Rivendell Interstate School District – Board Meeting Minutes
Rivendell Academy – Orford, NH
November 26, 2008

Members Present: Trevor Law, Jennifer Ricker (Vershire), Bruce Lyndes (at large), Carol Sobetzer, Mark DeBois (Orford), Doug Tifft, Sandra Smith-Ordway (Fairlee)

Others Present: From Orford: Alan Bean, Ron Taylor, Rodney Taylor, Terry Dyke, Tom Thomson, Sheila Thomson, David Bischoff, Lawrence Hibbard, John Boyzoun, Mary Dyke, Ludlow Flower, and two other community members who did not sign in

I. Call Meeting: Carol Sobetzer called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Discussion on Australian Ballot being a Warrant Article for the Annual District Meeting
Carol reviewed the reason to meet and asked Tom Thomson to speak. Thomson began by saying he came to last week’s Board meeting to make that request and after talking to Carol Sobetzer about it, appreciated that she was willing to see if a School Board meeting could be arranged to discuss it rather than people having to prepare and get signed a petition by the date necessary. He thanked the Board for being willing to meet on such short notice as well as a holiday eve. He was very concerned about those in our communities who were house-bound and couldn’t come to the annual meeting to vote. These people continue to live in the towns, but can’t attend the meetings to be heard or to vote. He also was concerned about the people who had service businesses, and those who were out of town on the date of meeting for business or other reasons. David Bischoff shared these sentiments, specifically for his 96-year-old mother. Lud Flower said the same, but also wanted to make sure the budget hearings were more deliberate. Conversation revolved around this process. Mark DeBois clarified that there were two meetings last year – one in Orford and one in West Fairlee that were attended by 3 people from the public. Doug Tifft clarified how the process works for Australian Ballot. Carol clarified how it would need a change to the Articles of Agreement. Trevor asked if absentee ballots for the budget vote could be allowed, however, the answer was no unless it was Australian ballot. Doug wondered how many people would actually come to share thoughts at the budget hearings and what would the response be. Sandra asked for clarification – if Australian ballot is voted on and passed this year, would it be in affect for the following year due to changing the articles of agreement? Carol confirmed that this is correct. Action: Motion made to put Australian Ballot on the warrant at the upcoming annual district meeting (moved by Bruce Lyndes). Approved. Tom Thomson thanked the Board for supporting the request.

III. Transact any other business that needs to be considered: Carol Sobetzer handed out information about a candidate for the .2 art position. Action: Motion made to hire Alexandra Mathis for the part-time (20% FTE) art position. Approved.

IV. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Smith-Ordway