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

II. Strategic Plan:
DeBois briefly introduced Harry Frank from VSBA, who was in attendance to help the Board by facilitating this meeting regarding the District’s Strategic Plan. Frank then gave his own brief introduction of his background. DeBois and Frank both spoke regarding the purpose of the meeting to work on a new Strategic Plan, looking at how to shape it, outline or highlight components to have in the document.

Board members then each introduced themselves, reporting their years of service on the Board, what part of the current Strategic Plan is most meaningful to them and how has or will the Plan influence the work of the Board. (Focus Area #2, a few core items to always keep in mind at board meetings, keep in mind all the small towns and equity of opportunity, financial aspects, Focus Area #1-Goal #3, Focus Area #1-Goal #1, use Plan as a guide for Board to ensure that Administration is working toward these goals and the mission statement, Focus Area #1-Goal #4 and #5, how to have a thriving school district in 10-20 years, responsibility of Board to put right administrators in place and give them the correct tools and support.)

Administrators then gave their view of important items of Plan: Focus Area #1-particular Goal #1 and #2, curriculum, District being preK-12 and ability to prepare elementary students for the Academy curriculum, all students be represented in Plan (disable, at risk, etc.), current plan is logical document, transparency, narrow the focus for administration and more in depth, finance/personnel.

DeBois requested that Frank outline what the Board should know and expect from Administrators and the Board’s involvement. Frank gave brief history on Vermont and school boards: close relationship in Vermont and an odd relationship; statutes are clear that Board sets budgets, policy and hiring/firing Superintendent; Board sets the expectations for what they want every student to know and do when students leave Board’s school system; Board should not violate the law (statutes). Frank suggested setting goals that can be controlled (i.e., cannot really control how Vermont handles school financing, etc.).

Discussion ensued on items such as: having goals being far reaching even if it results in failure to reach – something to reach for; current Plan is not really strategic more tactical; looking out 5-10 years; Plan was Rivendell’s first formal Strategic Plan and needed to be tactical; promote innovation; growing Rivendell’s presence; telling Rivendell’s story and getting it out; profile of the graduate; Focus Area #1 is important; continuity between where Rivendell is and where it is going; show what is important to Board such as culture, atmosphere, etc.; Board look at Plan annually for how progress is going; all three current
focus areas make it more balanced – retain all three in a different way; want students to have confidence in their abilities and feel able to take risks, marketing Rivendell, and more.

Discussion then centered on how to involve community/public in Plan. Consensus was that community should be involved at some level, not on the level as the first one but definitely with an opportunity to weigh in with a public forum or something similar.

Next steps were then discussed, including whether administrative should be drafting up focus areas/goals or the Board. Frank was willing to help with this work. Needham stated that she felt the Strategic Plan is a Board document and responsibility and suggested maybe a Board ad hoc committed to work on some idea. Board consensus was that Board should be doing this and ad hoc committee of Dave Ricker, Jean MacDonald, Sarah Rinehimer, Cicely Richardson and Kathy Blanchard with Frank’s assistance would come up with items to bring back to the Board and then will be showing to Administration.

III. Transact any other business that needs to be considered: None.

IV. Adjournment (Action)
   Action: Motion made to adjourn. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Recorded by:
Penny Perryman, CEOE
Executive Assistant/HR Manager