Members Present: Sandra Smith-Ordway, Margaret Gladstone, Allen Avery (Fairlee); Doug Tifft (at-large); Carol Sobetzer, Juliette Bianco, Mel Emerson (Orford); Beverly Ash, Heather Fahy (West Fairlee); Harry Black, Trevor Law (Vershire)

Administrators and Staff Present: Noelle Vitt (Head of Schools), Bob Sampson (Head of HS), Paul Fassler (Head of MS), Tammy MacQueen, Dan Noseworthy, Gordon Christie-Maples, Kirsten Surprenant, Gerard Suich, John Bristol, Kevin Cotter, Crystal Larocque, Paula Driscoll, Chris Cassell, Jon Sands, Teddy Valencia-Reichert, Eric Reichert, Aaron Barber, Eric Picconi, Ken Linge, Kevin Petrone, Kathryn Inman, Deborah O’Brien, Patsy Belknap, Steve Crimmin, Joyce Russell, Betsy Hutchins, Linda Cook, Gail Keefer, Joy Michelson, Hetty Thomae, Kimberly Poulin, Wendy Bergren, Kate DalPra, Bob Thatcher

Others Present: Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion), Nancy Thatcher, Samantha Wolf (Student Representative)

I. Call Meeting: Carol Sobetzer called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. Approve Board Minutes of October 16 and 22, 2007: Action: Motion was made to approve the minutes of October 16 and 22, 2007. Approved.

III. Public Input: Joy Michelson spoke on behalf of the REA and informed the board that staff members were present as personal representatives for the board to make a connection with as they consider contract negotiations. Each staff member then introduced him/herself and spoke about their current work with students.

IV. Communications and Reports:
   A. Report of the Chair: Carol relayed information about events happening at the Fairlee Library.
   B. Report of Head of Schools: Noelle introduced Tammy MacQueen. Following Tammy’s report Noelle referred to the handouts in her packet. She highlighted the new teacher course, upcoming dates, harvest luncheons, budget work, and first interviews for public relations and grant writer.

1) VISIONS Program (T. MacQueen)
   Tammy spoke about the VISIONS program and the good work happening in the program. She said some of the challenges have been funding, transportation and a “space of their own” at Samuel Morey and Westshire.

C. Reports of the Committee Chairs:
   1) Long Range Planning (D. Tifft)
      LRP will be meeting at the District office at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7 to prepare for the Futures Forum scheduled for later in the month.
   2) Negotiations (M. Emerson)
      The Negotiations Committee is in receipt of the support staff proposal and will meet in early December with this group. The Board will meet in executive session to discuss the next steps to be taken in regards to the existing negotiations with REA. Mel read aloud a letter received from the REA regarding current negotiations.
   3) Finance (A. Avery)
      Allen reported that the Finance Committee has started its discussion of next school year’s budget and spoke about some of the concerns the Committee has. Allen reported that Jan Cole and Gail Keiling presented their budgets to the committee. Allen reassured the Board that the Finance Committee supports the teachers and staff as they consider the affordability of the budget to the taxpayers.
V. Business Requiring Discussion & Action:
A. Search for Head of Schools (Superintendent):
Carol reported that an extra meeting is needed between now and December 2, which will be determined during executive session.

B. Personnel:
   1) Coaches:
      Action: Motion was made to hire Tim Danen as the 7/8 middle school boy’s basketball coach, Paul Dalton as the high school ski coach, Debbie Marsh as a coaching assistant for snowboarding and Teddy Reichert as the Odyssey of the Mind coach. Approved.

C. First Reading of Policies:
   1) Student Assessment, Code F21
      Noelle reported that great strides have been made and by the end of the year there should be a more formal assessment plan to present. Some discussion followed. Action: Motion was made to approve the first reading of Student Assessment, Code F21. Approved.

Samantha Wolf, the new Student Government Representative, was introduced. She reported that the student body is concerned about lunch bills not being accurate. Discussion followed. The Board would like a report back next month with recommendations for a solution meeting the most needs. Samantha updated the Board on a current fundraising activity.

D. Executive Session regarding Negotiations
   Action: Motion was made to move into Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. Approved.

   Board came out of Executive Session at 9:51 p.m.

   Action: Motion was made to have a Special School Board meeting on Thursday, November 15, 2007, at the Rivendell District Office in Orford at 6:30 p.m. Approved.

E. Approval of Special Olympics Expense Projection – Action: Motion was made to table this. Approved.

VI. Business Requiring Discussion Only:
A. Future Agenda Items:
   1) Topics:
      a) Second/Final Reading of Policies – December
         Life Threatening Allergies & Chronic Illnesses in School; Prevention of Harassment of Students, Code F23 (Revision); Admission of Homeless Students, Code F19, Budgeting, Code E2, Fiscal Management and General Financial Accountability, Code E3

VII. Adjourn: Action: Motion was made to adjourn. Approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Gray
District Clerk/Treasurer