

SLATE VALLEY MODIFIED UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2018
Fair Haven Union High School
6:30 p.m.

Approved Minutes

Name	Role/Term	Town Representing	In Attendance
Kris Benway	Director of ARSU Spec Ed	ARSU	X
Jody Goodhue	Temp. Clerk/1 Year	Benson	X
David Renninger	Board Member/ 2 Year	Benson	X
Amy Munger	Board Member/3 Year	Benson	X
Toni Lobdell	Board Member/1 Year	Castleton	X
Liz Mackay	Board Member/2 Year	Castleton	X
Julie Finnegan	Board Member/3 Year	Castleton	X
Shannon Baldwin	Board Member/1 Year	Hubbardton	X
Joshua Hardt	Board Member/2 Year	Hubbardton	X
Mike Fallis	Board Member;3 Year	Hubbardton	X
John Oakman	Board Member/1 Year	West Haven 9/11/17	No
Angela Charron	Board Member/2 Year	West Haven	X
Michael (Trevor) Ezzo	Board Member/3 Year	West Haven	No
Tara Buxton	Board Member/1 Year	Fair Haven	X
Michael Bache	Board Member/2 Year	Fair Haven	X
Peter Stone	Board Member/1 Year	Orwell NMD (Non Member District)	X
Glen Cousineau	Board Member/2 Year	Orwell NMD	X
David Carpenter	Board Member/3 Year	Orwell NMD	X
Brooke Olsen Farrell	Superintendent	Slate Valley MUUSD	X
Cheryl Scarzello	Business Manager	ARSU	X
Chris Cole	Technology Coordinator	ARSU	X
Casey O'Meara	Curriculum Coordinator	ARSU	X

Audience: Jason Rasco, Kathleen Kilbourne, Linda Peltier; Kim Prehoda, Skip Cooke, Deb Smith, Bonnie Condit< Heather Christian, Alexa Vander Els

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: M. Bache called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: Shannon Baldwin made a motion to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of January 22, 2018: Toni Lobdell made a motion to approve the minutes with no changes. This was seconded by Julie Finnegan. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

Student Presentation: A student presentation was planned for two students that attend the annex to explore/explain this to the Board to help us understand that there are different pathways towards graduation requirements. The students actually were called to work. Jason Rasco then presented a brief presentation to the Board regarding Proficiency Based Learning and the shift from traditional grading/requirements for graduation to how we need to be moving in direction of Proficiency Based Grading and considering multiple pathways. He spoke of how the Annex has helped save many At Risk Students that would have otherwise dropped out of school. Later in the evening one student, Josh Gayle was able to join the Board and he spoke about the Annex and his new job, and the fact that he will have met all of his graduation requirements by April and he has a full time job waiting for him at Casella as a machine operator and mechanic. The Board thanked him for coming and celebrated his job and his hard work towards this goal.

Committee Reports:

- a) **Finance:** This committee has not met since the last time.
- b) **Personnel Committee Report:** Tara Buxton, Chair of this committee shared that this committee met on 1/30/18 and reviewed the openings for Slate Valley in the upcoming year. They made a plan to advertise internally for the FHUHS Principal Vacancy. Tara turned the meeting over to the Superintendent at that point. Superintendent Farrell described the following. An interview committee was set for last week. The committee was comprised of several Board members, an Elementary Principal, 2 teachers from FHUHS, the Superintendent and a parent. The Personnel Committee made recommendation to Superintendent to hire Jason Rasco as FHUHS Principal for the 2018-2019 School Year at a salary of \$103,790.00. Superintendent Farrell made this recommendation to the Slate Valley Modified Unified Union Board this evening. The vote was unanimous to support the Superintendent and Personnel Committee recommendation to hire Jason Rasco. Congratulations Jason! Jason spoke briefly and described a bit of his vision to continue healing from this year and for moving the school forward and credited the hard work of the FHUHS faculty and staff this year. He is looking forward to the opportunity to continue the work. This committee meets next on 2/13/18.
- c) **Policies to Adopt:** Toni Lobdell, Chair explained that we had just met and were ready to adopt the following policies. Julie Finnegan made the motion to adopt the following policies. This was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Motion Carried.
 - B3
 - B5
 - B7
 - B22
 - C1
 - C4
 - C5
 - C6
 - C7
 - C8
 - C20
 - C21
- d) **Policies to Warn:** Julie Finnegan made a motion to warn the following policies. This was seconded by Peter Stone. Motion carried.
 - A10
 - B8
 - B9
 - C2
 - C10
 - D2
 - D3
 - D4
 - D5
 - D6
- e) **Buildings and Grounds - 5 Year Plan:** Shannon Baldwin, Chair of Building and Grounds shared that this committee had just met. They approved the new job description of the Technician position that was discussed at last SVMUUSD meeting. She shared that Chris Cole, Director of Operations, is working with both Mark Cassidy and Dave Ward on developing lists of prioritized work for all buildings within the SU. They had looked into hiring a consultant to help develop a formalized 5 year plan and this is cost prohibitive, as these consultants run between \$10,000.0-\$15,000.00+. The committee decided against hiring an outside consultant and will continue with the recommendations from the Building and Grounds Chief of Maintenance and Director of Operations, Chris Cole. Shannon mentioned that the next two schools that would undergo the lead water testing were FHGS and FHUHS. This will likely happen over April vacation. Chris Cole mentioned that he and Cheryl Scarzello, Director of Finance are looking into funding the costs of this water testing through a VSBT safety grant. At this time Benson and Orwell are not in need of this as they regularly test their water.

- f) **Negotiations:** Superintendent Farrell mentioned that there have started Support Staff Negotiation meetings and there are a couple more scheduled. There also is an additional Teacher Negotiation meeting scheduled for next month. She mentioned that with the reorganization of the Boards in March we will need to refill positions on both Negotiating Teams. Negotiation committees meet 1-2 X's a month with a general ground rule of sticking to 2 hours, though sometimes this is exceeded. These meetings sometimes require a pre-planning meeting and typically start at 7 p.m.

Spanish Language Trip April 2019 - Eric Snay & Alexa Vander Els:

Teacher Alexa Vander Els and Parent Heather Christian came to petition the Board to give permission for a trip either to Costa Rica or to Spain for the spring of 2019. They had researched some of the potential costs and shared this information with the Board. Their recommendation is to hire and work with an agency which has been used in the past that helps find the best deals in terms of flight costs, accommodations and food. Preliminary costs are looking like Costa Rica would cost about \$2500.00 per student for a 10 day trip, and Spain would be about \$3500.00 per student. If approved they would begin fund raising right away to help families offset the costs. They would be offering this to Spanish Level II students or those that have already completed this level. Other discussion ensued. Amy Munger made the motion to move forward with this proposed trip. Toni Lobdell seconded the motion. Motion carried by full Board. This team will go forward with planning.

Contracts for 2018-2019: Contract for Jason Rasco was presented earlier under Personnel Committee.

Job Descriptions: Approved under Building and Grounds and recommended to full Board. Board voted to approve this job description as presented at last meeting, and included in packet for review.

Central Office Reports:

Superintendent's Report:

This past month has been busy in preparing the ARSU, OVS and SVMUUSD budgets and communicating them to constituents. The Slate Valley budget will only be discussed at the Slate Valley Informational meeting on Feb. 26th at 7:00pm at Fair Haven Union High School. The estimated tax rates for the towns that comprise Slate Valley are decreasing with the exception of West Haven, which is an increase over the previous year. West Haven sees a large fluctuation in the tax rate from year to year due to the number of tuition students. The merger should prevent that fluctuation over time. In addition, the Orwell tax rate is significantly higher due to the fact that they were not included in the merger in terms of K-8.

The legislature is looking at changing the Education Funding formula for this coming school year. If this moves forward it would significantly impact an individual's tax rate as a large portion of that rate would be dependent on Adjusted Gross Income and would fluctuate from person to person. This means the public could potentially be voting on budgets in March without knowing how their tax rate will be determined.

****Brooke** stated that the estimates that have been prepared for our budget season are based on the current yield which we received from the AOE. Brooke and several area Superintendents met with some legislators recently expressing the concern with changing the Education Spending Formulas now after we had prepared school budgets with one set of information. They were assured but these legislators that the proposed change to the Education Spending Formula are not going forward until the FY 20 School Year. The confusion is that this message doesn't seem to match the news being reported. It is concerning that we are presenting a budget that we may not have accurate funding information for if in fact they do change the formula before next fiscal year.

Director of Special Services

There is a great deal of attention being generated by the DMG report and UVM Study on the service delivery model and financing of Special Education in Vermont. Representatives from the VCSEA and VASBO have been busy providing testimony to the legislature on the impacts of proposed changes being considered. We anticipate that a new funding plan will be determined by the legislature this spring.

Our Universal Preschool classrooms at Benson, Castleton and Fair Haven are bustling with activity. We currently have 89 students enrolled in our school based programs and another 42 students being served in approved partner preschool programs located throughout Addison and Rutland counties. We are gearing up for the annual ARSU Preschool Screenings for children 0-5 years of age residing in ARSU. These screenings will take place on March 26 and 27 at the Benson Village School, on April 2, 3 and 4 at the Castleton Elementary School and on April 9, 10 and 11 at the Fair Haven Grade School. Additional

information is posted throughout the communities and ARSU families can attend screenings at any location of their choosing.

The ARSU Early Education Team will be hosting a UPK Information Night On March 14, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. at the Castleton Elementary School. We will be sharing developmental information, have sign-ups for screenings, and give parents an opportunity to meet the UPK school and community providers. There will be childcare, snacks and door prizes available. All children who attend will received a welcome packet that includes a free book. Please help us spread the word and feel free to attend. (This activity is funded through our VCPC early education grant).

Director of Operations

The technology and maintenance teams have been busy working on current year projects, along with continued planning for the transition into the new Slate Valley Unified School District. As previously discussed, there will be many changes to staffing and the responsibilities that staff will have next year. These changes have been discussed with staff and they are excited for the challenges ahead.

Director of Finance

Work on the fiscal year 2019 budgets for ARSU, SVMUUSD and Orwell SD is slowing down with the submission of reports to the Town Clerks and Treasurers for town reports. The reports for the school districts that have merged contain the actual general fund activity for FY17, and the budget and forecast for FY18 (this year). Next year the reports will only show the actual activity for FY18. The FY19 budget for SVMUUSD and ARSU appear in the report that will also include information for Fair Haven Union High School. A post card will be going out to all residents notifying them as to where copies of the Annual Town Report may be found. Hard copies of the report will be available at all the schools, town offices and ARSU central office. Electronic copies will be posted to both the www.arsu.org and www.slatevalleyunified.org websites.

In the same way that the FHUHS budget was only discussed at the FHUHS informational meeting, the SVMUUSD FY19 budget will only be discussed at the SVMUUSD informational meeting to be held on Monday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fair Haven Union High School.

Over the last two weeks the staff from the Business Office including our 2 new members, Jennifer Book and Sheri Nichols, have begun working with the implementation specialist and trainer from Tyler Technologies on the set up of our new accounting software. Despite the hours of work we have ahead of us we are excited at the prospect of an updated system with new functionality. Together we are evaluating our current practices and procedures, and considering how we might best fully utilize our new system to realize efficiencies in our operations district wide.

This month I will begin focusing in earnest on the tasks that need to be accomplished for Slate Valley to be operational as of July 1, 2018. Among the tasks are new federal and state identification numbers, new bank accounts and notifications to the various entities we work with including VEHI (Vermont Education Health Initiative), VSBIT (Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust), VMBB (Vermont Municipal Bond Bank), VMERS (Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System) and VSTRS (Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System).

Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

The current movement in Vermont towards proficiency-based learning requires learning expectations focused on standards and is a concept we are familiar with K-8 in ARSU. In 2018-2019, personalized proficiency-based learning and grading will exist in ARSU K-12. Vermont law requires that secondary graduation requirements be grounded in demonstrations of proficiency for the class of 2020 and beyond. In order to meet this expectation, FHUHS has been preparing to facilitate personalized proficiency-based learning.

Each teaching department at FHUHS is using common language to develop proficiency-based learning experiences. The common language includes proficiencies, performance indicators, learning targets/scales, formative and summative assessments, and transferable skills. The High School is finishing their development of proficiencies, performance indicators, learning targets and scales to support curriculum, instruction and assessment. Foundational to proficiency-based learning and grading is an understanding of assessment types, their purpose and the separation of academic and non-academic skills in grading.

Proficiency-based grading supports the focus on criterion-based teaching and learning through use of proficiency focused instruction and assessment. A PowerSchool gradebook is in development and will

be ready for a test-run by FHUHS teachers in March. During the 2018-2019 school year FHUHS will report "content" and transferable skills proficiency for grades 9-11.

Acting Principal Jason Rasco established a proficiency-based graduation and proficiency-based procedures and policy committee. These committees, consisting of 15 faculty, meet twice a month and are developing the internal structures necessary to support proficiency-based learning and grading at FHUHS. In addition to these two committees Jason has identified a team, from his two proficiency-based learning committees, to serve as a proficiency-based steering committee. The shared leadership of these committees will be integral in the proficiency work at FHUHS.

Each grade level and content area is gathering for a half-day of curriculum work this month. In addition, K-12 librarians, world language, music, art, physical education and health teachers will meet. The common objectives for these professional development half-days include: continuing/completing work started in September, addressing immediate curricular, instructional and/or assessment needs, and planning for future in-service dates. I am sharing the proficiency language being used 9-12 and discuss its importance for a focused learning continuum K-12. Vertical and horizontal articulation of proficiencies, performance indicators, learning targets and scales will result in coherent personalized proficiency-based learning in ARSU.

Other Business: Casey O'Meara, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment prepared a presentation for the Board to help them understand Proficiency Based Learning (PBL) and the shift from traditional thinking. Board member Dave Carpenter asked how we help parents to understand this information. Director O'Meara shared a letter with the Board that he has prepared to go out to parents. He also indicated that there are two parent informational nights scheduled for April to help further explain the Proficiency Based Learning to the general public, parents and guardians. Director O'Meara had a slide presentation prepared and a couple of handouts that make the process more understandable and help to bring a common language to the SU as we move forward, so that we will have common language as we build this idea of PBL from K-12 grade system. Much of the work currently is being done at the 9-12 level as we need to understand the end goals. Superintendent Farrell and Director O'Meara both acknowledged the hard work and commitment from FHUHS faculty and staff over the last few months in moving towards PBL.

Glen Cousineau made a motion to cancel our regular SVMUUSD meeting on February 26th as this will become the Informational meeting for the SVMUUSD Budget. This was seconded by Julie Finnegan. Motion carried by full Board.

Agenda Building:

1. Committee Reports
2. Policies to Adopt and Warn
3. Student Presentation
4. Reorganizational Meeting
5. Discuss Board Retreat and Vision long term for SVMUUSD
6. Fill position vacated by Roy Eckler (2 people running)

Executive Session - if needed: None

Adjournment: Shannon Baldwin made a motion to adjourn at 8 p.m. This was seconded by David Carpenter. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Lenihan

Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School District Informational BUDGET Meeting:
Monday, February 26, 2018 - Fair Haven Union High School - 7:00 PM

Next SVMUUSD Organizational Board Meeting - March 12, 2018 -FHUHS - 6:30 PM