

Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School District
Regular Meeting
May 21, 2018
Fair Haven Grade School
6:30 p.m.

Approved Minutes

| Name | Role/Term | Town Representing | In Attendance |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Kris Benway | Director of ARSU Special Services | ARSU | X |
| John Wurzbacher | Board Member | Benson | X |
| David Renninger | Board Member | Benson | No |
| Amy Munger | Board Member | Benson | X |
| Toni Lobdell | Board Member | Castleton | X |
| Liz Mackay | Board Member | Castleton | No |
| 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 | X |
| Michael (Trevor) Ezzo | Board Member | West Haven | X |
| Tara Buxton | Board Member | Fair Haven | X |
| Michael Bache | Board Member | Fair Haven | X |
| 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 | X |
| Brooke Olsen Farrell | Superintendent | Slate Valley MUUSD | X |
| Cheryl Scarzello | Director of Finance | ARSU | X |
| Chris Cole | Director of Operations | ARSU | No |
| Casey O'Meara | Director of Curriculum I&A | ARSU | X |

Others in Attendance: Bonnie Condit, Kathleen Kilbourne, Kim Prehoda, Jason Rasco, Deb Smith, Skip Cooke, Teanne McRae, Patty Roberts, Melissa Hoyer, Jenn Chapdelaine, Jim Genier, Paula Genier, Victoria Fenier, Gracianna Stannard, Karyn Stanndard, Nick Carrabino, Kevin Eddy, Joshua D. Traverse, Jr., Bailey Pettis, Lea Pettis, Sharon Travers, Cheyenne Traverse, Amy Roy

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

Approval of Agenda: Julie Finnegan made a motion to approve the agenda with one change, it was recommended to move Executive session after Public Comments, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau.

Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2018: Julie Finnegan made a motion to to approve the minutes of May 14, 2018 with one correction on page 2, salary for Beth Nicholson should read \$1200.00 not \$120000 (decimal was omitted); this was seconded by Toni Lobdell.

Student Presentation - FHGS Students: Skip Cooke, Principal announced two teachers, Teann McCrea and Patty Roberts to talk about the benefits of looping for two years in a row. Both students and teachers perspectives on the positive reasons for looping were shared and there were many examples shared. Settling in at the beginning of the year was more seamless and did not require as much transition time. Conversely some of the negatives associated with looping were shared. Could be a personality conflict, student to student or parent to teacher. Another challenge was that new move in's have a harder time integrating into the established school system. Student work samples were shown.

Next presentation was by Melissa Hoyer, Home School Coordinator and Ms. Chapdelaine, Grade 4 Teacher developed a Kindness Group. This group has taken on a life of its own in 4th grade and has grown into positive role models. Ms. Gracey and Ms. Victoria are two 4th grade students that are discussing the Kindness club; they are role models for Kindergarten students. They do random acts of kindness. The Appreciation Station is open at lunchtime to write a card to those you appreciate. There is also a Kindness Pledge that all students in the group sign. Behaviors were monitored in the 4th grade once the Kindness Group was started. Discipline statistics were shared and this was helpful to changing behaviors in grade 4. This group is also branching out to the community. They are hoping to see this grow schoolwide.

Mr. Eddy and Middle School Presented next to explain the Vermont Stock Market Game. 3 Middle School Students presented (Nick, Josh and Bailey). For the first time Mr. Eddy said they swept first second and third at the State level for Middle School students out of 57 teams statewide. FHGS also had a fourth team that placed in the top 20. Students are engaged in this process for a 10 week period. The top group made over \$12,000.00 in 10 weeks, second and third place both made of \$8,000.00.

The Board asked some questions from Mr. Cooke about looping and what schoolwide data showed. He stated that we will track this over time. We have seen huge gains in the second grade. PBIS is tracking the data from the Kindness team. Once there are three cohorts data will show more benefit.

Public Comment: None

Executive Session-If Needed: Moved in agenda after the Public Comments for purposes of discussing Personnel with Superintendent, Keith Williams and Board. Julie Finnegan made a motion to go into Executive Session for purposes of discussing Personnel at 7:10 p.m., this was seconded by Tara Buxton. Out of Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

a) **Finance:** No update since last week.

b) **Personnel:** Tara Buxton, Chair of the Personnel Committee brought forward a recommendation from the (2) interview committees to the Superintendent to hire Amy Roy as Principal at Benson Village School with a one year contract at a rate of \$75,000.00. Superintendent Farrell, made the recommendation to the Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School Board, Toni Lobdell made a motion to hire Amy Roy as BVS Principal with a one year contract at a rate of \$75,000.00, this was seconded by Julie Finnegan. Motion carried by the full Board.

Superintendent Farrell asked Amy Roy if she would like to say anything, Ms. Roy stated that she would be leaving her position at West Rutland to pursue the Principalship at Benson. She is a Graduate of VMI. She has taught multi-grade level classes at West Rutland. She also said she is looking forward to working in Slate Valley School District and with the Admin Team.

c) **Policies:** Toni Lobdell, Chair of the Policies committee recommended warning 8 new policies tonight. Julie Finnegan made a motion to warn the following policies:

- C9 - Wellness
- C11 Student Freedom of Expression in School-Sponsored Media
- C25 Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students
- C28 Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students
- D1 Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements (PBGRs)
- D21 Educational Support System
- D34 Role of Religion In the Schools/Religious Observances and Symbols
- E1 Title I, Part A, Parental Involvement

This motion was seconded by Angela Charron; Motion carried by full Board.

- d) **Building and Grounds:** have not met since last meeting. Chris Cole, Director of Operations did share that he and Principal Cooke, were meeting tomorrow 5/22 with the Select Board of Fair Haven to talk about swapping easements for the property issues uncovered in the Deed Searches. FHGS would offer permanent easement rights to the ball fields, and in exchange the Select Board would swap permanent easement rights to the paved parking lot behind FHGS.
- e) **Negotiations:** There are meetings coming up on Support Staff Negotiations.

Principal's Reports:

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

It's hard to believe, but I will be leaving Benson Village School at the end of this school year! I have been honored to have served as BVS Principal for the past nine years, but the timing was right to move on. And, I'm just moving down the road! I will be Principal at Castleton Elementary School, so as we move forward as Slate Valley, I'm on the same team!

On May 4th, Mr. Clark took his Teacher Advisory students to volunteer at the Special Olympics. This was a wonderful experience for all those students. Certainly this is a trip we hope to take again!

Our next Parent Advisory Group will meet on June 4th at 8:15 am. On that same day, at 8 am, we have our final Student Acknowledgment Assembly. We thought we might be able to catch some interested parents after the assembly. Won't you join us?

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

*Welcome to Kim Prehoda, the CES Principal for 2018-19. Kim and Kathleen are collaborating currently for a smooth transition. Kim will be joining us at our staff meeting on May 22nd, and meeting CES families at our ice cream social (sponsored by CSO)...May 25th from 6:30- 8:00pm.

*We hosted the "Evening of the Arts" celebration on Wed. May 16, 2018 with families and our larger community. Always a fantastic event to see our students shine!

*We have completed our F & P assessments that measures our student's growth in reading.

*The fifth grade students are continuing the tradition of their weekly visits to STAR BASE in Rutland. We are fortunate to have this STEM opportunity for our 5th graders.

* We had a lovely Mentor Graduation last week with our Castleton University Mentors...congrats to all of the CU graduates as well!

* Please feel free to join us on June 18th for our school wide PBIS Big Celebration.

* Twelve more of our 4th and 5th graders completed a "Down Stream Thinking" workshop with Rick Bjorn, who is the Director of Restorative Justice for Rutland. 24 students have done these goal setting classes this school year.

Castleton Village School, Principal Linda Peltier's report:

At CVS we have been very busy as we approach the end of the school year. The brook trout have been released into our local stream and students are preparing for their annual work day at Bomoseen State Park. In the Research class students have learned about the various invasive plant species that have invaded our local environment. During this fourth annual trip they will remove those plants with the help of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation staff. This is a great opportunity to learn about various careers and to give back to our community as well. They work hard all day and feel good about their contribution to the park. Each Odyssey has been working on the community service hours and the projects are as diverse as one can imagine. Everything from making hats for cancer center, collecting for McDonald house and washing the local police cars! We are proud of the service our students provide. As we approach the summer, now is a good time to look ahead for some enrichment activities for students during the summer. At CVS we have some booklets for some local camps at Stafford Technical Center and the EPIC Program in Rutland. We are encouraging parents to encourage learning throughout the summer. There is a free, week long camp at Castleton University in late June for middle school students we have encouraged parents to consider.

Fair Haven Grade School, Skip Cooke, Principal

May and June are extremely busy months compressed with academics, assessments and end of year activities. We continue to prepare 8th graders for transition to the high school and their years to come. 8th graders visited the Community College of VT and were provided an opportunity to learn about college and career opportunities. On the fun side of things for them, they look forward to their graduation dance on June 8th and graduation June 21st.

Our drama production and concerts are also approaching. The drama production will be June 6, and the young players are very excited about their upcoming performance. The 5 - 8 chorus and bands will perform on June 5, displaying the skill and talent acquired through all their hard work. Jazz Band will perform at our School Report Night scheduled for May 30th. Our Memorial Day program will also be May 30th in the morning.

We have enjoyed and appreciated several visits from the Caring Canines Therapy Dogs. A special thank you to Linda Barker local resident for getting us connected. Linda, club members and their special dogs have read with all our Pre-K, Kindergarten and grade 1 students in the past two months. The students and teachers have been thrilled with this experience.

Our presentation tonight at the board meeting will highlight a unique initiative from each Grade Team at FHGS. Primary will present on the successes of K - 1 Looping, Intermediate will share their Kindness Theme and some Middle School math students on their recent success with the Stock Market challenge.

Busy-Busy!

In addition, Mr. Cook wanted to thanks the PTO members for the wonderful treats they provided to faculty and staff during Teacher Appreciation week.

Fair Haven Union High School, Principal Jason Rasco:

A lot has happened in a week which is the norm at FHUHS especially as we come to the end of another school year.

This week we are finishing up the Vermont Science Assessment, formerly known as the NECAPS, given to our 11th graders. We also finished Advanced Placement testing for those students who chose to take the test. And our final round of MAPS testing, for our 9th & 10th graders, will be completed at the end of the month.

At the writing of this we are preparing for our 2nd Parent PBL Informational meeting at FHUHS at 6:00 on Thursday, May 17th. While our teachers prepare and convert to meet the Proficiency-Based classroom requirements beginning next year, the Proficiency-Based Learning meeting will focus on how we are updating our systems to report out to students, parents, and institutions of higher education and how that will look.

Last week our seniors were given a *mandatory meetings schedule*, a rehearsal, and the Sr. Exam schedule until the end of the year. During this week's Wednesday meeting we discussed the Senior Trip that will occur on Monday, May 21st. We will start the day with a celebratory breakfast hosted by our teachers and then head off to Elfin Lake. The other big topic was our graduation being held at Castleton University and gathering their feedback with regards to some logistics.

Noted upcoming events: Junior Prom, Saturday, May 19th; Honors Awards Night - Tuesday, May 22nd; National Honors Society, Thursday, May 31st.

The exam schedule for Seniors: June 8 - Periods 1&2; June 11 - Periods 3&4; June 12 - Periods 5&6; June 13 - Periods Period 7 & make-ups.

The exam schedule for underclassmen: June 19 - Periods 1&2; June 20 - Periods 3&4; June 21 - Periods 5&6; June 22 - Period 7 & make-ups.

Principal Rasco thanked the Faculty and Staff and the Student Council for the breakfast they prepared and served to the Sr. Class today prior to their leaving on their Sr. Class trip to Elfin Lake today. Mr. Rasco accompanied the class and remarked on the positive experience. Two bus loads of students attended today with nearly 100% participation (82 out of 98 students attended). Glen Cousineau, Board Member noted what a cohesive Senior Class this group is.

Job Descriptions:

- School Counselor: Julie Finnegan made a motion to approve the School Counselor job description, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau; motion carried by full Board.

Contracts: Slate Valley

2018-2019 School Year Contract:

- Amy Roy – Principal (BVS) - \$75,000; Toni Lobdell made a motion to hire Amy Roy as BVS Principal with a one year contract at rate of \$75,000.00; this was seconded by Julie Finnegan. The BVS staff asked Ms. Benway to present Principal Roy with a Benson Village School tee-shirt to welcome her to the Benson School community.

2018-2019 School Year Letters of Intent:

BVS:

- Jeffrey Walker – Middle School Social Studies & Science - \$44,952

FHGS:

- Eileen Lusenskaskas – Grade 4 Teacher - \$43,819

2018-2019 School Year Transfer Requests:

BVS:

- Nicole Gagnon – Transferred from Grade 5 at BVS to School Wide Teacher (50%) at BVS (ARSU)
- Andrea Janny - Transferred from Grade 1-2 at BVS to Elementary Teacher at CES

Resignations:

2017-2018 Resignation/Retirement:

C/H:

- Theodore Panasci – Health/PE – Resigned (6/30/18)

FHGS:

- Abigail Wald – Grade 6-8 ELA Teacher - Leave of Absence (one yr.) – Moved to ARSU PBL Coach

FHUHS:

- Keith Williams – Alternative Classroom Teacher – One Year Leave of Absence (6/30/18)
- Leo Hutchins – Girls Basketball Coach – Resigned (6/30/18)
- Terry Cavacas – In-School Suspension Monitor – Resigned (6/30/18)

Julie Finnegan made a motion to accept the resignations as read into the record; this was seconded by Toni Lobdell; motion carried by the full Board.

Julie Finnegan made a motion to approve the one year leave of absence for Abigail Wald, this was seconded by Angela Charron; motion carried by full Board.

Julie Finnegan made a motion to deny the request by Keith Williams for a one year leave of absence; this was seconded by Mike Fallis; motion carried by full Board.

Other Business: None

Agenda Building:

1. Review of New Hires
2. Committee Reports
3. Contractor Selection of Central Office Contractor

Adjournment: Trevor Ezzo made a motion to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.; this was seconded by Shannon Baldwin.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Lenihan, Minute Taker