RIVENDELL INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

District Office – Orford, NH
December 8, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Marc DeBois (Chair), Cicely Richardson, David Ricker (Orford); Mark Avery (Vice Chair), Bruce Lyndes (Fairlee); Sarah Rinehimer (West Fairlee); Jean MacDonald, Kathy Hooke (Vershire), Kathy Blanchard (at-large)

Members Absent: Grover Boutin (Fairlee), Mike Fanizzi (W. Fairlee)

Administration and Staff Present: Brenda Needham (Superintendent), Keri Gelenian (Head of Schools/RA Principal), Gail Keiling (Head of Elementary Schools/SME Principal), Tammy MacQueen (WES Principal), Dick Paulson (CFO), Janet Cole (Director of Special Education), Hank Plaisted (Director of IT), Gary Collins (Director of Operations)

Others Present: Noel Walker (Fairlee)

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. Needham stated there needed to be an Executive Session at end of meeting for legal purposes.

II. Budget 2015-2016: Needham gave an introduction and stated Administration was looking for guidance from Board and to answer any Board questions. Needham distributed projected enrollment and current class sizes for elementary and RA. Needham spoke about a number of items effecting the draft budget such as new transportation contract for next three years up $30,000, health insurance rates increasing 4.5%, salary increases for 2015-16 not in budget yet, new ECP teacher salary moved to regular budget, dual enrollment cost at RA, and significant tech money increase. Discussion with Board and Administration involved teacher to student ratios, reducing staff, which RA classes are independent studies, comparison of RA teachers with large classes versus teacher will very small classes, difficulty with a school RA’s size (small) offering classes other than core classes which appeal to students and meet their needs, possibility of offering some classes every other year, combining 7-10 next year (Gelenian), hiring teachers who have dual credentials (i.e., history and English) what to do when one year the entire grade size is small (i.e., next year’s 7th grade), technology issues and positions (increasing technology security, tech positions changing in schools, equipment replacement patterns, supplying staff with laptops, online curriculum). DeBois asked Board to give guidance to Administration on what they should do with budget presented. Board had various opinions majority leaned toward Administration looking at reducing presented draft budget by $221,000 as suggested by Avery to keep under threshold and still meet needs of the students and taxpayers.

Walker stated that there needs to be more marketing of Rivendell, as there are community members who have had problems renting property to families because there are still old perceptions out there regarding Rivendell, especially with the real estate agents. DeBois stated that the Board is currently working on the Strategic Plan and marketing is one of the items being discussed.

III. Transact any other business that needs to be considered:
Action: Motion made to go into Executive Session for legal issue at 7:43 p.m. Approved.

Board came of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

Action: Motion made to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the District, the Upper Valley Housing Coalition and Affordable Housing Education and Development, Inc. regarding the Old Orford Academy land and building. Approved.

IV. Adjournment (Action)
Action: Motion made to adjourn. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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