

Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School District Meeting
Regular Meeting
October 23, 2017
Fair Haven Grade School
6:30 p.m.

Approved Minutes

Name	Role/Term	Town Representing	In Attendance
Kris Benway	Director of ARSU Spec Ed	ARSU	Yes
Jody Goodhue	Temp. Clerk/1 Year	Benson	No
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 9/11/17	Yes
Angela Charron	Board Member/2 Year	West Haven	Yes
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	Yes
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	Yes
Brooke Olsen Farrell	Superintendent	Slate Valley MUUSD	Yes
Cheryl Scarzello	Business Manager	ARSU	Yes
Chris Cole	Technology Coordinator	ARSU	Yes
Sherri Nichols	Curriculum Coordinator	ARSU	Yes

Audience Attending: Linda Peltier, Michelle Poalino, Ann Carr, Austin Carr, Anthony Carr, Jason Rasco, Skip Cooke, Rebecca Armitage, Bonnie Condit, Kim Prehoda, Kathleen Kilbourne, Katy Culpo, Chelsea Burke, Macy Dufrain, Lea and Craig Pettis, Christopher Stanton, Erin Welch, Myrriam Hussnane, Noor Hussnane, Chris Colton, Meghan Hudson, Chase Allen

Pledge of Allegiance: Roy Eckler led the Board and Audience in the Pledge.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Bache called the Board to order at 6:31 pm. He recommended we amend the agenda so that the FHGS students could present first. This was seconded by Roy Eckler.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Mike Bache made motion to amend agenda to incorporate the FHGS students' earlier in the agenda. Roy Eckler seconded the motion.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Julie Finnegan made motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2017 meeting. Toni Lobdell seconded the motion. Liz Mackay asked for changes to the wording at last meeting regarding the VMERS Action: Correction to include Julie Finnegan made motion to withdraw her original motion. Peter Stone withdrew his second. Motion withdrawn.
4. **Student Presentation - FHGS:** There were several 6th, 7th and 8th grade students as well as one Freshman that presented tonight on summer transition programs that were offered this summer at FHGS. The students and faculty were introduced and shared summer adventures from transition camp called Great Adventures Project (GAP)., Teamwork Go Green was also another project described. A third component to the presentation was on Opening Day Bonding with middle school with the theme of pulling together. Student Presenters included: Austin and Anthony Carr, Abby Frederick, Myrriam Husanane, Bailey Pettis,, Chris Colton, Chase Allen and Meghan Hudson; supported by FHGS faculty Michelle Poalino, Chris Stanton and Erin Welch.
5. **Public Comments:** None
6. **Correspondence:** None
7. **Committee Reports**
 - a) **Finance:** They have not met since last meeting.
 - b) **Personnel:** This committee has not met yet.
 - c) **Policy:** Policy committee met today to review 5 Policies. It was determined that two of these were already covered under the By-laws and therefore will not be brought forward. There were 3 additional policies that relate to board operation that were tweaked and will be brought forward to the November 27, 2017 meeting at 5:15 at CVS.
 - d) **Building and Grounds - Tour of FHGS Building:** The first meeting for this committee will be held prior to the November 13 Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School District at 5:30 pm. At that meeting all Building Chief of Maintenance will be there to discuss their respective schools long range planning. Principal Cooke spoke about the FHGS and the many levels, additions and the years in which they occurred. He then took the Board and Audience on a tour of this building. The FHGS population is 358 Pre-K- 8.
 - e) **Negotiations:** The next Teacher Negotiations meeting will be held on 11/1/17 at 6:30 pm at FHUHS. Support Staff contracts went out today and they will need to be starting Negotiations for the current school year.

8. **Principal Reports:**

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

This year, we have been working on increasing students mentoring students. Our middle school students are keenly aware that they are the role models for our younger students and that it is a responsibility they need to take seriously, every day. Here are a few things we've been doing this year:

- Our 5th graders are partnering up with our kindergartners to read every other week.
- Our middle school students are recognizing our younger students for following their PAWS behavior. (Showing a **P**ositive attitude, **A**cting respectfully, **W**orking responsibly and showing **S**elf-control)
- Some middle school students are assisting specials teachers during the younger students' specials.

Check out our facebook page to see some great pictures of the 5th grade/kindergarten reading buddies!

Castleton Elementary School (Kathleen Kilbourne):

- We had a very well attended Open House in Sept. Our 3rd graders continued their tradition of having “Alex’s Lemonade Stand” and raised over \$900.00 to donate towards childhood cancer research! Thanks to the amazing community and staff who continue to support this community project annually.
- We have had our 4th and 5th grade Mentor Kick Off last week at Castleton University! Every one of our grade 4 and 5 students have a 1:1 college mentor that meets with them at least once a week at lunch/recess time from Oct- May! This means this year we trained over 110 mentors! We love this important collaboration between CES and CU!
- We are hosting a Parent and Community night on “Healthy Sexual Development” for adolescents on 10/24/17, from 6:00pm -7:00 pm at CES. This is free event (grant funded), presented by Prevent Child Abuse VT.
- We are also Celebrating “Red Ribbon Week” lead by our Student Counsel. This brings attention to living a drug free life with days like: “Follow Your Dreams, Don’t Do Drugs” (Wear PJ’s day), “Use Your Head, Don’t DO Drugs” (Wear your favorite hat day)
- CES won a PBIS Exemplary School Award from the Agency Of Education last month for last years work and data improvements in our system wide PBIS program.
- Please see our Castleton Elementary School Facebook Page for student work, celebrations, and upcoming events!

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

At Castleton Village School we will be kicking off Red Ribbon Week with a day where all our students will wear red to show our school pride. Each day during the week will be a special day to express how we want to keep drugs away. The days have themes such as **Sock It To Drugs!** Students will wear fun and crazy socks and **Our Future Is Too Bright For Drugs!** where students can dress as their dream career, as a student in their dream college, or as a member of the armed forces. Our school wide Town meeting this week will have our monthly PBIS academic recognition and will further emphasize the importance of being substance free!

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

It doesn’t seem possible that we are on the downside of October! FHGS has been actively involved in a number of things that make time fly. Applefest 2017 was a huge success once again for the school and community. The day was perfect to be on the beautiful Fair Haven Green enjoying the company of family, friends and visitors.

Our Middle School Parent Night was equally successful as our elementary Open House. Middle Schoolers are always ready to share experiences like their annual rafting trip where they learn to work and pull together.

FHGS students, faculty, and staff participated in the annual “Walk to School” program. We were joined by family members that added to the special event. Grade 5 students are thoroughly enjoying their experiences with the Star Base program. Student athletes are nearing the end of their fall sport. Students also have after school opportunities like Game Club and Scrabble that provide a relaxing social time.

We want to acknowledge Mrs. Judy Folmsbee, grade 5 teacher, and recipient of the UVM Outstanding Teacher Award. Judy, and Eddie Wilkins the FHUHS recipient, received their awards at the UVM ceremony last week. Congratulations to these outstanding educators.

We are gearing up for Red Ribbon Week with our theme this year Your Future is Key, So Stay Drug Free. The entire school community will form a Red Key on the playground Monday to begin a week of anti-drug messages. We continue to connect all our work and play to PBIS and our PRRS.

Fair Haven Union High School Report (Jason Rasco):

We continue to work collaboratively on proficiency-based learning (PBL) by utilizing Professional Learning Communities and our Oct. 19th in-service. Faculty and staff have identified habits of work which are nested in the Vermont Transferable Skills, skills that reach across a variety of content areas, and our work during in-service concentrated on exploring graduation requirements.

The sophomore summit held at Castleton University was, once again, a huge success. With eight regional schools in attendance, our sophomores spent the day on the University campus exploring different careers and participating in a financial reality fair, and the nationwide PSAT which is typically administered to juniors was given to 110 of our students.

A highlight at FHUHS has always been Slaterbration. The week-long event is coordinated by student council with the help and effort of countless students, staff, and parents. This year we began with a pep-rally on Monday, October 16th. Throughout the week we recognized our seniors during home sporting events, students and staff creatively decorated our school hallways, and enjoyed dressing in a variety of themes every day of the week. And the week culminated with a homecoming dance on Saturday, October 21st.

9. **By-Laws:** The policy committee met today just prior to the SVMUUSD meeting and made one additional recommendation for change to the By-Laws. This revision will be made and brought forth for the whole Board at the next meeting. The change consists of adding a letter d) under Meetings and Agendas. This would include adding Executive Session to the By-Laws.
10. **VMERS:** Cheryl Scarzello brought the requested information back to the Board regarding the costs for each plan. Cheryl recommends Group B, as most districts around us are offering Group B. This is the preferred plan. Cheryl explained the costs should all existing VMERS Group A users move to Group B, the total cost would be roughly \$37,000. If Orwell were to be included it would be a total cost of \$45,426.00. Per Cheryl to be competitive with other schools we should offer a more comprehensive package. Chairman Bache discussed the fact that the potential opportunity for gaining and keeping employees would outweigh the costs of the Group B plan. Other discussion ensued about would these costs be broken out to Orwell residents. Cheryl noted that the proportionate share of any Orwell High School students would be billed to Orwell taxpayers. Trevor Ezzo wonders where we will find these funds? That is a significant amount of money. Julie Finnegan made a motion to accept the recommendation for offering Group B as presented going forward. This was seconded by Toni Lobdell. Motion carried by full Board.
11. **Update on Office:** Brooke shared that there is an architect coming down to further revise plans. The High School Board is interested in developing a bond that would support this renovation. The first year of a bond you are not required to pay a principal payment and the savings from the rental costs that would not be paid out could be used to offset some of the costs of the renovation. Trevor Ezzo asked if open areas could be considered versus all separate walled off offices. Cheryl Scarzello talked about concerns with Employee Privacy and FERPA regulations. Discussion ensued. It was asked if other schools had been considered for relocation of the Central Office staff? The projected model would only eliminate 2 classrooms at FHUHS. The proposed bond would also include a renovation to a theater proposal for FHUHS. Though they would appear on the bond separately.
12. **Vision Draft:**

Slate Valley Union Vision Draft

Our Students are curious and creative learners who succeed through personal initiative and sustained effort to reach high academic goals. They are critical thinkers who seek knowledge and possess technological competence and collaborative skills. Our students embrace diversity and culture, act responsibly, and contribute to our community.

Our Educators, believe in providing for the social, emotional and academic needs of every child so that they feel connected, safe, and respected in order to ensure student achievement. By offering a challenging and engaging atmosphere in which all members of the school community can learn and grow.

Our Families and Community, are integral to the success of our students and schools. Families are active, engaged and welcomed partners in their child's education. Our community is passionate about equitable educational outcomes for all students.

Our Schools offer an enriched learning environment and a comprehensive system of supports to address the needs of the whole child.

Feedback is welcomed from the Board, all community members and constituents through a survey for collecting additional feedback.

- 13. Other Business:** Board members would like to know what statistics we keep on home schooled students and what percentage of them participate in school activities? Additionally they would like to know approximately how many students we lose to private venues in the Rutland county area such as MSJ, Roots and Wings, etc., and the reason they opt to attend the other schools. For example what are they seeking that we are not offering.

14. Agenda Building:

1. Presentation to the Board regarding enrollment numbers per school & staffing recommendations going forward. (Brooke would like Principal's to include monthly enrollment numbers in the first SVMUUSD of the month).
2. Board would like information on number of school choice; how many are choosing placements out of ARSU, how many are coming to ARSu through school choice?
3. By-Laws
4. Update on Office Relocation recommendations from architect (if available)
5. Central Office Staff Reports
6. Number of Extra Curricular activities offered by each school, (what is offered outside of academics in each building) , if possible # students participating in these activities and/or athletics
7. Committee Updates
8. Update from VT Digger, Education Shortfall now predicted at close to \$80,000,000.00 compared to initial prediction of \$40,000,000.00 shortfall.

- 15. Executive Session - If Needed:** Chairman Bache made a recommendation to move into Executive Session at 8:17 pm for the purpose of discussing an Update on Personnel with no action expected. Motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 8:44 pm by Julie Finnegan.

- 16. Adjournment:** Glen Cousineau made motion to adjourn at 8:45, this was seconded by Toni Lobdell

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Lenihan