Board Members Present: David Gagner (Fairlee), Marc DeBois, Vanessa DeSimone, David Ricker (Orford), Kevin Dexter, Rebecca Wurdak (West Fairlee), Kathy Hooke, Maria Koehler (Vershire), Kathy Blanchard (At-Large)

Members Absent: Jason Knowles, Jon Lester (Fairlee)

Administration and Staff Present: Rachael Weber (teacher)

Friends of Rivendell Present: Tami Sullivan, president (Orford), Tonya Daisey, vice president (Orford), Christine Bills, secretary (Orford), Angela Welch, treasurer (Fairlee), Irene Otis (West Fairlee), Amanda Ehret (Orford), Shay Perry (Orford),

I. Call to order: Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Executive Session – (Discussion), 1 VSA § 313
Action: Motion made to move into Executive Session at 5:31 p.m. (Dexter/DeSimone) Approved.
A. Personnel 1 VSA § 313(a)(3)
B. Correspondence 1 VSA § 313(a)(6)
Action: Motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 6:31 p.m. (Ricker/Koehler) Approved.

III. Transact Other Business:
Action: Motion made to offer the job of Superintendent of Schools to Barrett Williams (Khoehler/Dexter) Approved.
HR Administrator Job Description. Discussion. The board is very much in favor of redefining the position in this way. Action: Motion made to move approval of the Human Resources Administrator job description to the May 7 meeting. (Ricker/Blanchard) Approved.

Principals Search Committee: Kathy Hooke gave an update. The members of the committee are Rachael Weber, SME teacher, Emily Lloyd, WES teacher, Ann O’Hearn, elementary counselor, Carole Bando, elementary art teacher (on leave this year), Keri Gelenian, RA Principal/Head of School, Brenda Gray, HR Administrator, Rebecca Wurdak, David Ricker, Kathy Hooke, school board members, Tami Sullivan, Jennifer Hallmartel, Makenna Goodman, parents. We will also invite the new superintendent, once hired, to join the committee. We had our first meeting yesterday and will meet next week to review the job description and begin reviewing applicants. We have 16 applicants so far, including some promising ones. The teachers on the committee will host a forum with all elementary teachers on staff after school on Tuesday April 23. There will be a forum seeking input from parents and community members at 5 p.m. Wednesday April 24 at Samuel Morey. The format of these meetings will include opportunities for each person to share hopes, concerns, and qualities to look for in a candidate. The committee will meet Thursday April 25 to identify candidates to invite for a first round of interviews. Once the committee has identified finalists we will schedule meet and greets to solicit input from teachers, staff, parents and community members. Our goal is to be inclusive and deliberate in our process while also maintaining the flexibility to act quickly if needed.

IV. Friends of Rivendell: Discussion of ways that Friends of Rivendell (FOR) can serve as a resource to the board and act as a liaison to the parent community. Ideas included board members (up to 3 at a time) attending FOR meetings, FOR reporting at board meetings (call Brenda to get on the agenda), the board putting questions out for FOR to get parent input on (perhaps as part of the annual retreat.) The FOR is striving to be a force of positivity and good as they fundraise for enrichment programs, picking up the non-sport part of the CSO. (Rivendell Rec has taken on the sport part.) The FOR also sees a role for themselves as a forum for parent input and involvement. Examples of times where community input could have been helpful include the proposal to move the preschool to Orford, the proposal to cut the winter program from the budget and the recent proposal to cancel Summerscapes. Kathy Blanchard shared the news that, although she has been working with administrators to get Summerscapes to happen this year, they have run into a glitch with Title I grant funding. Monies from FY19 cannot be used after July 1 and it seems
unlikely that the FY20 grant will get submitted and approved in time for summer. And yet, there are clearly children who would really benefit from summer learning. David Gagner shared that when he and Bruce Lyndes met with the Fairlee Selectboard, they expressed interest in more Rivendell involvement in civic projects, more students reaching out for community service. Perhaps the community service piece would be better taken up by students at the academy. FOR at this point is just parents of students at both elementary schools. They have reached out to Rivendell Academy parents but found that many are too busy. They would like to get a core group of parents on board before they pitch it to the larger parent community. They would also love to see more involvement from teachers. Marc DeBois suggested that, with new administrators coming on board that they write a letter introducing themselves and set up a meeting. There was also a discussion of the boards goal of holding community forums 3-4 times a year in each of the towns, to be discussed further at the May 7 board meeting.

V. **Action:** Motion was made to adjourn (Ricker/Gagner) **Approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Recorded by:
Kathy Hooke, Vice Chair

Note: All Board votes were unanimous.