RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
District Office – Orford, NH
November 6, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Cicely Richardson, David Ricker (Orford); Sandra Smith-Ordway (Chair), Bruce Lyndes, Mark Avery (Fairlee); Dawn Stever (W. Fairlee); Jennifer Ricker, (Vershire), Kathy Blanchard (at-large)

Members Absent: Marc DeBois, Jennifer Shatney, Jean MacDonald

Administration and Staff Present: Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Michael Galli (Dean of Students), Celise Johnson (Food Service Director)

Others Present: Christina Moreland (Student Government Representative)

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation: Needham has an additional field trip to approve.

III. General Public Comments: None.

IV. Presentation/Guests
   A. Food Service (C. Johnson): Johnson presented a written report and discussed changes the Food Service program is making. She stated that the Food Service staff is ready for the challenge of incorporating the new nutritional guidelines into the school program. Board discussed the use of the greenhouse as a way to provide more food to the program, as well as accessing local farm stands. Johnson also stated that the State found no corrective action was needed after its most recent inspection.

V. Consent Agenda:
   A. Minutes (October 2 & 23, 2012): – Changes were noted.
   B. Principal Reports (written) – Question asked about the reason Everybody Wins is only offered at Westshire and not Samuel Morey as well. Gelenian will look into this.
   C. Superintendent Report (written): Needham wanted to discuss when to hold the Annual Meeting as it falls on Easter Weekend. A special District meeting will be needed to change the date and time. She will look at dates. Board discussed making Visions its own line item on the budget and include OM and other like programs. Also, suggested that it might be helpful in the annual report to list employees differently to give the public a better understanding of how the number of employees is broken down.
   D. Head of Schools Report (written): Board discussed the number of failed classes – Gelenian indicated the main area of failures is in math and science. With Middle School math and science becoming more rigorous, he feels these numbers will decrease over time, but it’s still a concern currently. Failure grade is 69 where many other schools it’s a lower grade. Gelenian talked about recruiting students to come to Rivendell – they had a great meeting with the Waits River students and are working on other area schools. Transportation is being looked at for these towns, but it would depend on the number of students that would attend RA from these areas.
   E. Student Representative (written): Moreland discussed her report. She added that VT and NH students had been taken to register to vote.

Action: Motion made to approve the consent agenda with changes to the minutes. Approved.

VI. Ongoing Business:
   A. Auditor Position: Smith-Ordway has had no response to the Auditor position. Carl Cassel will be contacted to see if he would be interested in this position.
B. Overnight Field Trips
   1) RA Art Trip to NYC, December 13-15, 2012
   2) RA French Class Trip to France, April 4-19, 2012
   3) Grade 6 Trip to Hulbert Outdoor Center, May 15-17, 2013
   4) National Honor Society Retreat, December 5-6, 2012
Action: Motion made to approve these Field Trips. Approved
C. Policy Reading/Adoption/Revision: No action is required on these policies at this time.
   1) Policy Development, Code A1 – Needham will check to see if we need a NH Policy Development policy
   2) Policy Dissemination, Administration & Review, Code A3
   3) Board Member Education, Code B1: Is this policy needed?
   4) Board Goal-Setting & Self-Evaluation, Code B2: Is this policy needed?
   5) Board Meetings, Code C5
   6) Board Commitment to Non-Discrimination, Code C9

VII. New Business:
   A. Initial Budget Guidance: Needham polled the Board as to their feeling on the budget for the 2013-14 year. The majority would like to look at a level funded budget. They would like to publish the various savings that the Board/school has incorporated over the last few years, educational improvements, and diversity of the staff.
   B. Correspondence: Orford Academy Building Task Force has met with eight prospective developers, but still a work in progress.

VIII. Future Agenda Items:
   Long Range Plans to Address Flux in Population (Gelenian-Dec.), Strategic Plan (Next Steps), Community Outreach, Grants, Global Language for 6th grade, Policies to be Revised (ongoing), School Improvement Update & NEASC (Dec), Student Presentations, Department Reports, Service Field Trip Proposal (Ellis), Vision Program, Long Range Financial Plan, Budget Overview

IX. Anticipated Executive Session:
   A. Negotiations
      Action: Motion made to go into Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. Approved. Board came out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

X. Adjournment:
   Action: Motion made to adjourn. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Recoded by:

Esther Dobbins-Marsh