RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Rivendell Academy, Orford, NH
November 3, 2009

Members Present: Carol Sobetzer (at-large); Cicely Richardson (Orford); Sandra Smith-Ordway, Bruce Lyndes, Mark Avery (Fairlee); Beverly Ash (W. Fairlee); Jennifer Ricker, Deb Davidson (Vershire)

Administrators and Staff Present: Gail Keiling (Head of Schools/Superintendent), Donna Valentine (RA HS Principal), Gordon Christie-Maples (MS Teacher), Kirsten Surprenant (HS Teacher)

Others Present: Nicholas Ludwig, Will Ricker (RA Seniors), Ed Ballam (Journal Opinion), Todd Spayth (Orford), Cheryl Howe (Vershire)

I. Call Meeting: Meeting was opened at 6:35p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation:
C. Sobetzer asked that C. Richardson and S. Smith-Ordway report on the VSBA conference after student presentation and recognition. Action: Motion made to hear the VSBA conference report after the student presentation and recognition. Approved.

III. General Public Comments: None at this time.

IV. Student/Teacher Presentation & Recognition
   A. Introduce Student Representatives to the School Board: C. Sobetzer introduced RA seniors Nicholas Ludwig and Will Ricker and asked them to tell the Board about themselves. Ludwig’s senior project was a brochure on Lyme Disease and Ricker’s senior project was a musical recording where he played all instruments, both are busy applying to various colleges.

   C. Richardson and S. Smith-Ordway reported on the VSBA conference. Selected speakers talked about community connection being a key to a successful education, statistics show that 53% of jobs require at least a two-year college education, urged early childhood education and to develop a child’s individual strengths.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept)
   A. Minutes (October 6, 2009 & October 20, 2009): Correction of the spelling of Brittany Lewis (from Britney to Brittany) in October 6th minutes.
   B. Head of Schools (Superintendent’s Report - written): The Board asked about the NECAP scores and student participation in the N1H1 flu clinic. Keiling stated that the numbers are affected by the percentages and administrators are working with teachers to improve in area subjects that showed weakness. There are 150 Academy students and 100 elementary students participating in the N1H1 vaccination.
   C. Long Range Planning Committee Minutes
   D. Finance Committee Minutes: S. Smith-Ordway confirmed that the meeting will be held Tuesday, November 10, 2009.
   E. School Improvement Team Minutes

Action: Motion made to accept the above consent agenda items, the correction to the October 6th meeting. Approved.
VI. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action)

A. Policy – Second Reading:

1) D7 – Volunteers and Work Study Students: G. Keiling reported that new requirements for the state of Vermont were just received and asked if the approval could be delayed until the December meeting so the Board would have ample time to review the criteria. Action: Motion made to delay the approval of D7 until the December meeting. Approved.

B. Next Steps for Reorganization of District

1) Community Forum Presentation: G. Keiling stated that the teachers would be reviewing the proposals during the November 5th in-service and will supply feedback to the Board. It was agreed that the community forums would be held on November 17th at 6:30 p.m. at Rivendell Academy and November 19th at 6:30 p.m. at Westshire Elementary.

VII. New Business (Receive Information & Possible Action)

A. Approval/Disapproval of 20092010 SIT Members: G. Keiling proposed that the following people be approved as SIT members for this year: Heather Rand, Sam Fulford, Laurie Gould (Orford); Marc DeBois (Board representative); Jack Kruse (Vershire); Shawn Gonyaw, Eloise Ginty, Bridget Fariel, Donna Valentine (School Administrators); Tammy MacQueen (Visions); Kevin Petrone (SME teacher); Hetty Thomae (SME/WSE Guidance); Cheryl Howe (Vershire); and Barbara Griffin (Title I Reading Teacher-SME/WSE). Action: Motion made to approve the list for SIT. Approved.

B. Correspondence: C. Sobetzer received a letter from REA on negotiations that would be discussed during executive session at the end of the public meeting.

VIII. Strategic Action Plan

A. Update of Process: G. Keiling said that due to illness two Resource Task Force meetings were missed and need to be rescheduled. The principals will review the Strategic Plan at their next meeting.

Keiling also stated that there was the opportunity to pay for an additional part time school nurse with EPSDT funds from the Vermont Department of Health. This would allow for an additional 6 hours of nursing coverage at Westshire. Keiling recommended the Board approve Margaret Meyers, RN for the position. Action: Board approved hiring Margaret Meyers for the part-time (16% FTE) school nurse position at WSE. Approved.

IX. Future Agenda Items (Discussion)

A. HS Schedule & RA Student Handbook: December.
B. Orford Academy Building Task Force: Pending per Task Force Chair (Ann Green).
C. Other items: Lego Robotics – January; Visions – Tammy MacQueen; TIPS students speak about the program; and RA Exchange Student presentation.

Action: Motion made to enter into executive session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss negotiations with REA. Approved. Board came out of executive session at 7:45 p.m.

X. Adjournment (Action): Action: Motion made to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheri Clifford, District Clerk