

SLATE VALLEY MODIFIED UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL BOARD**Regular Meeting****June 11, 2018****Fair Haven Union High School****6:30 p.m.**

Approved Minutes

Name	Role/Term	Town Representing	In Attendance
Kris Benway	Director of Special Services	ARSU	No
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	No
Julie Finnegan	Board Member	Castleton	X
Shannon Baldwin	Board Member	Hubbardton	X
Joshua Hardt	Board Member	Hubbardton	X
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	No
Michael Bache	Board Chair	Fair Haven	X
Rick Wilson, Sr.	Board Member	Fair Haven	X
Peter Stone	Board Member	Orwell NMD (Non Member District)	X
Glen Cousineau	Board Vice Chair	Orwell NMD	No
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 I&A	ARSU	X

In Attendance: Jason Rasco, Mike Alexander, Skip Cooke, Deb Smith, Peg TV

Pledge of Allegiance and Call to Order: Mike Bache, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. after leading the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: Toni Lobdell made a motion to approve the agenda, this was seconded by Peter Stone; motion carried by the full Board.

Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2018: Toni Lobdell made a motion to approve the minutes with no changes necessary; this was seconded by Julie Finnegan. Motion carried by the full Board.

Public Comments: None

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

- a) **Finance:** No Report
- b) **Personnel:** Shannon Baldwin read into the record the following resignations K-8, and 9-12 and the Contracts/ Letters of Intent K-8 and 9-12.

K-8:

2018-2019 School Year Contracts:

VSAC Summer Transition Camp Contracts FHGS (already signed by Superintendent:

- Kimberly Ezzo - \$25.00/hr. (up to 18 hrs.)
- Michele Poalino - \$25.00/hr. (up to 18 hrs.)
- Justin Merrill - \$25.00/hr. (up to 18 hrs.)
- Judith Folmsbee - \$25.00/hr. (up to 18 hrs.)
- Abigail Wald - \$25.00/hr. – (up to 14 hrs.)
- Erin Welch - \$25.00/hr. (up to 10 hrs.)
- Christopher Stanton - \$25.00/hr. (up to 4 hrs.)

2018-2019 School Year Letters of Intent (already signed by Superintendent:

BVS:

- Jessica Sturtevant – Grade 3-4 - \$37,775
- Pamela Arel – Administrative Assistant - \$13.28/hr. (up to 8 hrs./day for 205 days)

CES:

- Amanda Terry – Grade 4 - \$37,775
- Karen Ward – Administrative Assistant - \$20.00/hr. (up to 8 hrs./day for 210 days)
- Christie Mainart – 70% Health Teacher (CES/BVS) - \$29,616

CVS:

- Eliza LeBrun – Administrative Assistant - \$18.50/hr. (up to 8 hrs./day for 205 days)
- Anna Crumb – English Language Arts Teacher - \$53,074

9-12:

2018-2019 Coaching Contracts FHUHS (already signed by Superintendent):

- Bran Grady – Varsity Football Coach - \$4,400
- Adam Perry – Assistant Varsity Football Coach - \$2,250
- Patrick Szabo – Assistant Varsity Football Coach - \$2,200
- Brad Ravlin – Assistant Varsity Football Coach - \$1,850
- Chris Kiernan – Junior Varsity Football Coach - \$1,750
- Adam Greenlese – Boys Assistant Varsity Soccer Coach - \$1,700
- Ian Aiken – Girls Varsity Soccer Coach - \$3,200
- Trevor Ezzo – Girls Assistant Varsity Soccer Coach - \$1,500
- Jennifer Clement – Girls Varsity Field Hockey Coach - \$2,850
- William Phillips – Varsity Golf Coach - \$1,700
- Joey Williams – Varsity Cheer Coach - \$1,200

Shannon Baldwin made the motion to approve the K-8 Contracts/Letters of Intent. Seconded by Toni Lobdell. Motion Carried.

Shannon Baldwin made the motion to approve the 9-12 Contracts/Letters of Intent. Seconded by Toni Lobdell. Motion Carried.

K-8:

2017-2018 Resignation/Retirement – (Board Needs to Approve):

CH:

- Joan White-Hansen – Enrichment Teacher – Resigned (6/30/18)

FHGS:

- Sarah Humphreys – Grade 3 – Resigned (6/30/18)

9-12:

2017-2018 Resignation/Retirement – (Board Needs to Approve):

FHUHS:

- Keith Williams – Annex Teacher – Resigned (6/30/18)

Shannon Baldwin made the motion to approve the K-8 resignations. Seconded by Toni Lobdell. Motion Carried.

Shannon Baldwin made the motion to approve the 9-12 resignations. Seconded by Toni Lobdell. Motion Carried.

c) Policies to Adopt: Toni Lobdell, Chair or Policy Committee presented the following Policies to Adopt:

- I. Policy C9 - Wellness
- li. Policy C11 - Student Freedom of Expression in School-Sponsored Media
- lii. Policy C25 - Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students
- lv. Policy C28 - Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students
- V. Policy D1 - Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements
- Vi. Policy D21 - Educational Support System
- Vii. Policy D34 - Role of Religion in Schools Religious Observations and Symbols
- Viii. Policy E1 - Title I Parental Involvement Compacts

Julie Finnegan made a motion to adopt the policies as read into the minutes by Ms. Lobdell; this was seconded by Peter Stone. Motion carried by the full Board.

d) Building and Grounds: No meeting until 6/12/18 (tomorrow evening).

e) Negotiations: Negotiations are moving forward for Teacher Negotiations and Support Personnel

f) Parent Advisories: There has been very little turn-out at each school's organized Parent Advisory meeting.

There were several suggestions on how to improve this for the upcoming year. One was to keep combining it with the building level PTO or CSO meetings as parents are already out for this.

Central Office Reports:

Superintendent's Report

Act 46- On Friday, June 1st the Acting Secretary of Education released her recommendation for mergers to the State Board. She is recommending that Orwell School District mergers with the Slate Valley MUUSD to create Slate Valley Unified Union School District, thus dissolving the Supervisory Union. There will be a public hearing at the State Board to discuss this recommendation. The State Board will release the final plan on November 30, 2018. The State Board decision will become effective on July 1, 2019.

Transfers/New Hires- The merger has brought with it many opportunities for the staff and students of Slate Valley. One of those has been the option for staff to request transfers to other buildings or in some cases to be transferred based on the unique needs of students. In addition, in some of our schools the merger has afforded individuals with job protection. For example, traditionally when Special Education needs decrease in a school an instructional assistant may find themselves reduced in force. Due to the merger we are now able to re-assign them to another school within Slate Valley depending on the need. This allows us to keep our employees employed within the district.

We have had numerous staff openings across the Supervisory Union this year. We have had several staff members from Fair Haven Grade School and Benson request transfers to other buildings within the districts primarily due to personal reasons or specific grade level openings. When this occurs we try and honor the requests to the extent possible. We always look at background and fit for the school. We value all of our employees and as such would like them to stay within ARSU/SV rather than look for opportunities elsewhere.

Director of Special Services

Special services has been busy working to fill the open positions that we have for the fall in special education, early childhood special education, physical therapy, and speech and language pathology. We also have several instructional assistant positions available throughout the supervisory union. Please spread the word!

Our early childhood screenings have been completed and invitations have been extended for open houses at each of our Universal Preschool sites in the district. We are pleased that we are able to accept all those from our supervisory union that have requested space in our school-based programs. We anticipate having at least 80 universal preschool students enrolled in our schools next year with additional students served through our community based preschool partnership programs.

This week our school based clinicians and some guidance counselors will begin day one of a three-day training sponsored by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) on comprehensive safety and crisis planning using the PREPaRE curriculum. PREPaRE training is ideal for schools committed to improving and strengthening their school safety and crisis management plans and emergency response. The staff participating will gain a better understanding of the organization and function of a comprehensive safety and crisis team and gain the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the mental health needs of students and staff in the aftermath of a crisis.

On behalf of FHUHS/ARSU, I would also like to acknowledge and extend gratitude to the Caring Canines of SW Vermont who have been visiting the high school weekly for the last two months. The therapy dogs (and their handlers) have been a welcome addition each Wednesday during INQUIRY. The students and staff have asked that we make arrangements for the continuation of these visits for the fall.

Director of Operations

As we move closer to the end of the school year the maintenance and technology staff are getting ready for a busy summer ahead. There will be many large projects including the Central Office renovation, electrical service replacement at the Castleton Elementary School and the replacement of Chromebooks throughout the Supervisory Union. There has been a lot of planning and effort put forth by all of the staff in this process and working towards merging into the Slate Valley Unified Union School District.

Director of Finance

I will be bringing to the board meeting a Tax Anticipation Line of Credit with People's United Bank for the 2018-2019 school year in the amount of \$2,000,000 which bears an interest rate of 2.60%. The line of credit is different from the note that districts have had in previous years. The note was taken out at the beginning of the term and the district earned interest on the deposit greater than what was being charged on the note. The bank is no longer offering tax anticipation notes to school districts. The line of credit is non-revolving, which means the individual advances taken over the term cannot exceed the total dollar amount of the line. With the line of credit, draws will be made as necessary to meet cash flow needs of the district. The initial interest rate on the SV sweep account will be 1.40%. It is tied to the Federal Funds Target Rate which is anticipated to increase during the rest of 2018. The Business Office continues to spend a great deal of time on issues related to our transition from Future Planning Associates to DataPath for third party administration services related to health spending accounts. It will likely be some time until we get through problems created by Future Planning Associates administration of the accounts. I anticipate the issues will lessen with DataPath, but I also realize that we need to do far more to help our staff understand the benefit and manage their health insurance. Due to the design of the previous VEHI plans employees really did not have to think much about their health care choices.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

On May 17th at 6:00 pm Fair Haven Union High School (FHUHS) Principal Jason Rasco and I reviewed the philosophy supporting ARSU's shift to personalized proficiency-based learning and reporting. We shared the parent/student view of PowerSchool, and a draft FHUHS transcript. This was the final PBL Informational Night for the 2017-2018 school year. More PBL informational events will be hosted during the 2018-2019 school year. Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers and sixth-eighth grade content area teachers met for a full day of curriculum work in May. Additionally, K-12 librarians, world language, music, art, physical education and health teachers also met in May and June. The common objectives for these professional development days included: recognition of proficiencies, performance indicators and learning targets, alignment of PowerSchool to report cards, and review of grade level/content area rubrics.

A group of teachers organized a visit during their grade level meeting to Shelburne Community School to see personalized proficiency-based learning in action. This brought the total number of ARSU teachers to experience PBL first hand in 2018 to 16. There were 5 high school teachers and 11 middle school educators who visited schools facilitating PBL between March and May. Three administrators have also accompanied me on these PBL visits including: Principals Jason Rasco, Skip Cooke and FHUHS's Special Education Director Deb Robinson. To support ARSU next year, 1.5 PBL coaching positions were created to work with teachers in the middle grades and high school (Abby Wald and Kate Leathe).

Thirty-two K-8 educators and four administrators will attend The University of Vermont's [The BEST Institute](#) from June 25th-27th. The BEST Institute aims to support teachers in strengthening schools and their communities to better anticipate and respond to the needs of students who are at risk of, or who experience, emotional and behavioral challenges. There is a team from Benson, Castleton, Orwell and Fair Haven Grade school participating in BEST.

On June 27th twelve K-5 teachers will complete the Stern Center's [T.I.M.E. for Teachers Language and Learning](#) Literacy course at Fair Haven Grade School. This course focused on increasing teacher expertise in early literacy instruction. The course met from April 11th through June 27th.

ARSU individuals, or team of teachers, will propose work plans for June 25th-27th. The work is being broadly defined as *working groups targeted to implement PBL in ARSU*. Work will focus on individual and/or collaborative projects targeted at improving teaching and learning in ARSU.

FHUHS will complete the following two activities for the courses they will teach next school year.

- [Building up to Summative Assessments with Formative Assessment](#)
- [Performance Indicator Breakdown Tool](#)

Teachers from: Benson, Orwell, Castleton Elementary School, Castleton Village School and Fair Haven Grade School will work on items from the options below:

- Review/Revise/Develop Scoring Rubrics for ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies
- Review/Revise Pacing Guides/Benchmarking Tools for ELA, Math
- Revise content area curriculum
- Match proficiencies and performance indicators to Report Card
- Complete [Eureka Math Planning Tools](#) for your grade level
- [Building up to Summative Assessments with Formative Assessment](#)
- Cross grade level/building based team meetings

Teacher Professional Development (PD) proposals are approved by building administrators or direct supervisors. Applications articulate how the work contributes to the advancement of teaching and learning in ARSU. This approach to the end of the school year PD provides a personalized differentiated approach to professional learning.

SRO Contract: The SRO Contract is due for renewal. Toni Lobdell made a motion to continue the contract with the Fair Haven Police Department; this was seconded by Josh Hardt/Peter Stone. Motion was carried by full Board.

Tax Anticipation Line of Credit - Action: Cheryl Scarzello, Director of Finance shared the need to secure a line of credit and to gain the Board's approval to obtain a \$2,400,000.00 line of credit at 2.5% interest rate for the upcoming year with People's Trust. Cheryl explained why the Bank recommended the Line of Credit versus a note. Julie Finnegan made a motion to approve SVMUUSD to take out a \$2,400,000.00 line of credit. This was seconded by Peter Stone. Motion carried by full Board.

Program of Studies: Jason Rasco, Principal and Mike Alexander, Director of Guidance, shared that the Program of Studies had been sent to Board members to view electronically. They took questions from Board members. Several Board Members asked clarifying questions or offered suggestions to further clarify the information in the Program of Studies.

FHUHS Yearbook Club: Principal Rasco made a recommendation to move the Yearbook Class back to a club status going forward for the 2018-2019 School Year. It had formerly been a club. Jason saw this as a new opportunity. Shannon Baldwin made a motion to return Yearbook to Club status versus a class. This was seconded by Julie Finnegan. Motion carried by full Board.

Other Business: Brooke referred to her Central Office report and the message received from the Secretary of Education. The Secretary said that after examining all information and listening to the evidence she is recommending that Orwell join Slate Valley School District. Once this happens our name would change to Slate Valley Unified Union School District (losing the Modified part of our name). That would become effective no later than July 1, 2019. There will be three additional community forums scheduled around the state where townspeople can go and offer additional evidence for the State Board of Education to try and change their mind about the merger. The final recommendation will come by November 30, 2018. It is likely that the Orwell Merger will be either on an August Agenda in Montpelier or the September agenda at Green Mountain H.S. in Chester. More information to come once we know when Orwell is placed on the agenda.

Brooke Olsen-Farrell and Chris Cole explained one idea on improving efficiencies of Central Office staff. They are offering to purchase chromebooks for all board members in lieu of copying each month the hard copy of the Board packets and the multiple pages of documentation that accompanies this board packet or agenda. This would be quite a cost savings over time and would cut down on the man power by many hours that it takes to prepare each board and committee packet. The Board was in agreement to move forward with this purchase. Only two Board member denied needing a chromebook as they already have personal devices that they use.

Board Members were also encouraged to submit a picture so that ID Badges could be made for each of them to have access to the individual school buildings through our new swipe system. These badges would be preloaded to provide access to schools by Board Members Mon-Fri. From 4 pm-9pm.

It was suggested that we consider having a student or student reps on the SVMUUSD Board meeting. We will explore and start this for next school year. Some students may also have been nominated from FHUHS.

Agenda Building:

1. A Contractor should be recommended at next meeting to start the Central Office Renovation project.
2. New Hires will be presented.
3. New Policies to Adopt and some to Warn will be presented.
4. Updates from the Other Committees.
5. Negotiations Update
6. On July 23, 2018, there will be an SVMUUSD Board Meeting
7. Graduation Celebrations begin this week for FHUHS, and the other schools graduations are held M-Thursday next week.

Executive Session - if Needed:

1. Toni Lobdell made a motion at 7:20 p.m. to go into Executive Session for purposes of discussing a student matter; this was seconded by Peter Stone. Julie Finnegan made a motion to come out of the first executive session at 7:34 p.m., this was seconded by Toni Lobdell. Julie Finnegan made the motion to approve the requests of student 401749 to remain at Castleton for the School Year of 2018-2019.
2. Peter Stone made a motion to return to Executive Session at 7:34 p.m. for the purposes of discussion of Negotiations, this was seconded by Toni Lobdell. David Renninger made a motion to come out of Executive session at 8:00 p.m. with no action taken; this was seconded by Peter Stone.

Adjournment:

Trevor Ezzo made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 p.m., this was seconded by Josh Hardt.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie J. Lenihan

Next SVMUUSD Board Meeting - June 25, 2018 - CVS -6:30 p.m.