RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Rivendell Academy, Orford, NH
November 18, 2008

Members Present: Carol Sobetzer, Brenda Gray, Marc DeBois (Orford); Margaret Gladstone, Doug Tiff, Sandra Smith-Ordway (Fairlee); Beverly Ash (W. Fairlee); Bruce Lyndes (at-large); Jennifer Ricker (Vershire)

Administrators and Staff Present: Gail Keiling (Head of Schools/Superintendent), Hank Plaisted (Director of Information Technology)

Others Present: Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion) Lindsay Gardyne (Sr. Project) Tom Thomson, Carolyn Flower (Orford residents)

I. Call Meeting:
Meeting was opened at 6:32 p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation:
Carol revised the agenda as follows:
1. There is no Finance Committee Report to review until the next meeting.
2. Under VII. Add C. Brenda Gray, CEC.
3. After future agenda items add Executive Session.

III. General Public Comments
Tom Thomson read a letter he had written to the School Board to consider a warrant article allowing the district to vote by Australian ballot for all future meetings. Mr. Thomson will be put on the next Board agenda and also the next Finance Committee agenda.

IV. Student/Teacher Presentation & Recognition
A. Senior Project (L. Gardyne): Lindsay presented her senior project of Composting in the RA Café. Her proposal was to request that the School Board accommodate her project in the 2009-2010 school year budget with an initial start-up fee of $2,000 and $300 for the years following. There was a problem with composting on school property due to Vermont laws and no local farm was interested in picking up the material. Lindsay was able to speak with Highfields Institute, a company that works with schools to develop “green” programs. It was suggested that Lindsay also investigate New Hampshire Laws, as the school is located in New Hampshire and also to speak with someone at the Bradford Elementary School, as they have a composting project with a farm in Corinth.

B. Technology (H. Plaisted): Hank asked if the Board would appoint a Technology Committee to not only come up with a Technology Plan, but to reshape education and take technology into the future to help students. In the past the Technology Committee was a mixture of Board member(s), students, teachers and community members, Plaisted and the Head of Schools (Superintendent). Plaisted explained that the current Technology Plan expires in June of 2009 (a two-year plan), and the state of Vermont will be distributing guidelines for the plan in January. He felt that the committee could also look into other aspects of technology such as funding development of parent access of student’s grades, the cost, positives and negatives. Sandra Smith-Ordway asked for an example and Plaisted gave two: 1) To use the way students communicate with each other – texting and 2) Project based learning – a concept that may draw tuition students. Gail Keiling felt that this should be a continuing committee and that Rivendell is matching instruction as to what students
need to move forward in the 21st century. Carol Sobetzer asked that ideas for committee members be presented at the next meeting.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept)
A. Minutes (October 7, 2008): Approved.
B. Long Range Planning Committee Report: There were no questions at this time.
C. Head of Schools Report: There were no questions or comments.

VI. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action)
A. Presentation and Adoption of Strategic Plan: Sobetzer stated that she received very little feedback on the Strategic Plan draft. She thanked Sandra for such a great job putting the brochure together and also Doug and Juliette for all of their earlier work. She said that once the plan was adopted then the committee would have to put together a work plan and timeline. Keiling stated that the work was already started. Margaret Gladstone asked how the brochure would be disbursed to taxpayers and felt it should be made available at Town Clerk offices, libraries and on the Rivendell website. Action: Motion made to adopt the Strategic Plan. APPROVED.

VII. New Business (Received Information & Possible Action)
A. New Hires (coaches): Motion made to discuss new hires after the executive session. APPROVED.
B. Correspondence: No correspondence
C. Brenda Gray, CEC: Gray stated that the committee has been working on the Board Newsletter and asked each Board member to submit, by e-mail, a three to four sentence biography by the end of the week.

VIII. Strategic Action Plan
A. Update of Process: Keiling will consult with Ray Proulx on how best to send the plan out to the community.

IX. Future Agenda Items (Discussed)
Australian ballot – Tom Thomson
Technology Committee Members
Orford Academy Building – Ann Green

Action: Motion made to go into executive session at 8:03 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Approved. Board came out of executive session at 8:18 p.m. It was agreed that effective after tonight’s meeting the Head of Schools (Superintendent) will approve the hiring of all co-curricular coaches (instead of bringing them to the Board for approval). The Head of Schools (Superintendent) will keep the Board updated on coaches hired by sending a list to the Board.

Action: Motion was made to approve the hiring of the following recommended coaches – Elwyn Brooks, Girls’ JV Basketball; Todd Pierson, Boys’ JV Basketball; Natalie White, Girls’ Middle School (7th grade) Basketball; Peter Stever, Girls’ Middle School (8th grade) Basketball; Daniel Dyke, Boys’ Middle School (7th & 8th grade) Basketball; and Gordon Christie-Maples, Ten Minute Play Coach.

X. Adjournment (Action)
The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Clifford