I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.
   Action: Motion made to enter executive session at 6:01 p.m. Approved.

II. Executive Session (Discussion), 1 VSA §313:
   (Board, Beleau, Duncan Cooley, Paulson, Needham, Perryman)
   1) Legal Issue
      Board came out of executive session at 6:31 p.m. No action taken.


IV. General Public Comments (Listen & Defer Action to Future Mtg.):
   Browne, Barsamian, and Reiss came to let Board know there was a problem with internet – having none or limited or sporadic internet service - going into its third week and to express their frustration, explain briefly how it is impacting students and teachers, students who don’t have internet at home are even more impacted, not knowing day to day whether there will be internet or not, teachers needing to modify curriculum, etc. DeBois said that Board had heard there were problems and Needham explained briefly that the District’s tech staff (Plaisted, Ackerman and Martino) had all been working on it and have called in outside help and agreed it is very frustrating and that the District Office work has all been affected too. DeBois said that the principal is the one that should be communicating with the staff. Board all seemed to agree that three weeks was too long for a problem like this to exist. Discussion ensued on what Board could do to help. DeBois stated that in this case, the administration needs to communicate to staff each day what is going on, even if it is to acknowledge there is a problem and to please be patient. Ricker stated that the administration also needs to put in to place processes to make sure this doesn’t happen again for so long a period of time. DeBois requested that the Superintendent give the Board an update and thanked the teachers for coming to the meeting and informing them.

   Gahagan introduced herself and requested she be given access to any documents the Board had received (Board packet). DeBois and Needham agreed. Gahagan received Board packet immediately.

V. Presentation/Guests:
   A. Rivendell Recreation/Friends of Rivendell – Fahey introduced Matt Parker and herself stating that they were both with the newly formed Rivendell Recreation. Fahey explained that there are now two groups: Rivendell Recreation for the athletics piece and Friends of Rivendell for fundraising to support other activities. Friends of Rivendell are working on their set up and legal paperwork. Fahey updated the Board on many items: basketball
registration, beginning to plan skiing/skating, volunteers (quite a few and from both sides of District), hope to have all the same activities and maybe some new ones, set up of board positions and then election, already have insurance coverage, struggling with keys to the school buildings (Needham stated she will work on that), old CSO funds have been transferred and Recreation is currently holding funds for Friends of Rivendell, Special Olympic (Tracy Martel has the funds) and trying to improve communication (website, Facebook, emails, posters). Board thanked Fahey and Parker for coming and updating the Board.

VI. Consent Agenda (Accept):
   A. Minutes
      1) Board – October 7, 2014
         Action: Motion made to approve the consent agenda. Approved.

VII. Informational Reports (written):
   A. Elementary Reports: MacQueen reported Westshire held their Harvest Dinner today which was very well attended and ran smoothly. Keiling stated that both elementary schools had just received grants for $2000 each –composting for Westshire and gardens for Samuel Morey. DeBois stated that in the last three years Board has only heard good comments about Westshire and compliment MacQueen and Keiling. Board then asked questions and discussed the portion of Keiling’s report regarding the Westshire Principal/Literacy Consultant’s position being changed next year to 70/30, as opposed to the current 50/50.
   B. Superintendent Report: No additional questions or comments.
   C. Head of Schools Report: Rinehimer requested the calendar the RA students are selling be available at elementary schools. MacQueen and Keiling agreed and Gelenian will make them available. Hooke asked about the math instruction and Gelenian said it is working and it is not about speed but about mastering the concepts. Gelenian gave a brief update on recent field trip to South Burlington. Brief discussion held regarding calendar for next year and how to build snow days in and possibility of using in-service days or even vacation days but Needham stressed that Vermont statutes must be followed regarding aligning with technical school (River Bend, in this case) and that if vacation or professional days are used there is a certain (large) amount of students that must show up for the day to actually count as a full day of school. DeBois stopped discussion in the interest of time and because calendar has to be worked on by administration first and will be coming to the Board soon.


VIII. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action):
   A. Auditor Position Appointment: No suggestions. Needham stated she had mentioned it when she attended the Fairlee Selectboard meeting. She also stated that CFO Paulson had invited the local auditors to attend the professional audit this year.
   B. Policy Review:
      1) Animals in the Classroom, Code G2 – Rinehimer felt that class pets should be allowed, verbiage regarding rabies should be removed, and make more flexible. Discussion ensued, including how loose the Hanover policy is, including a part about school nurse in policy. DeBois reminded Board that these policies have come form VSBA and been already been reviewed by lawyers. Needham said she would take the draft policy back and work on it some more.
      2) Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources and the Internet, Code G1 – First reading.
      3) Emergency Closings, Code E6 – First reading. Needham requested that if any Board members had any questions on G1 or E6 to email her before the next meeting.
   C. Finance/Threshold Information (D. Paulson): Paulson was pleased to report that he had just received an estimate from Brad James at the Vermont Agency of Education on the new threshold of $17,103, which is up approximately $900. Paulson told the Board that there
will be some significant increases for the next year’s budget such as 4-5% in health insurance. Paulson apologized that he had not had an opportunity to accrue benefits, copy machines, etc. for this report. Nurse question – Needham working with VT health EPSDT grant money will be coming in. Needham reported that in prep for next year’s budget Paulson, Perryman and she would be meeting tomorrow to review and check salaries, etc.

D. Strategic Plan Meeting Follow-up: Needham reported that she had checked the open meeting rules and the Board can use email to send out items but not for discussion. The ad hoc strategic planning group would need to hold a meeting and Needham asked that they contact Perryman so she could help schedule and warn as required.

IX. New Business (Receive Information and Possible Action):
A. Teacher Resignation: Needham reiterated from her report that Pamela Kendall had resigned (Kindergarten teacher, Samuel Morey). **Action**: Motion made to accept Pamela Kendall’s resignation with deep regret and thanks for her many years of work. **Approved**.

B. Transportation Contract 2015-2020
Needham reported that a transportation contract for the next five years had gone to bid and the current vendor, Butler’s, had come in significantly lower but also up significantly, approximately $30,000 increase. Needham said both Gary Collins and she recommended the Board award the contract to Butler’s. **Action**: Motion made to approve the Transportation Contract for 2015-2020 to Butler’s Bus Service, Inc. as presented. **Approved**.

C. Common Core Discussion: Needham said that Rineheimer had request the Board have a discussion and, perhaps, come up with a formal Board position. DeBois requested that Administration make a presentation to the Board for either January or February.

D. Administrator & Administrative Contracts: DeBois asked if the Board wanted to adopt the contract templates that the Board’s attorney had suggested or to table for now. Board agreed to look at in January or February.

E. Correspondence: None.

F. Fairlee Scholarship Fund: Avery gave a brief history of this fund to the Board and explained how to make it clearer the Fairlee Town Clerk had made a resolution up that the Rivendell Board was being asked to sign to give the Fairlee Scholarship Fund back to the town of Fairlee formally. Board agreed and signed resolution.

X. Future Agenda Items (Discussion):
Crisis Response, Community Outreach, Policies to be Revised (ongoing), Student Presentations, Department Reports, Laura Soares, VSBIT (December), Common Core (January or February)

XI. Anticipated Executive Session (Discussion), 1 VSA 313:
A. REA Negotiations
**Action**: Motion made to go into Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. **Approved**.

Board came out of Executive Session at 8:29 p.m. No action.

XII. Adjournment (Action)
**Action**: Motion made to adjourn. **Approved**. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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