Members Present: Carol Sobetzer (at-large); Marc DeBois, Cicely Richardson (Orford); Sandra Smith-Ordway, Bruce Lyndes, Mark Avery (Fairlee); Jennifer Shatney (W. Fairlee); Jennifer Ricker, Kathy Hooke (Vershire)

Administrators and Staff Present: Gail Keiling (Head of Elementary Schools/SME Principal), Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Michael Galli (Dean of Students), Hank Plaisted (Technology Coordinator)

Others Present: Juliette Bianco

I. Call Meeting: Meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m.

II. Rivendell Academy Walk-Through: K. Gelenian led walk-through of Rivendell Academy. Walk-through ended at 6:40 p.m.

III. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation:
Action: Motion was made to move VIII. B. Technology to follow V. A. Public Art. Approved.

IV. General Public Comments: None at this time.

V. Presentation/Guests
A. Public Art (Juliette Bianco)
Bianco gave a brief presentation on public art, how some pieces created controversy and how the pieces were dealt with due to public opinion. There was a discussion on if the raptor sculpture should be moved and how the students and public would feel about the change. The Board asked Principal Gelenian to speak with the students and have them articulate what they expect of the Board at this point.

VIII. New Business
B. Technology (Hank Plaisted)
1) Board Email & Rivendell Google Group - Plaisted discussed liability issues with the Board using personal email to correspond versus the District providing an email for the Board for such business. He recommended establishing this in conjunction with writing an e-mail policy based on similar policies in New Hampshire and Vermont. After a brief discussion it was decided that each member would have a District email address.
2) Report on Technology Meeting – Plaisted explained that the current technology plan is valid until June 30, 2012. He would like to review the plan on a regular basis and stated that Vermont is willing to accept any amendments to keep the policy current. Plaisted feels that this will help guide professional development and he looks forward to new members on the Technology Committee.

VI. Consent Agenda (Accept)
A. Minutes (October 5, 2010)
B. Superintendent Report (written): Richardson asked about the NH/VT Departments of Education Administrative Agreement. Needham stated that the agreement articulates which state takes the lead at Rivendell and hopes to have a signed copy in the near future. Needham also wanted noted in the minutes that Smith-Ordway and Richardson attended the OESU meeting relating to Act 153 on October 13th and a follow-up meeting has been scheduled to continue discussions of possible partner initiatives.
C. Head of Schools Report (written): Richardson asked the percentage of staff attended the Rivendell in-service on October 21 and 22 or attending the NEA workshops.
Gelenian said about two-thirds or more of the Academy teachers had attended the Rivendell workshops. Gelenian also discussed the class schedule, required classes and how to move students ahead to something meaningful.

D. Principals Report (written): Keiling reported that sharing space and a tight schedule continue to be a challenge. She also shared opportunities for joint learning with Westshire students in grades 4 and 5.

E. Policy Adoption: B3, Board Member Conflict of Interest (revision; G-10, Animal Dissection (revision); F17, Head Lice (revision)

Action: Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Approved.

VII. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action)
A. Election Procedures re changing Articles of Agreement: A discussion on having an attorney draft a proposal and have it available for signature at the November 18th Special School Board meeting prior to the Finance Committee meeting. The text must be ready to publish in a local newspaper by November 25th with a Public Hearing on December 7th before the next regular meeting.

B. Board Goals: The Board discussed improving meaningful technology throughout the District and the “Profile of a Graduate.” Action: Motion was made to adopt the Board Goals as stated. Approved.

C. Student Representatives to School Board: The two representatives, Melanie Emerson and Dorothy Hebb, were not present for the meeting.

D. Budget 2011-2012: Needham explained that the Finance Committee and the Leadership Team had meetings and are both being as conservative as possible. She is confident that the December 15th deadline can be met with a few changes to follow. She discussed the auditor’s status report and the short fall due to revenue being down.

E. Raptor Move: Previously discussed during Public Art.

F. Review of Meeting Hosted by OESU Regarding Act 153: Previously discussed during the Superintendent’s Report.

VIII. New Business (Receive Information & Possible Action)
A. Correspondence: Sobetzer reported that Beverly Ash had submitted her formal resignation. Action: Motion made to appoint Dawn Stever to the Board. Approved.

C. Class Size Policy Discussion: Needham stated that due to Act 153 there must be a class size policy in place by January 1, 2011. She distributed guidelines for the policy and asked that this be discussed at the next meeting.

D. Agreement with Hartford regarding Student Participation (Ice Hockey): Needham explained that this was a standard agreement, it is for one Rivendell student to participate in the Hartford hockey program and that the parents will be paying the necessary fees. Action: Motion made to sign the agreement contingent upon a written agreement from the parents stating that they are responsible for the cost and transportation. Approved.

IX. Future Agenda Items (Discussion): Not discussed.

X. Anticipated Executive Session (Discussion & Possible Action): Action - Motion made to enter into executive session at 9:40 p.m. Approved. Executive session ended at 9:59 p.m.

XI. Adjournment (Action): Action - Motion made to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri L. Clifford
District Clerk