

**Slate Valley Unified Union School District  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Monday, October 12, 2020  
Fair Haven Union High School  
5:30 PM  
Participation will be in Person or Virtually Connect at:  
[meet.google.com/hio-kwsj-jhd](https://meet.google.com/hio-kwsj-jhd)  
Join by Phone (US)+1 678-631-6689 PIN: 540 629 523#**

**Approved Minutes**

**Audience Attending:** Glen Cousineau, Cheryl Scarzello, Toni Lobdell, Josh Hardt, Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Kris Benway, Rebeckah St. Peter, Tara Buxton via phone, Rick Wilson, Julie Finnegan, Christine Pouillot

**Call to Order:** Glen Cousineau called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** Christine Pouillot made a motion to approve the agenda with no changes. Rick Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes - September 14, 2020:** Christine Pouillot made a motion to approve the minutes of September 14, 2020 with no corrections. Rick Wilson seconded the motion; Motion was carried by the committee.

**Overview of Process:** Cheryl provided an overview of the budget process and reviewed the information that has been emailed to the committee. The Finance Committee discussed Board and Administrative procedures for the budget cycle. Cheryl explained how she and Brooke meet with all Principals, all of Central Office Administrators to get budget priorities and gather information for budget planning purposes. She shared that she figures all the employee wages and benefits. She also noted that 80% of any budget year is made up of wages and benefits. Cheryl updated the team on the COVID funding. We were told that school districts are not eligible for FEMA monies. Cheryl amended the CRF application to \$786,456.00; Cheryl still plans to apply for ESSR monies. The district has been allocated \$465,000.00. She also updated the Finance Committee that the State of VT Education Fund deficit of \$100,000,000.00 has been reduced to \$67,000,000.00. She also noted that the remainder of the shortfall would not be made up of additional taxes to taxpayers. She noted that the shortfall has been reduced by greater amounts of Sales and Use Tax monies.

**Board Priorities:** Glen said he felt the need to look at all expenses, and to think out of the box. He said at some point in time we needed to further control costs however not at the expense of students; we need to enhance equality. He also feels a budget priority is to be sure all students will be college or career ready. He would like to see additional options for those that are not college bound to have other training opportunities. Josh would like to see us expand Alternative Educational Opportunities for all kids. Rick would like to see us challenge our kids more. He would like to see this starting in the lower grades. He also would like to see parents taking a more active part in supporting their kids educational backgrounds.

**Administration Priorities:** Brooke shared the Administrative Team priorities for the Budget are that we have to move towards a consolidated middle school. Brooke shared this is a capacity issue due to our current configuration. We need to commit to a district Middle School. She would like to see by FY 23 a 7th and 8th grade middle school. If this were to happen she said conservatively we could save well over \$1,000,000.00. She wanted to discuss some other ideas in Executive Session for personnel. Rick Wilson made a motion to go into the Executive Session at 6:17 p.m. for purposes of discussing personnel, this was seconded by Christine Pouillot. Rick Wilson made a motion to come out of the Executive Session at 6:38 p.m. with no action taken, this was seconded by Christine Pouillot.

**Warrants:** Total Payments \$2,412,810.95  
Food Service \$4,402.43  
Grants \$42,001.27

**Agenda Building:**

1. Discuss Budget Priorities at Board Retreat

**Other: None**

**Adjourn:** Glen Cousineau made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. this was seconded by Rick Wilson. Motion carried by the committee.

**Next SVUUSD Finance Committee Mtg. - November 9th - FHUHS- 5:30 p.m.**