

Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School District 9/25/17

Regular Meeting

September 25, 2017

Castleton Elementary School ~ 6:30 p.m.

Approved Minutes

Name	Role/Term	Town Representing	In Attendance
Kris Benway	Director of ARSU Spec Ed	ARSU	No
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
John Oakman	Board Member/1 Year	West Haven	Yes Appointed 9/11/17
Angela Charron	Board Member/2 Year	West Haven	No
Michael (Trevor) Ezzo	Board Member/3 Year	West Haven	Yes
Tara Buxton	Board Member/1 Year	Fair Haven	Yes
Michael Bache	Board Member/2 Year	Fair Haven	Yes
Roy L. Eckler	Board Member/3 Year	Fair Haven	No
Peter Stone	Board Member/1 Year	Orwell NMD (Non Member District)	No
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	Director of Finance	ARSU	Yes
Chris Cole	Technology Coordinator	ARSU	Yes
Sherri Nichols	Curriculum Coordinator	ARSU	Yes

Others in attendance: Bonnie Condit, Kathleen Kilbourne, Kim Prehoda, Jason Rasco, Brett Blanchard, Skip Cooke, Tina Robinson, Molly Clark, Deb Smith, Liam Gilbert-Student, Ashley Haggerty, Ethan Haggerty-Student; Joni White Hansen, Reilley Marsden-Student, Rowan Kuehn-Student, Julie Marsden, Rob Marsden, Chloe Marsden, Amanda Kuehn, Ella Kuehn, Jon Kuehn

1. Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Board Chair asked the Board and Audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Agenda:

Glen Cousineau voted to approve the agenda, this was seconded by Shannon Baldwin. Board Chair Mike Bache proposed an amendment to the Agenda to allow the student presentation to be moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Four CES Students came this evening to share a bit about the CES PBiS Philosophy. The students were Liam Gilbert, Rowan Kuehn, Ethan Haggerty, and Reilley Marsden. A PBiS opening day video was shared as well. Students explained the 3 R's, Respectful, Responsible and Safe and Ready to Learn. These are the expectations for all to follow at CES. A second video was shared with the audience and the theme was the student designed PBiS video around how to implement the 3 R's. Students shared how tokens are earned and some of the tasks that the student council and PBiS teams have worked on in the past. Chair M. Bache thanked the student for coming and sharing their presentation.

3. Approval of Minutes~ September 11, 2017:

Julie Finnegan made a motion to approve the September 11, 2017 minutes with the following change, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Motion passed. With the following correction: *Under the Vision work by Board: Liz Mackay asked for a wording change from good to worthwhile.*

4. Public Comment: None

5. Correspondence: None

6. Committee Reports:

a. Finance- Wednesday September 27th

b. Personnel- This committee hasn't met yet.

c. Policy-Report: met this evening for the first time. Toni Lobdell was nominated as the Chair of this committee. The policy committee is asking for permission from the larger Board to use \$1,000.00 to have an attorney preview the VISBT policies as we start to take them on and adjust to develop new policies for SVMUUSD. Julie Finnegan made a motion to have the Board accept the \$1,000.00 to pay an attorney to vet these policies. Glen Cousineau seconded this motion. Motion was carried by the full Board. Next Policy Meeting is scheduled for October 23rd.

d. Negotiations-Update: Teacher Negotiations begin tomorrow evening

7. Principal's Reports

Collective Work of the ARSU Administrative Team: The Administrative Team in the district is comprised of all the Principals, Central Office Administration as well as the Building Based Special Education Directors and the Director of Guidance. We meet on a monthly basis to work on common topics. This past month we have been working on creating a cohesive vision and priorities, supervision and evaluation of staff, unification of curriculum and programming.

Benson Village School Principal's Report (Kim Prehoda):

At Benson Village School, we are off to a great start to the 2017-18 school year! At Open House, parents/guardians received their PowerSchool user id and password, so they can feel even more connected to their student's education. For our middle school families, we were able to assist those parents that did not have google accounts set one up in order to have access to their student's Personalized Learning Plan (PLP.) We are sure our middle school students will soon be anxious to share what they are doing! Our new staff is quickly getting to know our students, families and our community. The feedback, of course, has been very positive and they are all very excited to be a part of the Benson Village School community!

Castleton Elementary School Principal's Report (Kathleen Kilbourne):

We welcomed back our Pre K through Gr 5 students on the first day of school with our "Red Carpet Welcome Back Event". Please enjoy a short video clip on our website that captures the positive energy of the day with staff, students, and families.

You may also visit our Castleton Elementary Facebook Page to see upcoming events and CES student work.

We have continued with our PBIS framework, and are supporting students both academically and socially/emotionally. We are also continuing the tradition of our "All School Celebration of Learning" each Friday at 2:15. Please feel free to join us to see what our CES community has been learning about!

Castleton Village School Principal's Report (Linda Peltier):

School opened with an orientation for our students, who met in small workshops to explore CVS's expectations. We are continuing with our PBIS program and see students continuing to grow in being respectful to everyone.

Personalized learning is an integral part of our school. Students are working on their Personalized Learning Plans and setting academic, emotional and social goals. In Odyssey, our TA program, students are putting together their community service/service learning projects. Our theme this year is **Community**. We are modeling our commitment to our local and global communities. Locally, students in the Research class are working at the river site and harvesting the 'fruits of their labors' from the gardens they planted last spring. CVS has been hybridizing garlic for a number of years to find the best garlic in the world! Yearly data collection and analysis allows them to breed out the unwanted qualities. Everyone loves good garlic!

Globally, there is a school wide drive being led by students to send school supplies to schools in Houston, Texas after the terrible damage caused by Hurricane Harvey.

Fair Haven Grade School Principal's Report (Skip Cooke):

Fair Haven Grade School had a fantastic and energizing school opening! We welcomed several new students and faculty members along with families. We enjoyed a myriad of opening day activities that welcomed the entire school community to the new year.

Fair Haven Grade school has four focus goals for the year. We look to develop a school/community culture of unity through shared leadership and school teams. Our second is to continue our implementation of PBIS at the universal level emphasizing positive classroom behavioral practices. We plan to improve student learning through data-based decision making with faculty. And last, we seek to expand our technology integration in all classrooms and learning settings.

Fair Haven Grade School looks forward to working with new Superintendent Brooke Olsen-Farrell, the Central Office and the new Slate Valley Board as we all merge into one district. We look forward to the new year, creating a new district and providing the best educational experiences for ALL our students.

Fair Haven Union High School Principal's Report (Brett Blanchard):

Fair Haven Union High has had an excellent start to the 2017-18 school year. The faculty and staff have been very focused on preparing for full implementation of proficiency-based learning (PBL) by August 2018. Opening in-service, department meetings and our first faculty meeting have been used for collaborative PBL work. The faculty has uniformly displayed the highest professionalism with this transformation. Proficiency-based practices are well underway with habits of work separated from achievement, assessments being connected to learning targets and graduation proficiencies explored. The new presentation theater being built will be used to showcase student achievement.

With the recent announcement of statewide SBAC test scores being down this year, the high school has been examining the data, especially over time, and will be making adjustments for improvement. While this year our English Language Arts scores were slightly down, our students have exceeded the state average over the past four years, if NECAP is included. Math proficiency was once again above state average, which has been the case, on average, the past four years. The Science NECAP has been the only consistent test the past four years; it is also the only one state and regionally normed. The past four years our students have exceeded average state and New England proficiency by over 30%. Our faculty will be utilizing that data in an upcoming meeting. We also plan on presenting our latest 2017 U.S News and World Report Best High School banner at our next assembly.

8. Status of Curriculum ~ EQS Requirements

Sherri Nichols ARSU Curriculum Coordinator presented a PowerPoint on the Education Quality Standards. Liz MacKay asks who exactly monitors the recommendations. Glen Cousineau asks a question about foreign language. At the Elementary levels where language is offered it is only Spanish. At the High School level both French and Spanish are offered. Glen asked a question about Personalized Learning Plans. Grade 9 and 10 are involved in Personalized Learning Plans or any student that is on dual enrollment plans. Liz MacKay asks when we inform parents of the Personalized Learning Plans. Sherri Nichols notified the Board that we have sent teams from ARSU schools to visit schools that have been implementing PLP's. We have visited some VT Schools but also teams have visited exemplar programs in Maine. Discussion ensued. As of this year all 10th grade students must graduate with Personalized Learning Plans.

9. Draft By-laws

There were no specific questions regarding the draft By-laws included in the Board packets. Toni Lobdell thought it would be an excellent idea to send these draft By-laws to the Executive Committee for review. Glen Cousineau made the motion to move the By-laws draft forward to the Executive Committee. Toni Lobdell seconded this motion and it was carried/passed by the full board.

10. Update of PEG-TV

The Board agreed to table the motion to purchase any equipment for now until we see in July if PEG-TV is able to pick up additional schools districts for taping.

11. Vision Feedback:

The Central Office staff will send out the survey results to Board Members who want to review the specific comments. The staff feedback survey was also shared from this vision work. Finally the ADMIN Teams summer work on developing vision was shared with the Board. All stakeholders shared many parallel themes.

12. Other Business None to share.

13. Agenda Building

- Finance Committee/Budget Timelines/Overview and be Ready to Share out.
- Student Presentation from FHUHS Students

- Glen Cousineau suggested that as the Boards convene at each building that they take a few minutes prior to the Board meeting to look at the facilities so that Board Members have an idea of the individual school needs (in terms of building and grounds) as they will be charged with prioritizing budgets to support the work needing to be done to bring facilities in compliance. Julie Finnegan said she did not necessarily see a need to do that as they have a Chief of Maintenance that keeps them well informed and continuously updates the C/H Board on which areas to address first and so on. He provides visual representation through pictures of projects, both prior to and then once completed. He generates a monthly list of tasks accomplished and needs ahead. Glen said that is wonderful but everyone does not have that same Director of Maintenance. Discussion ensued many Board members thought Glen's suggestion to look at individual buildings made sense.
- Chair Mike Bache suggested Transparency as a theme moving forward. He suggested a brainstorming session. Glen Cousineau acknowledged that there have been several hiccups along the way that need to be addressed in terms of minutes being released in a timely manner and agendas being posted. This would go a long way in improving transparency.
- Mike Fallis suggested that each month we follow up on the previous work started, for example we take the next steps in developing the Vision of SVMUUSD, now that we have feedback from all stakeholders.
- Josh Hardt suggested that individual school Board members consider attending the Open House for their respective schools to gather feedback from parents.
- Setting a Supervisory Union calendar was discussed as a priority moving forward. It was suggested to keep all Board meetings to Monday nights so that all school know not to put activities on this night to prevent conflicts for Board members and parents.
- Bonnie Condit suggested using free local papers to advertise the district events as many local people rely on the information in these papers.

14. Executive Session/Overview ~ if needed None Needed

15. Adjournment Julie Finnegan made a motion to adjourn at 7:57, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Lenihan