Rivendell Interstate School District – Board Meeting Minutes
Westshire Elementary School – West Fairlee, VT
December 4, 2007

Members Present: Sandra Smith-Ordway, Margaret Gladstone (Fairlee); Doug Tifft (at-large); Carol Sobetzer, Mel Emerson, Juliette Bianco (Orford); Beverly Ash (West Fairlee); Harry Black, Trevor Law (Vershire)

Administrators and Staff Present: Noelle Vitt (Head of Schools), Bob Sampson (Head of High School), Gail Keiling (Head of Elementary Schools)

Others Present: Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion)

I. Call Meeting: Carol Sobetzer called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

II. Approve Board Minutes of November 6 and 15, 2007: Motion was made to approve the minutes of November 6 and 15, 2007. Approved.

III. Public Input: None

IV. Communications and Reports:
   A. Report of the Chair: Carol appreciated Ray Proulx, the LRP committee and others for the Futures Forum. Under Business Requiring Discussion and Action Carol will discuss how to address some of the questions she has received regarding the transition of Head of Schools.
   B. Report of Head of Schools: No formal report.
      1) Food Service Report (C. Johnson)
         Noelle introduced Celise Johnson and praised her work in the Food Service Program.
         Celise thanked the Board for the money allocated for fixing the vending machine. There was discussion about inaccurate student lunch accounts and charging. Celise has met with the Student Government Representatives and steps have been taken toward a solution.
      2) Student Government Report (S. Wolf)
         Samantha Wolf was not present. Bob Sampson reported on the Student Government meeting with Gary Collins regarding the Old Orford Academy building. Doug spoke about the possibility of the Student Government pursuing a usage of the building, even if temporarily and on a limited basis to keep the building “alive.” No facilities study has been conducted to date.
   C. Reports of the Committee Chairs:
      1) Long Range Planning (D. Tifft)
         The LRP committee will try and meet with Ray Proulx prior to the holidays. Doug briefly commented on his reaction to the Futures Forum.
      2) Negotiations (M. Emerson)
         The first support staff negotiation meeting is scheduled for Thursday. Negotiations are concluded with the REA regarding teachers. Board needs to ratify this contract once the final documents have been received; the REA has already done so.
      3) Finance (M. Emerson)
         Mel reported to the Board which groups the Finance Committee has met with and indicated that things are progressing well.

V. Business Requiring Discussion & Action:
   A. Debrief of November 29 Futures Forum: Board members provided their feedback/reaction to the Futures Forum, including focus areas, community and student engagement, geography, speakers and audience.
B. Request for Additional School Board Meeting in January
Action: Motion was made to have an additional Board meeting on Tuesday, January 29 at Westshire Elementary School. Approved.

C. Personnel: Action: Motion was made to hire Gordon Christie-Maples as the One Act Play (HS/MS) Coach and Tracy Martel as the Special Olympics Coach. Approved.
Action: Motion made to hire Linda Reeves-Potter as the Snowboarding Coach, subject to satisfactory answers to Board questions. Approved.

1) Sabbatical Request: Mel read aloud the definition of sabbatical directly from the teacher’s contract. There was some discussion regarding Joy Michelson’s request.
Action: Motion was made to table discussion pending further investigation of the sabbatical. Approved.

D. Executive Session regarding Negotiations
Action: Motion was made to move into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. Approved.
Board came out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.
Action: Motion was made to approve Athletic Director and Assistant Athletic Director positions for an additional $1000 compensation to be split 60/40. Approved.

VI. Business Requiring Discussion Only:
A. Future Agenda Items:
1) Topics:
   a) Second/Final Reading of Policies – January
      Life Threatening Allergies & Chronic Illnesses in School; Prevention of Harassment of Students, Code F23 (Revision); Admission of Homeless Students, Code F19, Budgeting, Code E2, Fiscal Management and General Financial Accountability, Code E3
   b) Flow of History Report – January
   c) Peter Herman, VSBA Representative

VII. Adjourn: Action: Motion was made to adjourn. Approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Gray
District Clerk/Treasurer