

**SLATE VALLEY MODIFIED UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL BOARD****Regular Meeting****March 26, 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
John Wurzbacher	Board Member/1 Year	Benson	X
David Renninger	Board Member/ 2 Year	Benson	No
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	No
Shannon Baldwin	Board Member/1 Year	Hubbardton	X
Joshua Hardt	Board Member/2 Year	Hubbardton	X
Mike Fallis	Board Member/3 Year	Hubbardton	No
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
Rick Wilson, Sr.	Board Member/3 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
Dave Carpenter	Board Member/3 Year	Orwell NMD	No
Brooke Olsen Farrell	Superintendent	Slate Valley MUUSD	X
Cheryl Scarzello	Director of Finance	ARSU	X
Chris Cole	Director of Operations	ARSU	X
Casey O'Meara	Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment	ARSU	X

**Audience Attending:** Linda Peltier, Bonnie Condit, Arlene Disorda, Kim Prehoda, Deb Smith, Archie Clark

**Call to Order:** M. Bache, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** M. Bache, Board Chair led us in the Pledge of Allegiance

**Approval of Agenda:** Toni Lobdell made motion to approve the agenda, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau; motion carried by full Board.

**Approval of Minutes - March 12, 2018:** Josh Hardt made motion to approve the minutes of March 12, 2018, this was seconded by Angela Charron; Discussion ensued by Rick Wilson and clarification was given by Board Chair, M. Bache with purpose of minutes. Specific questions were clarified around grant funding as specifically related to hiring of two .5 positions at FHUHS in lieu of hiring an Asst. Principal. A second clarification was added around Fitnessgram. Josh Hardt mentioned that his name had inadvertently been left off from the Executive Board as a committee member. This correction will be made. Motion to approve with the one correction to the Executive Committee was carried by the full Board.

**Student Presentation:** BVS students were set up in the gym to present 3 separate projects; Middle School students presented Shark Tank Projects to display their entrepreneurial skills; 5th graders presented their Water Filtration Systems; Kindergarten students shared project on Whiteboard and Dry Erase Markers. These presentations were well attended by the committee and the Board Members enjoyed perusing the projects. Thank you to the students and teachers for their presentation this evening.

**Public Comment:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Committee Reports:**

- a) **Finance:** No meetings since last time.
- b) **Personnel:** No meetings since last time.
- c) **Policy:** Committee met tonight and recommended warning Policy F34 Idling of Buses, C-37 School Entrance Age, and C-38 Extended School Year; Glen Cousineau made the motion to approve the warning of these 3 policies tonight and agreeing to adopt them the next time, this was seconded by Angela Charron and motion was carried by the full Board.
- d) **Building and Grounds:** The Building and Grounds Committee last met on 3/19/18. New Board Members were welcomed to this committee.  
Dave Ward and Mark Cassidy the two Building and Grounds Directors' of Maintenance were introduced to the Board. Chris Cole, Director of Operations explained the shared responsibilities and projected areas of coverage for Mark and Dave and the proposed schools they would be covering, though clarified this was not an exhaustive list. Chris presented aerial pictures of all the schools and gave an overview of the prioritized lists of all the schools and the work that needs to be prioritized at each building. Chris indicated this meeting could have gone longer as we didn't get to cover all of the agenda items.

Chris Cole, also discussed the Timeline for the FHUHS Renovation/Facelift for the front of the School and the ARSU Office Relocation Construction Plan and he handed out materials that explained the prequalification procedures. Chris mentioned that it was recommended to place these Prequalification Procedures in the Rutland Herald, or other papers if the Board has ideas. The Architect will help the district Prequalify/Vet Contractors. They will help SVMUUSD vet the contractors as they know of the specific qualifications that are needed when Contractors are working/bidding (eventually) on a project in excess of \$500,000.00. Chris reviewed the total costs of the project all inclusive it is \$613,590.00. The construction costs alone are a total of \$498,368.00. FHUHS Facelift, front entranceway is slated to be completed by August 24, 2018 prior to the opening of school. The Business Office/ Superintendent's office relocation is slated to be completed by October. Superintendent Farrell has asked for an extension to the rental of the current ARSU office space until November but has not yet heard back on this request.

Shannon Baldwin made a motion to approve the process for the Prequalification Criteria for Materials and Vendors as presented; this was seconded by Tara Buxton; motion was carried by the full Board. With this process being approved tonight it is thought that there might be Bids available to look at during the June Board meetings. Cheryl Scarzello, Director of Finance also mentioned that there will be no funding available for this project until after July 1, 2018 and the new fiscal year.

- e) **Negotiations:** There will be a meeting for support staff Negotiations held this week.

**Parent Advisory Updates:** Several schools have set their April Meeting Dates and Agenda items for the month of April. CVS is meeting the first week in April with Board Member Josh Hardt; CES is meeting with Administration/Parent/Community and Board Member Julie Finnegan on April 9th. BVS has a meeting scheduled with Board Member John Wurzbacher on April 5th; Fair Haven Union High School will be meeting with Board Member Peter Stone later in the month of April as well. FHGS will soon be scheduling a meeting with Rick Wilson and/or Angela Charron. Updates on these advisory meetings will be provided during the April SVMUUSD meeting in April, likely on the 23rd of the month so that all Advisories have had time to hold their first meetings. The theme for April will be School Safety.

**Principal's Reports:** Included in Packet and below. Discussion ensued; Amy Munger wondered if there would be consideration for combining and taking the DC trip as one unit in the future versus individual schools attending alone? The general consensus was yes, but this could not happen next year as dates have already had to be locked in. Shannon Baldwin wanted to give a shout out to the FHUHS Boys Championship Team. Rick Wilson asked for specifics on the Bike Grant that allowed 40 bikes to be brought to CES-the Locomotion Grant. He also noted that a gentleman in Hampton, NY also had many bikes available to purchase for students that might not have them.

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

The month of April brings with it thoughts of the future for our 7th and 8th graders. Our 7th graders will be attending "Your Journey Starts Here" at Castleton University to begin their thoughts on careers after graduating high school. Our 8th graders will be visiting FHUHS in April as well. They will become more familiar with the high school they will be attending next year as freshmen. Wow, time flies!

Also in April, Jon Gailmor, a Vermont singer, songwriter and performer will come for a day to work with our K-8 students. The focus will be on *perseverance* which is our character trait for April. Jon will help students write a song and grade clusters will have a CD of that song by the end of the day. It's exciting!

Thanks to the entire Benson community for supporting our fundraising efforts to send our 8th graders to Washington, D.C. Students leave on 4/29 for their trip, and we know this trip would not be possible without the support of our community.

Our first Parent Advisory Group will meet on 4/2 at 6:30 pm. This group will help connect our school with the larger Slate Valley Unified School Board. Check out the Benson Bulletin or call Mrs. Prehoda for more details on this group. Hope to see you there!

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

Students in 7th grade science have been using their knowledge of molecules to study basic chemical reactions. They are reviewing physical and chemical properties found in various molecules. Our 8th graders in Humanities are studying politics in preparation of the trip to Washington DC. Teachers have completed recommendations for all students heading into 9th grade for next year and appointments are being set up for student/counselor meetings between CVS and FHUHS.

On Friday March 9th the Life-Time Activities program were completed for this year. The program has been a tremendous experience for our students. Basketball season is over and we are in the process of gearing up for spring softball and baseball. Our mandatory student athlete and parent meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20th at 6:30 at CVS.

The Washington DC trip is scheduled for March 21nd-24th. Students will be visiting the major sites in DC. Currently there are 54 participants and we are all excited about the program. There was a mandatory meeting for student and parents on Monday, March 5th to review expectations and itinerary with everyone. We look forward to an exciting trip and are grateful for the support that this board and community have offered our students.

The Mega-Arts Evening has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 28th at 7 pm at Fair Haven Union High School. We have over 56 participants in the program that offers instrumental music, vocal music and art.

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

We are proud and excited to share that CES was selected to receive the \$25,000.00 CLiF, "Year of the Book" Grant for next school year! A team of us from CES will be training for 1 day (March 27th) in Lake Morey to understand our responsibilities in reporting on this grant to learn from past recipients about their successes. We are also currently implementing the "Locomotion" grant we received which allows us to use 40 bikes and helmets here at school to teach both bike riding skills and bike safety! We have use of the bikes for 2 weeks...so all students will have an opportunity to explore during their PE classes! Thanks to Mr. Panasci for facilitating this new unit for all of our children!

I am in the process of meeting with all classroom teachers to review the winter student and class data, as we plan for the remainder of the year. We are using F & P data, NWEA scores, and the Developmental Spelling Inventory.

We continue to share updated safety information with our community, staff, and students in our ongoing process. We have completed the state checklist with Chief Mantello. Our first CES Parent Advisory meeting will be on April 9th from 5:30- 6:30 pm, with the important topic of School Safety and Planning.

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

FHGS' winter season is now at an end and sends special thanks to many that made our season and basketball tournament successful. Our 5th and 6th basketball teams extended their seasons and participated in the Glodzick tournament. The girls finished second and the boys first place champions.

Our 5 - 8 GEOBEE team was equally successful in the recent district competition finishing second. Compliments to the team members for their hard work and commitment. Primary students are also excited and practicing for their K - 2 General Music Concert March 21st. Students and staff are also gearing up for MEGA ARTS DAY on the 28th. This is another time when students can share and take pride in multiple talents. Student involvement in healthy activities always pays dividends. We continue to encourage student participation as a healthy complement to academics. Melissa Hoyer, Home School Coordinator, wrote and received a \$2,500 Home to School Backpack grant that will create wonderful family connections.

FHGS is ready to transition to spring!!

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

Good afternoon from FHUHS.

It is hard to believe that the first day of spring has come and gone, that we will be starting the 4th quarter soon, that academic scheduling for our incoming freshman class has been completed, and that college acceptance letters are rolling in!

I would like to thank our community that supported our budget. With its passing we can move forward with our plans to create a safer and more aesthetically pleasing and welcoming school entrance. In a safety letter that was mailed out last week I outlined our responses following a Critical Response review with members from the Agency of Education, as well as outlining some ongoing and upcoming actions to improve the overall safety and well-being for all.

In the classroom our 9th grade students prepared for and took the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium test for English Language Arts. The state mandated test, new to 9th graders this year, will be given before the April break in math. Also new this year will be the VTSA, Vermont Science Assessment, test for our juniors which will replace the science NECAPS.

Outside of the classroom a majority of our high school teacher in-service was dedicated to our transitioning to proficiency based learning. Many of our school documents are being revised to reflect these changes which include committee feedback and direct teacher input given during the in-service. On Thursday, April 5th at 6:30 we will be holding a PBL Informational night here at the high school.

And in office, on the front desk, sit two trophies earned by our girls and boys basketball teams as Marble Valley League champions. For the first time in FHUHS history we sent both teams to the finals in Barre, and on Monday, March 20th the boys would be crowned Div II State Champions.

**Job Descriptions:**

- a) **School Counselor:** Toni Lobdell made a motion to approve the grant, this was seconded by Tara Buxton; motion carried by the full Board.

**Board Retreat:** After some discussion the Board agreed to hold a Board Retreat on Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 9-1:00, with potential for a potluck breakfast. Agenda to be developed. Brooke suggested one topic be: Board explore their ideas and funding for Summer programming for the following fiscal year, as there have not yet been set aside.

**Other Business:** Amy Munger asked for an update as to what had been planned as opportunities for summer programming for the Slate Valley Modified Unified School District children. Discussion ensued. The Administrative Team can put together a list of the opportunities in all communities for this year so that it might make information easier for families to find and access.

There was also discussion and clarification about what it will take each school to come up to speed with regard to E-911. For some schools compliance may be cost prohibitive. For example for OVS and BVS this may not be affordable with the current phone services. Fair Haven Union High School will be compliant once April break is completed. The costs associated with the FHUHS conversion is about \$29,000.00. It is expected to be about \$23,000.00 for CES and around \$15,000.00 for CVS. FHGS is already compliant with this as they had set aside money before for this project.

**Agenda Building:**

1. Warn new Policies and Adopt Policies F-34 Idling of Bus, C-37 School Entrance Age and C-38 Extended School Year
2. Parent Advisory Updates
3. Student Presentation from FHUHS
4. Additional Job Descriptions
5. Others to be determined...
6. Future Agenda of 4/23/18 to include the RFP for Banking Services

**Executive Session - If Needed:** None

**Adjournment:** Toni Lobdell made a motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m., seconded by Peter Stone; motion carried by full Board.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bonnie Lenihan