RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Westshire Elementary School, West Fairlee, VT
December 1, 2009

Members Present: Carol Sobetzer (at-large); Cicely Richardson, Marc DeBois (Orford); Sandra Smith-Ordway, Mark Avery, Bruce Lyndes (Fairlee); Deb Davidson, Jennifer Ricker (Vershire); Beverly Ash (West Fairlee); Will Ricker, Nick Ludwig (HS Student Board Representatives)

Administrators/Staff Present: Gail Keiling (Head of Schools/Superintendent), Donna Valentine (Head of HS), Hank Plaisted (Director of Info. Technology), Eric Reichert (HS Teacher), Teddy Valencia-Reichert (MS Teacher), Andy Boyce (Rivendell Trails).

Others Present: David Green (MS parent/Volunteer Lego Robotics Coach), Gay-C Gahagan (JO); Heidi Gardner Peyton, Judith Siemons, Kathy Landgraf, Todd Spayth, Jeff Winagle, Tammy Piper (Orford), Melissa Gahagan, Georgette Ludwig, Toni Bacon (Fairlee), Andy Perkins, Kathy Young, Cheryl Howe (Vershire), Shirley Godfrey, Jon Molesworth, Mrs. Otis, Andrea Welch (W. Fairlee)

6th Grade Lego Robotics Team: Megan Landgraf, Nathaniel Dimick, Maxwell Green, Ryan Landgraf, Quenla Haehnel, Jennifer DeBois, Jacob Perkins.

I. Call Meeting: Meeting was opened at 6:38 p.m.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation:
In response to initial round of Public Comments, G. Keiling requested to present an item of Correspondence (slated for Agenda item IV (C), out of order.

Action: Motion so made and Approved. Keiling discussed letter she wrote to Piermont School Board inviting discussion regarding Piermont students would be welcomed by RISD; to date Keiling’s letter is unanswered.

III. General Public Comments: Topics of comment included, but were not limited to: the proposed restructuring plans, future student enrollment numbers, financial figures of the three proposed restructuring plans, physical condition of Memorial Hall, marketing the District, NEASC report findings and recommendations. Public speakers included: Todd Spayth, Cheryl Howe, Kathy Landgraf, Heidi Peyton, Teddy Valencia-Reichert, Eric Reichert, Jon Molesworth, Cathy Young. Board members C. Sobetzer, C. Richardson, and S. Smith-Ordway responded to comments, along with G. Keiling. Action: Motion made to suspend Public Comments until after Student/Teacher Presentations and under “Community Forum Feedback” section of Agenda. Approved.

IV. Student/Teacher Presentation & Recognition
A. Lego Robotics Team: Dave Green and Hank Plaisted were accompanied by the student members of the Team, which earned 2nd Place Recognition in a competition at Dartmouth College for their performance of programmed execution by their robot of specific tasks. This year’s theme was: transportation. Each Team member addressed the Board and a Lego robotic demonstration followed.

B. Cross Rivendell Trail (A. Boyce): Andy Boyce presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the connection of the Trail as an outdoor classroom that enhances classroom learning. Technology, such as GPS and computer mapping, are integrated in the outdoor learning. Community connections are fostered, as different age groups’
Trail projects share components. There is a website link on the Rivendell home page to the Cross Rivendell Trail home page.

C. **Student Board Reps Report (N. Ludwig & W. Ricker)**: N. Ludwig reported on Billy Ross’ Senior Project - Alumni Basketball Games, which will be followed by an Alumni Questionnaire; The “Mix-it-Up” day, which encourages students to mingle outside of one’s usual social group, had poor participation; Character Banners are posted; most students are unaware of the proposed restructuring plans. W. Ricker reported the Thanksgiving Dinner hosted for Senior Citizens went well; the National Honor Society is meeting more frequently than before.

Gay-C Gahagan (JO) asked the Board if the students have a say in restructuring plans. Dr. Valentine commented that she will work with the Student Government to inform the Student body regarding restructuring proposals.

V. Consent Agenda (Accept)

A. Minutes (November 3, 2009): A few corrections needed were noted by S. Smith-Ordway.

B. Head of Schools (Superintendent’s Report - written): G. Keiling referenced her earlier comments regarding Piermont students and reported that the second dose of the H1N1 vaccine is planned.

C. Long Range Planning Committee Minutes

D. Finance Committee Minutes: S. Smith-Ordway did not bring the minutes with her. They will be sent out prior to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

**Action:** Motion made to accept the above consent agenda items, with corrections to November 3, 2009 minutes. **Approved.**

VI. Ongoing Business (Deliberation & Possible Action)

A. Policy – Second Reading:

1) D7 – Volunteers and Work Study Students: No feedback. **Action:** Motion made to approve Policy Code D7- Volunteers and Work Study Students. **Approved.**

B. Next Steps for Reorganization of District

1. Community Forum Presentation: G. Keiling reported that feedback at the forums has been posted on the District’s website. **Public Comment** resumed from early in the meeting addressing issues including, but not limited to “Option K for Kids” (a 4th possible restructuring plan), date of Special Board Meeting on restructuring decisions, investigation of donations/fundraising, state of economy, future enrollment, students’ performance in college and on standardized tests, benefits and drawbacks of 7-12 school, data analysis of students’ academic performance in MS vs. HS, roles of Administrators, marketing positive points as morale booster, A/P classes, gym space shortage/Sunday practices if MS closes.

2. Schedule Special Board Meeting: **Action:** Motion made to hold meeting at Samuel Morey Elementary at 6:30 p.m. on December 16, 2009 or alternate date of December 15, 2009. **Approved.** Date to be determined by G. Keiling based on review of school events planned.

VII. New Business

A. Board Resolution Regarding 403(b) Plan - **Action:** By consent of the Board of Rivendell Interstate School District unanimously adopted, effective January 1, 2010, the District’s 403(b) Plan for the exclusive benefit of its employees, in compliance with Final IRC Section 430(b) Regulations and further resolved that Gail Keiling is authorized to execute said Plan on behalf of the Board and to take further action as is
necessary to implement said Plan to communicate the Plan to all employees. 

Approved.

B. Personnel

1) Dean of Students - Action: Motion made to hire William Ketterer as part-time Dean of Students. Approved.

2) Coaches - G. Keiling stated that coach candidates were interviewed, Justin Bonnett for HS Golf and Amber Gray for 7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball (second team). Board requested G. Keiling to obtain more information.

3) Correspondence: G. Keiling reported on a second letter she sent to the Piermont School Board; no response received to date.

VIII. Strategic Action Plan

A. Update on Progress: M. Avery and M. DeBois are on the Resource Task Force. There will be a report after the first meeting of the Task Force in January.

IX. Future Agenda Items (Discussion)

A. HS Schedule & RA Student Handbook (B. Fariel/D. Valentine)

B. Orford Academy Building Task Force

G. Keiling requested the January 5th School Board meeting be rescheduled to January 12th, as she would not be able to attend on the 5th. Action: Motion made to reschedule the January 5, 2010 School Board meeting to January 12, 2010. Approved.

G. Keiling asked about releasing faculty and staff early on December 23, 2009. Action: Motion made to release faculty and staff at 1:00 p.m. on December 23, 2010. Approved.

IX. Anticipated Executive Session (Discussion & Possible Action)

A. Personnel Issue – Action: Motion made to go into Executive Session. Approved. Board went into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Board came out of Executive session at 10:30 p.m.

XI. Adjournment (Action) – Action: Motion made to adjourn at 10:31 p.m. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Levin Sarazin
Board Recording Secretary