reports (written)
   1. Student Representative (written) – Dyke added that students are working on a grant to be able to bring local produce into the school lunch program. They are also working on a survey for students regarding what they’d like to see for lunch and snack choices.

Action: Motion made to accept the Consent Agenda with changes. Approved.

VI. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action)

A. Board Goals 2011-2012: These goals will be used by the committees to write their goals.
Action: Motion made to accept the Board Goals. Approved.

B. At Large Board Member Position: Board reviewed all the applicants.
Action: Motion made to approve Kathy Blanchard to complete the At Large position through March 2012. Approved.

C. Committee Updates: Committee Chairs will review the Board goals and tailor their committee goals to them.

VII. New Business:
A. Overnight Field Trips (RA – Canada and Orford)
   1. National Honor Society overnight in Orford
   2. French Students trip to Quebec, Canada
Action: Motion made to approve these trips. Approved.

   B. Correspondence
1. Status of the Orford Bridge – per the town, the culvert won’t be completed until the end of November.
2. Family with one parent living outside of the Rivendell District asked about having children picked up by a Rivendell bus when children are at the out of Rivendell District residence, as the bus driver lives and parks the bus in the same town as parent. Needham explained that per District transportation contract with the bus company this is not allowed. Rivendell would need to redo their contract to include this out-of-district area and there would additional cost to the District. It was further explained that presently community members are picking up the children and bringing them to school and are willing to continue.
3. Smith-Ordway attended the VSBA meeting in Woodstock and reported that they are looking for board input, particularly around collective bargaining.

   C. Sports Participation: Agreement with Hartford regarding student Participation in Ice Hockey has been received. Needham explained that VPA allows children to play sports at another school when their own school doesn’t offer that sport. This is a standard agreement and the parents will be paying the necessary fees.
Action: Motion made to approve and sign the agreement. Approved.

VIII. Future Agenda Items:
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 (Tech – Dec), Budget

IX. Anticipated Executive Session:
A. Negotiations: Action: Motion made to enter into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. Approved.
Board came out of executive session at 8:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh
District Clerk