

Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School Board
Regular Meeting
November 27, 2017
Castleton Village 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	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 9/11/17	Yes
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	Business Manager	ARSU	Yes
Chris Cole	Technology Coordinator	ARSU	Yes
Sherri Nichols	Curriculum Coordinator	ARSU	No

Audience Members: Linda Peltier, Kathleen Kilbourne, Jim Fowler, Jason Rasco, Becky Lanfear, Skip Cooke, Karla Ramey, Kim Prehoda, Helen Culpo, Katie Culpo, Shawn Mulholland, Belle Kasuba, Selena Mayer, Cooper Spaulding, Jillian Hetrick, R. Spaulding, Archie Clark, John Hetrick

1. **Call to Order** - 6:30 pm by Board Chair M. Bache

Pledge of Allegiance: Mike Bache led the Board and Audience in the Pledge after calling the meeting to order.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Mike Bache asked for a motion to move student presentation to the top of the agenda; the motion to do so was made by Toni Lobdell, and seconded by Julie Finnegan.
3. **Approval of November 13, 2017 Minutes:** Julie Finnegan made a motion to accept the November 13, 2017 minutes with no corrections, and this was seconded by Toni Lobdell; motion carried by full Board.
4. **Student Presentation from CVS Students:** Community at CVS; Student Presenters: Belle Kasuba, Jillian Hetrick, Shawn Mulholland, Selena Mayer, Cooper Spaulding, Helen Culpo. Each of the students described a different aspect of how they feel CVS demonstrates and embraces Community. Camp Fire Chats-Restorative Justice Model looked at through individual class Odysseys, Town Meeting Day was also described. PBIS initiatives were described. Examples of Project Based Learning were described. Environmental Studies, working at Bomoseen State Park, invasive species. Students bring change to the environment in their own backyard. Poem was shared by a student. 3D Vermont Projects. Jump block was designed to work with students on areas of intervention. All the coursework/curriculum here at CVS is integrated and relates to all of the projects that are generated. Community Service was also discussed.
5. **Public Comments:** None
6. **Correspondence:** None to share.
7. **Committee Reports:**
- a) **Finance:** Finance committee met on 11/15/17 to look at first draft; the draft was not available; we are still waiting for feedback and interpretation of who in the new Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School District actually votes by the Agency of Education. We got one interpretation back today and need to run this by our attorney. Julie Finnegan wanted to note that Cheryl Scarzello is building the budget on spreadsheets not an existing program. Discussion ensued. Next Finance meeting to be held on December 13, 2017. We spoke about restructuring of technology and maintenance, changes of job descriptions resulting in reduction of 1 FTE in the technology department. All departments will be looking at other efficiencies and how to use the expertise of all personnel to achieve this goal. It was also decided to bring the School Nurses under ARSU to look at a service delivery model for students moving forward. This created an overall reduction of 1.5 FTE's. The 1.5 FTE reduction came through Nursing Assistants, not School Nurses. Trevor Ezzo discusses concern of offering a 3% increase year to year. He feels this is not sustainable. Inflation for the last 5 years has been much less.
 - b) **Personnel:** No meetings have been held yet.
 - c) **Policy:** The Policy committee meeting met tonight prior to the SVMUUSD meeting. We will have some policies next meeting to warn. Transfer Policy will also be ready for the next SVMUUSD meeting. The next meeting will be December 18, 2017.
 - d) **Building and Grounds - Building Tour:** Linda Peltier and Jim Fowler, Chief of Maintenance led a tour of the building through CVS to talk about long range needs and improvements that need to be made. Next meeting is January 8, 2018.
 - e) **Negotiations:** Next Teacher Negotiation is on Wednesday the 6th of December.

8. **Principal Reports:**

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

This month, we had our Community Luncheon where we also honor our Veterans. It was a great turnout and a delicious meal! We also had our Turkey Bingo fundraiser this month. It was a huge success! Thanks to all who came out to support this fundraiser for our 8th grade trip to Washington, DC.

Thanks goes out to Cathy Tester and Royal Sheeley who came to BVS to share their knowledge about our US flag with our middle school students. They presented the history of the flag and demonstrated proper flag folding.

In December, we will be welcoming the Vermont Symphony Orchestra to BVS. This event is always enjoyable, and we invite the community to join us! Orwell Village School students will be here to see this performance as well. Also in December, Tiger Theater, from Plymouth State University, will be here to present their performance on the critical issue of bullying. They present this important information to students in a fun and engaging way.

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

On Friday, November 17th we held our first PBiS Town Meeting. Teachers recognized individual students for outstanding student skills such as perseverance, strong efforts and being ready to learn. Mr. Kelson's Odyssey presented a short program on a project they are offering as a challenge to the school. The 'chain of kindness' was kicked off today and will continue to add to our chain all of the acts of kindness until our next town meeting. The students shared a video clip about 'paying it forward' and we talked as a school about offering kindness as an option daily in our lives. Pictures of our Town meeting and awards are being shown on our own Cougar News digital bulletin board in our hallway. This new addition to our school is being piloted by students in Mr. Langley's JUMP class.

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

Castleton Elementary School will be hosting a "Parent Resource Fair" on January 5th from 3:30-7:30 pm at CES. The idea is to gather and display information from surrounding not for profits and service providers that families would find helpful and supportive. We also will be inviting local businesses. Students will be able to attend the Karaoke Night, or the Movie option along with a crafting room. We plan to have food and a photo booth for fun as well. Save the date and mark your calendars now...open to all of Slate Valley!

Dec 14th is Parent Conferences.

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

Our Red Ribbon Week Celebrations became the catapult for school-wide complementing themes. Random act of Kindness been the motif as we approached Thanksgiving. Students, staff and families left personal notes, comments on the Kindness bulletin board and unexpected acts of kindness throughout the past weeks. The experiences shared have been amazing and uplifting for all.

The FHGS PTO continued the theme sponsoring a community Harvest Fest dinner. It was well attended by families and community members. The Fest provided an opportunity for the PTO and school to give back to the community for their ongoing support. The PTO is very engaged in supportive and collaborative school and community events. One of their current goals is to improve and expand the playground structure used by the entire community. We certainly appreciate their time and efforts.

Unique initiatives continue throughout the grades. Middle School is focusing on cross-curricular work and collaboration. The Second Step program is being immersed in Middle School through health classes and core classes with support from counselors. Primary grades continue to see the successes from Looping. The Intermediate grades are immersing students in learning through channels outside the core classroom as with the grade 5 Star Base experience. The first trimester has seen numerous successes on all levels.

Fair Haven Union High School Principal's Report (Jason Rasco):

As we closed the first marking period honoring the many student academic achievements and head into the holiday break there is much to be thankful for:

Fair Haven Union High School Senior, Elyza Bird, and Callon Fish from Rutland represented the state of Vermont in Kentucky at the Eastern National 4H Horse Round Up. The competition was based on equine knowledge and skills, and the duo placed 3rd against some tough competition nationally.

The Fair Haven Union High School Band and the Slate Valley Singers represented our school as we honored those who have and continue to serve our country in a variety of Veterans Day events and concerts.

Fall athletic banquets concluded the sporting seasons for golf, field hockey, boys and girls soccer, cross country, cheer, and football. Congratulations to all student athletes whose teamwork, perseverance and dedication are all necessary components to competing at the high school level, and a special congratulations to the FHUHS Div II State Champion varsity football team.

And during a well-attended parent-teacher conference night conversations were had regarding the challenges and triumphs of moving from a traditional education system geared towards preparing students for the industrial age, evolving to one that prepares ALL students for the digital age and 21st century globalization. We look forward to holding a community night this winter to further these discussions and more.

There were no questions for the Principal's.

9. **Job Descriptions - Action:** The job descriptions were included in the Board Packet for Facility Manager, Custodian, Integration Coach, Data and Assessment Coordinator, Systems Administrator, Support Specialist. These job descriptions are aligned, and came from a model from the state but incorporates the consolidation of job duties. These have been viewed by our attorneys and are ADA Compliant. Glen Cousineau made a motion to accept the job descriptions as presented and this was seconded by Julie Finnegan. Motion was carried by the full Board.
10. **Budget Process Update:** Discussed earlier in the agenda.
11. **Bond:** Regarding discussion of the ARSU Office Location to Fair Haven Union High School, originally it was thought that the Bond had to be taken out by Fair Haven High School, the Board for FHUHS originally approved it and now there is new knowledge that the SVMUUSD should be applying for the Bond. New clarification is that it should be SVMUUSD as they will be assuming the debt as of July 2018. The Bond should be listed on a SVMUUSD warning. SVMUUSD will also take on any outstanding or existing bonds as of July 2018 as well. /they will assume all the assets and liabilities. The plans will be brought forward to the next SVMUUSD for the Board to consider.
12. **Other Business:** Individual Boards will still be reported out by each individual School entity. Local board town reports have evolved over time to things that are not required. As we move forward with a Town Report for SVMUUSD a sample was handed out as to what is actually required to be included in the new Slate Valley Reports. We want uniformity of the Board's Town reports. Mike Fallis had a comment about the student presentation from FHUHS. Mike wonders what we are doing to support the questions raised by this student. The student was asking essentially how to personalize his learning. We are working on changing policies that can address his thinking and others that come about in terms of personalizing learning opportunities for students to demonstrate they are meeting proficiencies. It is more than just putting a certain amount of seat time/carnegie units/credits earned. By 2020, our Pre-K through 12 system needs to have in place various

pathways to achieve the Personalized Learning Plans for every individual. Teacher's need to become facilitators of learning. The process involves additional professional development for teachers. We will need to be developing multiple ways in which students can demonstrate that they are meeting the standards. Hiring a new Curriculum Coordinator will be the first step in this direction. We also need instructional coaches to support the changes for our teaching staff. The system needs to be developed. Proficiency Based Learning requires a huge cultural shift. Transferrable skills are being intentionally taught.

Meeting Schedules are based on the second and fourth of each month. We are looking at the December meetings, eliminate meeting was recommended for December 11th and meet at Benson Village School, on the December 18th at 6:30. The next Building and Grounds meeting will be January 8th, 2018. Toni Lobdell made a motion to cancel the first December SVMUUSD meeting originally scheduled for December 11, 2017 and to change the date of the Building and Grounds meeting to January 8, 2018. This was seconded by Julie Finnegan, motion carried by full Board.

13. Agenda Building:

- a) Policy Warnings
- b) New Job Descriptions
- c) Central Office Relocation
- d) Budget
- e) Student Presentation from BVS
- f) Building Tour of BVS
- g) Negotiations Update

14. Executive Session - If Needed: None

15. Adjournment: Amy Munger made motion to adjourn at 8:36 pm and this was seconded by Shannon Baldwin.

Respectfully Submitted by, Bonnie Lenihan