

Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School District Meeting Minutes 8/28/17  
 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
 Benson Village School  
 6:30 PM

Approved

Name	Role/Term	Town Representing	In Attendance
Kris Benway	Director of ARSU Spec Ed	ARSU	Yes
Jody Goodhue	Temp. Clerk/1 Year	Benson	Yes
David Renninger	Board Member/ 2 Year	Benson	Yes
Amy Munger	Board Member/3 Year	Benson	Yes
Toni Lobdell	Board Member/1 Year	Castleton	Yes
Liz Mackay	Board Member/2 Year	Castleton	Yes
Julie Finnegan	Board Member/3 Year	Castleton	Yes
Shannon Baldwin	Board Member/1 Year	Hubbardton	Yes
Joshua Hardt	Board Member/2 Year	Hubbardton	Yes
Mike Fallis	Board Member/3 Year	Hubbardton	Yes
Richard Wilson	Board Member/1 Year	West Haven	Vacant Seat
Angela Charron	Board Member/2 Year	West Haven	Yes
Michael (Trevor) Ezzo	Board Member/3 Year	West Haven	No
Tara Buxton	Board Member/1 Year	Fair Haven	yes
Michael Bache	Board Member/2 Year	Fair Haven	No
Roy L. Eckler	Board Member/3 Year	Fair Haven	Yes
Peter Stone	Board Member/1 Year	Orwell NMD (Non Member District)	Yes
Glen Cousineau	Board Member/2 Year	Orwell NMD	Yes
David Carpenter	Board Member/3 Year	Orwell NMD	No
Brooke Olsen Farrell	Superintendent	Slate Valley MUUSD	yes
Cheryl Scarzello	Business Manager	ARSU	Yes

Others in Attendance: Kathleen Kilbourne, Brett Blanchard, Skip Cook, Kim Doty, Bonnie Lenihan, Bonnie Condit, Linda Peltier, Kim Alexander, Patrick Walters, Kim Prehoda, Kris Benway, Chris Cole

1. Call to Order:  
Superintendent Farrell called meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
2. Public Comments: Bonnie Condit asked if Peg TV would play a role in taping the SVMUUSD Board Meetings? Superintendent Farrell said she had some preliminary discussions with them but they were unable to do this while they were still taping the monthly Castleton/Hubbardton Board Meetings. Peg TV had in the past refused to tape the ARSU Board meetings because there were too many members and they did not have enough equipment. Julie Finnegan suggested that Brett Blanchard, Principal of FHUHS might explore having some students take this on as a community service project. She indicated that Peg TV has equipment to loan for this purpose. Superintendent Farrell will follow up with Peg TV.

### 3. ELECTIONS and APPOINTMENTS\*

#### I Officers:

- a. Elect Board Chair: Tara Buxton made the motion to nominate Michael Bache as the Board Chair of SVMUUSD. This was quickly seconded by Roy Eckler. Mr. Bache was not here this evening but had agreed to accept the nomination if it was presented. The Board voted and the motion was passed. Since Mr. Bache was not here to pick up the meeting the Superintendent continued to the next Board Position.
- b. Elect Board Vice Chair: Superintendent Farrell asked for nominations for the Vice Chair of the Board. Toni Lobdell made the motion to elect Roy Eckler as the Vice Chair of SVMUUSD, this was seconded by Julie Finnegan. There was no discussion. The Board voted and the motion was passed. Mr. Eckler took over the duty of running the remainder of the Board meeting in Mr. Bache's absence.
- c. Elect Board Clerk: Mr. Eckler asked for nominations for Board Clerk. Julie Finnegan made the motion to elect Liz MacKay as Board Clerk for SVMUUSD. This was seconded by Toni Lobdell. There was no additional discussion. Motion passed.
- d. Appoint Minute Taker: Superintendent Farrell made a motion to elect Bonnie Lenihan as the SVMUUSD Minute Taker at a rate of \$125.00 per meeting. This was seconded by Julie Finnegan. There was no further discussion. Motion was voted on and passed at the proposed rate of \$125 per meeting.

II. Committees: Superintendent Farrell opened the discussion of the need to develop committees. Angela Charron asked for a clarification on time commitments for each of the committees. Superintendent Farrell clarified that some would meet in the evenings and have a heavy time commitment. She indicated that at least two of the committees, Policy and Finance would require quite a lot of an initial commitment; perhaps meeting a couple of times per month for an extended period of time (up to three hours at a time as we are starting from the ground up). She also recommended that Policy and Finance should have at least 5-6 members. She discussed the fact that Building and Grounds would require minimal action at this time, as would Personnel. She expects that Personnel would become more active in the early Spring. Superintendent Farrell thought that the Personnel Committee would likely be meeting one time a month and perhaps this could occur prior to the SVMUUSD regular meeting.

- a. Policy: Members of the Board volunteered for the Policy committee. Michael Bache was nominated/assigned; Liz MacKay volunteered for this committee as did Toni Lobdell and Shannon Baldwin Mike Fallis and Trevor Ezzo (assigned).
- b. Personnel: Joshua Hardt volunteered for this committee as did Shannon Baldwin, Mike Fallis, Tara Buxton and David Renninger.

- c. Finance. Trevor Ezzo was assigned Julie Finnegan volunteered for this committee as did Roy Eckler, Angela Charron, Glen Cousineau, and Amy Munger.
- d. Executive Committee: Per Superintendent Farrell, this committee would require that each town would have one representative. Julie Finnegan will represent Castleton; Michael Bache will represent Fair Haven; Jody Goodhue will represent Benson; Joshua Hardt will represent Hubbardton; Angela Charron will represent West Haven; and Peter Stone will represent Orwell.
- e. Building Grounds: (Least time commitment, as we don't have consolidation yet of the facilities). Shannon Baldwin volunteered for the Building and Grounds Committee as did Jody Goodhue, Peter Stone, Roy Eckler and Tara Buxton.
- f. Negotiations: It was pointed out by Mr. Eckler that we needed to add Negotiations to the agenda as there was a need for the committees to be developed to address both Teacher and Support Staff Negotiations. Discussion ensued about the need to develop a new Negotiations committee to begin the next round of Negotiations within 90 days of August 10, 2017. The following committee members will be part of the Teacher Negotiations: Glen Cousineau, Roy Eckler, Jody Goodhue, Michael Bache, David Carpenter. The following agreed to be on the Negotiations committee for Support Staff: Glen Cousineau, Julie Finnegan, Toni Lobdell, Roy Eckler and Jody Goodhue.

#### 4. OPERATIONAL DECISIONS

- a. Set regular board meeting schedule. Superintendent Farrell mentioned that SVMUUSD Board Meetings are typically set for the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Toni Lobdell made a motion to keep the proposed schedule as explained by Superintendent. This was seconded by Shannon Baldwin and the motion passed.
- b. Discuss annual board work session (retreat). Superintendent Farrell asked the Board if they would like to consider a retreat to do some of the work they need to accomplish. Mike Fallis asked for clarification about some of the topics that might be addressed in such a retreat or extended work time for the Board. Superintendent Farrell gave some suggestions about things that School Board Members might study. Some have used this time to develop their vision statement, some have used this time to learn more about Proficiency Based Learning or Education Quality Standards; some boards have simply covered what their responsibilities include. After extended discussion it was determined that at the next meeting on September 11, 2017 the Board would meet at the regular time of 6:30 pm to begin development on their vision. They also tasked Superintendent Farrell to work with Board Chair, Mr. Bache to develop agenda items to cover with the Board. Some of this will include responsibilities of membership on the SVMUUSD Board. Julie Finnegan noted that there are Board Trainings hosted by the VT School Boards Association. The Superintendent will forward information to Board members on the next training being provided. She believes it is being offered in a neighboring district of Rutland Northwest in October...please stay tuned for this information.
- c. Designate place for posting meeting agenda and minutes. After lengthy discussion it was determined that the posting for meetings would continue to be added to the websites of the school's, physical postings would also be placed at the schools of Benson, Castleton Elementary School, Castleton Village School, Fair Haven Grade School, Fair Haven Union High School and Orwell, as well as the local post offices in Benson (store), Castleton, Fair Haven and Orwell; the Town Clerk offices in Castleton, Fair Haven, West Haven, Hubbardton, Benson, Orwell. In addition postings would be made at Buxton's Store
- d. Discuss and Adopt Code of Ethics. The Board was given a copy of the School Board Code of Ethics. Toni Lobdell made the motion to adopt the Code of Ethics as presented, Julie Finnegan seconded the motion, Board passed the motion.

- e. Identify Communication Practices. Julie Finnegan recommended that new Board members be given the form generated by the ARSU Central Office which would indicate current mailing, of email addresses and phone numbers of all SVMUUSD Board members. This form would also allow members to select their preference of how to continue to receive notices via email or hard copy or both. Superintendent Farrell will research this form and return to the next meeting with this form. Cheryl Scarzello mentioned that the Board would need to update the I-9 forms. She would ask that the Board members bring several forms of identification that would prove US Citizenship; which could include a current passport, driver's license, original social security number; original birth certificate, etc.
- f. Designate newspaper for notification of meetings. Toni Lobdell made the motion to continue to use the Rutland Herald, the Addison Independent and to add the Lakes Region Free Press to communicate the meeting times. This was seconded by Julie Finnegan. Motion was passed by the Board.

5. Any other business: Superintendent Farrell mentioned a need to discuss other business, that being the vacant seat on the Board, recently vacated by Rick Wilson. Angela Charron mentioned that she originally knew of a person that had expressed interest in the running, John Oakman. Superintendent Farrell will work with Angela Charron and will bring a recommendation for nomination to the next Board meeting.

Vice Chair, Roy Eckler asked Chris Cole and Kris Benway, ARSU Technology Coordinator and Director of Special Education if they had updates to discuss with the SVMUUSD. Chris Cole indicated that he had started a very basic website for the SVMUUSD, which at this point has a link from the ARSU page. He agreed to add a link from all of the local schools' web pages. This web page can be checked out by going to SlateValleyUnified.org. Kris Benway, Director of Special Education had no new information to share with the Board at this time.

6. Adjournment: Julie Finnegan made the recommendation to adjourn this second meeting of the SVMUUSD at 7:17 pm, this was seconded by Toni Lobdell and passed by the full Board.

\*Action Items

- 7. Next Meeting: **September 11, 2017 at 6:30 pm at Fair Haven Union High School.**

Respectfully Submitted by Bonnie Lenihan, Minute Taker