

Annual Meeting (Virtual) - February 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM

The legal voters of the Slate Valley Unified Union School District (SVUUSD) consisting of the towns of Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell and West Haven are hereby warned and notified to meet remotely on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM. **Virtually connect by going to <http://meet.google.com/yjx-xnzo-dpq> or by calling (US) +1 402-337-4387 PIN: 505 127 437#**

Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 (2021-2022 School Year) Budget Overview

Budget Objectives

- Social Emotional Learning
- Building Maintenance
- District Reconfiguration
- Educational Equity for All Students
- Efficiencies Throughout the System
- Value for Taxpayers

Additional Considerations

- Increase in percentages of students with social emotional needs due to COVID
- Increased cost of health insurance premiums: 10% (Negotiated by the State)
- Expenses due to deferred maintenance across the buildings, specifically at the high school
- Upfront cost to reconfigure for long term gain (moving 7th and 8th to FHUHS)
- Plans to realign Benson Village School to a K-6 = savings approx. \$160,000 in personnel

Building Maintenance

Through work with the Administration and Building and Grounds Committee we have identified approximately \$8 million in building projects that are needed at our 6 locations over the next 5-10 years. Each project is being prioritized based on need. Over the next 2 years we have prioritized the budget on moving the Middle School students to the High School campus. This work will focus on renovating a section of the building for the Middle School and upgrading heating and ventilation in this space. Funding for these renovations will come from the regular school budget along with reserve funds.

Projected Staffing Changes

FY22 Changes:

- Reduction of 10.5 FTE (Direct Instruction and Support Staff)
- Addition of 3 FTE (Student Support, 5-12 Athletic Director)

Total reductions: 7.5 FTE

Total Reductions in Staffing over 4 years (FY19, FY20, FY21, FY22): 22.65 FTE

Important Note: The proposed budget includes ONLY the expenses necessary to address the operational needs of Slate Valley's schools for the 2021-2022 school year.

Expenditure Budget: \$26,280,385

The proposed expenditure budget for FY22 is a reduction of \$122,201 from the FY21 approved budget. It represents a 0.46% decrease in spending. The proposed FY22 budget is a \$213,253 decrease from the FY20 approved budget. There has been a reduction of 10.5 FTE of instructional and support staff. There has been an addition of 3 FTE of student support staff and a districtwide Athletic Director which combines the middle school and high school positions. The district continues to focus on deferred building maintenance issues and is budgeting for \$600,000 of infrastructure needs at the high school. The district has also budgeted \$200,000 to support the free meals for all students.

Local Revenues: \$5,221,285

The proposed local revenue budget for FY22 is an increase of \$427,051 from the approved FY21 budget. A total of \$1,799,366 of general fund surplus is being put toward the FY22 budget which is an increase of \$780,336 from FY21. The district's surplus is attributable to the closure of the schools in March 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Most of the activities, other than instruction, that would have occurred from March to the end of the school year did not occur. Decreases in special education revenue in the amount of \$307,035 are due to a decrease in special education expenditures.

Education Spending: \$21,059,100

Education spending is a decrease of \$549,252 compared to FY21. **Slate Valley is proposing a DECREASE in education spending of 2.54%.**

Equalized Pupils: 1,277.61

Equalized pupils (EP) has decreased 3%. EP are based on a formula that uses a 2-year average for enrollment and weights students differently based on a number of factors. The district has made reductions in response to the decrease in EP.

Education Spending Per Equalized Pupil: \$16,483.20

Education spending (ES) per equalized pupil (EP) is an increase of 0.55% compared to FY21. This is the percentage that appears on the warning.

Tax Rate Estimates**Homestead Tax Rate:**

Tax rates have been estimated using the yield that was passed by the House Ways & Means Committee on January 27th in the amount of \$11,385. (This amount is different from the amount used to calculate tax rates for the Annual Report.) It is clear by setting this rate for the property yield that the Legislature wishes to mitigate the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on property taxpayers. In FY22 Slate Valley UUSD taxpayers are still eligible for a \$0.02 merger incentive. After the district's equalized tax rate is calculated each town's common level of appraisal (CLA) is applied to determine homestead tax rates.

FY22 <u>Estimated</u> Equalized Tax Rate			
FY22	FY21	Change in Equalized Tax Rate	
\$1.4278	\$1.4506	\$.0228 <u>decrease</u>	1.57% <u>decrease</u>

Town	FY22 <u>Estimated</u> Equalized Tax Rate	CLA	FY22 <u>Estimated</u> Homestead Tax Rate	<u>Estimated Change in</u> Homestead Tax Rate <i>Inc.(Dec.)</i>
Benson	\$1.4278	99.29%	\$1.4380	\$0.0316
Castleton	\$1.4278	93.74%	\$1.5231	(\$0.0074)
Fair Haven	\$1.4278	110.98%	\$1.2865	(\$0.0494)
Hubbardton	\$1.4278	95.47%	\$1.4955	(\$0.0608)
Orwell	\$1.4278	98.70%	\$1.4466	\$0.0260
West Haven	\$1.4278	96.57%	\$1.4785	(\$0.0139)

FY22 Proposed Budget Summarized by Functional Area

Function	Description of Functional Area	FY21 Budget 7/1/20 thru 6/30/21	FY22 Proposed Budget 7/1/21 thru 6/30/22	Change Increase(Decrease)
1100	Regular Direct Instructional Programs	\$ 9,425,239	\$ 9,355,512	\$ (69,727)
1200	Special EducationDirect Instructional Programs	4,070,509	3,752,982	(317,527)
1400	Athletic Programs	467,431	496,878	29,447
1500	Cocurricular Programs	93,065	90,321	(2,744)
2120	Guidance Services	716,519	756,135	39,616
2132	School Nurse Services	541,370	551,719	10,349
2140	Psychological Services	522,614	511,786	(10,828)
2150	Speech and Other Therapy Services	322,953	267,935	(55,018)
2160	Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Vision	222,908	136,279	(86,629)
2190	Other Student Services	34,263	160,477	126,214
2210	Improvement of Instruction	297,040	325,384	28,344
2220	Library Services	287,620	297,911	10,291
2230	Instruction Related Technology	560,271	571,920	11,649
2311	School Board and Legal Services	143,875	123,331	(20,544)
2320	Superintendent's Office	307,076	315,310	8,234
2410	School Administration	1,843,635	1,868,818	25,183
2490	Special Education Administration	424,380	432,946	8,566
2500	Other Central Services	214,115	212,916	(1,199)
2510	Fiscal Services	575,405	569,659	(5,746)
2580	Districtwide Technology Services	495,021	512,562	17,541
2600	Buildings and Grounds	2,423,606	2,365,455	(58,151)
4700	Building Improvements	529,500	600,000	70,500
2660	Security and Safety	214,635	228,763	14,128
2700	Transportation	1,410,800	1,403,000	(7,800)
3100	Food Service Programs	106,800	243,500	136,700
5000	Debt Service	151,942	128,900	(23,042)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 26,402,592	\$ 26,280,399	\$ (122,193)

The detailed budget for SVUUSD and a PowerPoint presentation with additional information may be found by going to www.slatevalleyunified.org

Slate Valley Reorganization Plan

Please see the Slate Valley UUSD newsletter that was mailed in December for information about the district's reorganization plan. (The newsletter can also be found on the website along with FAQ about the plan.) Below is how the district plans on paying for the project over the next two budget cycles (FY22 and FY23). Article 6 of the warning asks the voters to approve a transfer from the general fund surplus to the Capital Project Improvements and Repairs Fund in the amount of \$882,500. Of the transfer approximately \$732,500 will be used at the Fair Haven Union HS to make modifications in anticipation of all of the district's middle school students moving to the high school campus starting in the fall of 2022.

Estimated Project Cost at this time:		\$2,344,000
<i>Where will the funds come from?</i>		
	Capital Improvements and Repairs Reserve Fund - currently available for FHU projects	\$411,500
	Additional amount need from Capital Improvements and Repairs Reserve Fund (see Article 6 of warning)	\$732,500
	FY22 Budget (This amount is included in the proposed FY22 budget.)	\$600,000
	FY23 Budget (The district plans to put this amount in the FY23 budget.)	\$600,000



School Budget Vote - March 2, 2021

Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, West Haven, and Orwell

Article 6: Shall the voters of the School District authorize a transfer from the general fund surplus balance in the amount of \$882,500 to the capital improvements and repairs reserve fund?

Article 7: Shall the voters of the School District approve the school board to expend \$26,280,385, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,483.20 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 0.55% higher than spending for the current year.

Methods of Voting

- Absentee Ballot (Please contact your Town Office)
- In Person (Following CDC Guidelines)

Hard copies of the SVUUSD Annual Report and Proposed Budget will be available at the Town Clerk Offices.

For a digital copy, you may visit: www.SlateValleyUnified.org