

SLATE VALLEY MODIFIED UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL BOARD**Regular Meeting****April 23, 2018****Castleton Elementary 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	Benson	X
David Renninger	Board Member	Benson	X
Amy Munger	Board Member	Benson	X
Toni Lobdell	Board Member	Castleton	X
Liz Mackay	Board Member	Castleton	X
Julie Finnegan	Board Member	Castleton	X
Shannon Baldwin	Board Member	Hubbardton	X
Joshua Hardt	Board Member	Hubbardton	No
Mike Fallis	Board Member	Hubbardton	X
John Oakman	Board Member	West Haven 9/11/17	NO
Angela Charron	Board Member	West Haven	No
Michael (Trevor) Ezzo	Board Member	West Haven	X
Tara Buxton	Board Member	Fair Haven	X
Michael Bache	Board Member	Fair Haven	No
Rick Wilson, Sr.	Board Member	Fair Haven	X
Peter Stone	Board Member	Orwell NMD (Non Member District)	No
Glen Cousineau	Board Member	Orwell NMD	X
Dave Carpenter	Board Member	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	ARSU	X

Audience Attending: Linda Peltier; Jason Rasco, Kim Prehoda, Deb Smith, Skip Cooke, Kathleen Kilbourne, Kim Lucci, Randi Ray, Bonnie Condit; Parents: Jeff and Jodi Hayes, Madison Hayes, Jon Tiburske, Nicole Wilkins, Heather Fowler, Bill Fowler, Nedra Boutwell

Call to Order- 6:30 p.m. and Pledge of Allegiance: Glen Cousineau called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. Glen led the SVMUUSD Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: Julie Finnegan made motion to approve the agenda; Rick Wilson seconded the motion; Motion carried by the full Board.

Approval of Minutes - April 9, 2018: Toni Lobdell made a motion to approve minutes with the correction of Adjournment as noted. This was seconded by Julie Finnegan; motion carried by full Board.

Student Presentation: Linda Peltier, CVS Principal gave an introduction of the #D Team and the fact it was Mr. Kelson's Jump group that worked on this as part of their enrichment program. Staff and Students were introduced. CVS Students are here to present on their trip to Montpelier where they won first place in the 3D Vermont Competition Middle School Division. They brought a presentation and replicas of a couple Castleton's most historic buildings, the Hope House and the Cobbler Shop. The students are led by Lisa Cacciatore and Trevor Kelson. The students involved in this team are: Lillian Lynch, Erin Tiburske; Abbey Fowler, Riley Wilkins; Laura Boutwell; Cooper Spaulding, Brennan Hayes; Noah Beayon. Job well done!

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

- a) **Finance:** No meetings since last meeting.
- b) **Personnel:** Brooke presented two Letters of Intent; Justin Merrill for FHGS ELA Middle School Teacher at a rate of \$40,797.00; Mary Quinn for FHGS Grade 2 Classroom Teacher. \$42,308.00. A contract was offered to Kate Leathe to be hired as .5 Dean of Students for FHUHS/.5 PBL Coach for a salary of \$63,000.00. Kate had also asked for a leave of absence from her current position at FHUHS. Julie Finnegan made a motion to approve the Letters of Intent as presented, this was seconded by Toni Lobdell; Motion carried by full Board. Julie Finnegan made a motion to accept Kate Leathe's request for leave from her current position at FHUHS; this was seconded Toni Lobdell and Motion carried by full Board.
- c) **Policies to Adopt**
 - **Policy C37 - School Entrance Age**
 - **Policy C38 - Extended School Year**
 - **Policy F34 - Idling of Buses**
 - **Policies to Warn:**
 - **C36-Concussion**
 - **C39-Transition of Toddlers with Disabilities to Preschool**
 - **C40-Transporting Students to and From Co-Curricular**
 - **C41-Independent Educational /evaluations**
 - **C42-Interview of Students By Outside Agencies**Julie Finnegan made a motion to adopt Policies C37, C38, and F34 as listed and to Warn Policies C36, C39, C40, C41 and C42 as listed; this was seconded by Shannon Baldwin; Motion was carried by full Board.
- d) **Building and Grounds:** Trevor Ezzo gave a brief update on the last Building and Grounds. He discussed General Safety Issues and what was being addressed, the Security Audit, E911, Swipe Card System Installation.
- e) **Negotiations:** No meetings since last SVMUUSD; there are some meetings scheduled later this week.

Principal's Reports:

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

Thanks to Vermont singer/songwriter Jon Gailmor for sharing his time and expertise with our students the week before April break. Our April character trait is *perseverance*, so he worked with students and they wrote songs with the theme of perseverance. He was able to leave the recorded songs behind; it was so awesome!

Thanks to those who attended our first Parent Advisory Group in April. We had a rich discussion about the new Slate Valley Unified District and what it means for Benson. Check the BVS school calendar for the month of May as we will post there when we schedule our next meeting.

May 24th will be a busy day at BVS! At 2 pm we will be having our annual Memorial Day Ceremony to honor Veterans. Then, at 6 pm we will have our annual Career & Arts Night. Both of these events are special in their own way, and we hope to see everyone at both!

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

While the weather outside looks more like winter, spring has sprung at CVS! Our students are very busy engaging in their classes, joining in some self-selected activities, and some are preparing for transition. In Research class, taught by Mr. Guy Merolle, students studied maple trees in Vermont. Using the trees behind the school students tapped a variety of maple trees, including silver maple and sugar maple. They boiled the sap and used a double blind test to see if people preferred sugar or silver maple syrup. We are awaiting the results of this experiment. Congratulations to our 3-D Vermont first place winners! Their research on the Hope House and the Cobbler's shop in Castleton was excellent! A great project based learning experience of authentic learning. The eighth graders have begun working on their self-selected personalized research project. The topics are as diverse as our students! I know of topics that include history of baseball, architecture, horse management, and nutrition. We all look forward to these presentations.

Softball and baseball teams have begun their practices, mostly inside though. Hopefully the track and field teams can begin soon and be outside! We have preparing for our annual work day at Bomoseen State Park to give back to the environment.

Yes, in spite of the weather, *spring* has sprung at CVS.

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

As you are aware, I have chosen to step down from my leadership position here at CES for next school year. I appreciate the well wishes from my colleagues, families, and the larger community and I want to thank you all for your support as I start on my next adventure (Pinnacle Parenting Resource Center).

We had 2 people attend our first Parent Advisory Meeting, on school safety, despite it being advertised on FB and in our newsletter. We will use our monthly CSO meetings to reach more people on this important topic, and address questions as they arise.

We are SBAC testing now, and will begin F & P reading assessments in May.

We are planning for our PBIS "Big Celebration" on Mon. June 18th....pls feel free to join us as we celebrate another great school year together.

We had 5 Therapy Reading Dogs visit us last week...meaning over 40 children had a chance to read to a dog that week! This program is blossoming and bringing many smiles! Thanks to Murphy (and her owner Linda) for helping us to relax, read, and show gentle touch to our young children!

Please continue to check in with our FB page for upcoming events and the school newsletter for more detailed information.

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

Springtime brings a flurry of activities for students in all grades. Eighth grade students are some of the busiest as they prepare for transition to the high school. They recently visited the high school to experience classes and a daily schedule routine. This is an important experience for them as most have been in the same school for their entire K - 8. Plans for their end of year celebrations including the graduation dance, Boston trip and graduation are also in place now as we have finalized the end of year schedule.

Spring is also assessment season for all grades and schools. We completed the first half of the English Language Arts SBAC prior to vacation break and will finish upon return. We will move into the math SBAC at the end of April and beginning of May. Our students in grades 3 - 8 have worked very hard and show commitment to doing their best. We are also planning for other district assessments that are given to all grades, K - 8, including the spring F+P and the NWEA. Grades 5 and 8 will take the new science SBAC rounding out the year of assessments. The SBAC science assessment is moving from grade 4 to grade 5 starting this year. This is a rigorous time for students. We do spread out the assessments and give students opportunities for breaks as allowed along with celebrations for their hard work.

Our Middle School teachers want to insert a thank you to Casey for immersing them in the Proficiency Based visit at Mt. Abe. There is such value in seeing, asking questions and being part of what is actually happening. Professional development at its best. (Very helpful for the principal too).

The FHGS administration and faculty are working cooperatively with our sister schools to fill vacancies for the 2018-19, school year. We are seeing a number of anticipated staff changes for a variety of reasons including retirement. Their early decisions do help with seeking and finding the best candidates that are a good fit our school. We have found the district effort to be a collaborative experience and an important one as we move into Slate Valley. The benefits from working toward common goals and initiatives are becoming more apparent in all areas.

We eagerly await warmer spring like weather.

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

Before leaving for April break our Student Council busied themselves by meeting with every class to brainstorm with and activate students into using the democratic process in Montpelier. A trip to the capital was suggested but we are also looking into other possibilities, including having reached out to Governor Scott to invite him to visit FHUHS.

A flurry of activities exists within the school, and with spring, comes a renewed intensity. Graduation preparations continue as we prepare to hold the first FHUHS commencement at Castleton University on Thursday, June 14th at 7:00 pm; 8th grade visitors from our sending schools joined us and enjoyed student-led tours while glimpsing life as high schoolers; upon return from break we'll complete our SBAC testing in Math and Science, and then recognize exceptional student commitment in our final awards ceremony of the 2017-2018 school year.

The weather challenges of spring in Vermont did not deter our baseball and softball teams from winning their home openers against our rival Division I neighbors. Field updates and vigilant maintenance by staff provided for some of the best playing conditions we have seen in years. And upon our return from break, mark your calendars for our Spring Pops Concert on Thursday, May 3rd; the Senior Prom on Saturday, May 5th; and, of course, the Slater Invitational on Saturday, May 12.

There was discussion as to whether all 8th graders within ARSU visit the high school. Yes they do. The High School Prep program was also discussed as a 2 week experience for incoming freshman in the summer.

School Security: Chris Cole, Director of Operations gave a brief overview of the amount of security work that took place around the district last week during the vacation week. At FHUHS the new E911 Phone System upgrade was completed, and they are now E911 compliant. Throughout the Supervisory Union they are installing a new swipe card system. Portalettes were rented for the fields at FHUHS.

Other Business:

Rick Wilson asked about the **CIP**, Continuous Improvement Plan, which was explained at the last SVMUUSD Board Meeting. It was explained that this is a plan that is still waiting acceptance from the Agency of Education. This is a program that helps us identify where we expend our grants and identify priorities of the district initiatives.

Parent Advisory Updates: Since the last meeting FHGS had a Parent Advisory Meeting in combination with their PTO. They had 6-8 people in attendance. This was one of the larger turn outs. This was also attended by Board members Angela Charron and Rick Wilson. There was a discussion on Act 46 and its implications, and where we are today as a result of this per Mr. Wilson and Mr. Cooke. This group also had some recommendations for Mr. Cooke in terms of providing additional to parents around Proficiency Based Learning.

Media Requests: Superintendent Farrell mentioned that there have been dozens of requests by National Media both here in US and abroad regarding the attempted shooting at Fair Haven High School and the impending reduction of charges and the release of Jack Sawyer. Superintendent Farrell said there are lots of implications nationally as there are no other cases like this. There have been a couple of media requests that she has accepted and they will be visiting FHUHS this week. CBS will have a crew here on 4/24/18 with Anchorman, Jim Axelrod. This will be pre-recorded and air on Thursday April 26, 2018. Angela McDevitt, NY Student that helped break this case open was interviewed yesterday in NY State. There is also an interview scheduled with the NY Times and on Friday, 4/27 a team from HBO will be here. Superintendent Farrell pointed out that we have been very careful up until this point to not have discussions about the incident with media as we did not want to jeopardize or compromise any on-going legal investigations. With the proposed dropping of the charges, there is nothing left to compromise. Superintendent Farrell felt that we have a very traumatized student and staff population at Fair Haven Union High School. They have had no resolution to the trauma, and for them it is ongoing as they worry about Mr. Sawyer's impending release. Even though we avoided a significant threat and Mr. Sawyer's plans were thwarted, these have been and continue to be traumatized. This case is at the forefront of much new legislation and changes to current laws so that no other schools or other venues have to go through something like this. Superintendent Farrell feels it is our duty to make others aware of the broad strokes that we have taken to ensure our students and faculty are feeling safe and secure.

Agenda Building:

1. Policies to Adopt and Warn
2. FHUHS Student Presentation
3. Personnel Update
4. School Security Update
5. Banking RFP
6. Financial Forecasts
7. Negotiations Update
8. Deed Transfers/Update; Issues with FHGS and FHUHS

Future Discussion to be scheduled to discuss Graduation Forecast; How many Students are graduating and receiving their first, second or third choices, and as a Board Member curious about how well prepared our students are when they are not being accepted for their 1st, 2nd or 3rd choices. Other discussion was about Guidance Follow-up with recent graduates about how well prepared FHUHS has made them feel. Julie Finnegan would like to know What the College and Readiness activities/preparedness are at each grade level at FHUHS.

Executive Session - if Needed: 1. School Security 2. Student Matter 3. Personnel

1. School Security:

Shannon Baldwin made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing School Security at 7:30 p.m., this was seconded by Julie Finnegan. A motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 8:14 p.m. with no action taken.

2. Student Matter:

Julie Finnegan made a motion to re-enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing Student Matters at 8:15 p.m., this was seconded by Toni Lobdell. Toni Lobdell made a motion to come out of Executive session at 8:23 p.m. and this was seconded by Julie Finnegan. The following action was taken. There were two separate Parent requests for the SVMUUSD Board to consider Transfer Requests for 2 children to attend CES, and 1 child to attend Castleton Village School for the upcoming School Year. Julie Finnegan made the motion to approve the two transfer requests as submitted. One request was for two students that will be attending CES in the fall; student ID numbers 11279 and 11415, and the other was for a child to complete 8th grade at Castleton Village School; student ID number 401671. This was seconded by Toni Lobdell; Motion carried by the full Board.

3. Personnel:

Julie Finnegan made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing a Personnel issue at 8:23 p.m., this was seconded by Toni Lobdell. Toni Lobdell made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. with "No Action Taken." Julie Finnegan seconded the motion.

Adjournment: Julie Finnegan made a motion to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. this was seconded by David Renninger.

Next ARSU Board Meeting - May 23, 2018 -BVS - 7:00 p.m.

Next SVMUUSD Meeting - May 14, 2018 -FHUHS - 6:30 p.m.