

### **District Reorganization: An Overview**

The Slate Valley board is currently exploring a district reorganization plan. The plan would consolidate 7th and 8th grade students at the high school beginning in the fall of 2022.

One of the benefits afforded by our recent consolidation into Slate Valley, is the opportunity to reconfigure our schools to best address declining student population. Bringing our 7th and 8th grade students together at the high school will create the critical mass of students necessary to offer more robust programming and give kids more opportunity to pursue their interests in sports, music, arts and culture, science and technology, and the great outdoors. This reconfiguration will also allow the district to better utilize our facilities, prioritize infrastructure needs, and manage declining student population.



The board will vote to realign the grade levels that each school affected by the reorganization will operate. A majority vote of the board is needed to make the changes.

### **SVUUSD Board votes on May 24, 2021**

- Realign Castleton Elementary School to PreK-6 beginning July 1, 2022.
- Realign Fair Haven Grade School to PreK-6 beginning July 1, 2022.
- Realign Orwell Village School to PreK-6 beginning July 1, 2022.
- Realign Fair Haven Union High School to 7-12 beginning July 1, 2022.

\*Castleton Village School will be either closed or educationally repurposed.

Note:

- To repurpose it would require a 75% vote of the board.
- To close it would require a 75% vote of the board and the majority of voters in Castleton and Hubbardton. It would be put out the voters on town meeting day in 2022 for consideration and close as of June 30, 2022 with a positive vote.

### **Possible Savings**

We are hoping to move the students, close CVS and use some of the savings to help address infrastructure needs in the district.

- Essentially the operating costs of just the CVS building at \$170,000 annually.
- Additionally, it is projected that if we move 7th and 8th grade to the high school we could save somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000 in personnel costs.



### **Estimated Cost and Funding**

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 asked 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. This was approved on Town Meeting Day, March 2, 2021. 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

Where will the funds come from?

- \$411,500 - Capital Improvements and Repairs Reserve Fund - currently available for FHU projects
- \$732,500 - Additional amount from Capital Improvements and Repairs Reserve Fund - a portion of the amount approved by voters on March 2nd
- \$600,000 - FY22 Budget (This amount is included in the FY22 budget.)
- \$600,000 - FY23 Budget (The district plans to put this amount in the FY23 budget.)

### **Further Consolidation**

Is further consolidation of the elementary schools being considered?

Yes, this would be Phase III of the Reorganization plan and come after the realignment to a district middle school. The Administration and School Board would consider enrollment, costs to upgrade infrastructure, location, and all other factors.

### **Middle School and High School Considerations**

The middle school students will be housed towards the back of the building, on the first floor in the current art, wellness center wing. Middle school students will be separated from the high school students as much as possible. For the vast majority of their classes, they will be housed in their own wing. While students will be separated to the extent possible, middle and high school staff will be shared. Shared staff will include a Health teacher, Music teachers, Digital Arts teacher, Visual Arts teacher, Librarian, Behavioral Interventionist, Middle School/High School Assistant Principal, Assistant Principal in charge of Special Education.



### **Frequently Asked Questions**

We understand there are many questions surrounding the topic of district reorganization. To help, we have created a web page that will be regularly updated throughout the process as new information and resources become available. On this page, we have included a Frequently Asked Questions section, where you can find answers to common questions about the project.

District Reorganization: <http://www.slatevalleyunified.org/o/svusd/page/district-reorganization>

**Upcoming Virtual Opportunities for Discussion**

**March 31st, 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

**Community Connections Virtual Chat - District Reorganization**

Community Connections Virtual Chats are an opportunity to have a conversation with Central Office administrators. On March 31st, the main topic of discussion will be district reorganization. Connect by going to <https://meet.google.com/jxr-qubs-ptw> or by phone (US)+1 609-438-1179 (PIN: 408 338 127#)

**May 17th - 19th, 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

**Virtual Listening Tours with SVUUSD Board Members** (You are welcome to attend any of the meetings regardless of what town you reside in.)

- May 17th - Fair Haven/West Haven - Connect by going to <https://meet.google.com/pdu-abre-xnm> or by phone (US) +1 585-532-5413 (PIN: 713397202)
- May 18th - Castleton/Hubbardton - Connect by going to <https://meet.google.com/gee-acpe-ota> or join by phone (US) +1 442-900-4083 (PIN: 398252852)
- May 19th - Orwell/Benson - Connect by going to <https://meet.google.com/djm-sekz-bca> or join by phone (US) +1 786-563-9119 (PIN: 104762513)

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