

Slate Valley Modified Unified Union School District  
Innovation Steering Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, November 27, 2018  
Fair Haven Union High School  
ARSU Conference Room  
5:30 PM

Approved Minutes

**Attending:** Peter Clarke, Consultant; Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Superintendent; Chris Cole, Director of Operations; Casey O'Meara, Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction; Mark Grossarth, Parent CES; Angela Charron, Board Member; Mike Bache, Board Chair; Linda Peltier, CVS Principal; Josh Hardt, Board Member; Cheryl Scarzello, Director of Finance; Amy Munger, Board Member; Eddie Wilkin, FHUHS Music Choral/Band Director; Walter Ripley, Technology Consultant; Julie Finnegan, Board Member; Rick Wilson, Board Member; Jillian Towle, Parent, Bonnie Lenihan, Director of Special Education Castleton/Hubbardton Schools/Minute Taker

**Call to Order:** Brooke Olsen-Farrell called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** Julie Finnegan made a motion to approve the agenda and this was seconded by Josh Hardt. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes ~ November 6, 2018:** Josh Hardt made a motion to approve the minutes of November 6, 2018, this was seconded by Linda Peltier; there were 2 abstentions; motion carried.

**New Business:**

Since we had a few new members join us this evening, Peter Clarke, Consultant reviewed the goals and the Scope of the Project and the Design Elements. There are 5 main goals of the Innovation Project:

Goal 1 To develop a regional Middle School that would consist of approximately 200 grade 7 & 8 students; location likely to be on the property of FHUHS either within the building though in a separate entrance; or on the property in a separate location. As the committees have met several times it seems like we are moving to incorporating GR 7 & 8 within the FHUHS existing building with its own entrance and separate features. This is due in large part to the fact that FHUHS, even with the addition of the ARSU office relocation is currently only utilizing about 50% of its capacity, so there is more than enough room to add 200 students to this building. Additional goals considered further developing a collaboration with other local entities such as Castleton University. Another goal of the committee was to renovate and update current structures to ensure safe, secure healthy building where students and families can be proud of or that provide the same opportunities for all. Another goal talked about increasing experiential learning, including more STEM learning opportunities, develop 21st century schools and plan for and design schools that could effectively support community use in the evening or off hours, perhaps for adult learning opportunities, etc. Lastly a major goal is to fix all the deferred maintenance within all the schools of the district.

He explained that the selected architect was John H from Black River Design. Black River Design was the architect that just completed the ARSU Renovation at FHUHS. He explained that we also want to address the needs Pre-K through grade 6 and our existing buildings. There are 3 committees working in tandem, this Steering Committee, a committee made up of Elementary Administration and staff and a Middle/High School Committee. Each committee is working to develop their ideal Educational Specifications for each of their levels based on what they would like to see their educational environments look like in light of all the changes in our Education System, taking into account Act 77 and the Student Agency Model. The goal would be to have these committees identify the Educational Specifications for each of their levels and have ready to present to the architect by December break 2018.

If this happens, the architect would then take this information, turn it into drawings and a budget of projected building costs. This information would then allow us to think about what we would need to ask for in a Bond to see this work through. Ideally they would like to have a Bond ready for Vote this spring 2019. If this were to pass the hope is (extremely aggressive timeline) to have these renovations completed for the fall of 2021.

Peter had Chris Cole, Director of Operations take the Steering Committee on a tour of FHUHS to help us understand the needs of this building and its older infrastructure as well as to look at the potential of space that could be utilized for a Unified Middle School. As mentioned before with moving the Middle School students to this new location additional rooms would be freed up at other existing schools, thus the need for the Elementary Innovation Committee to dream about what they would like to see changed in their schools to meet the changing needs of our current educational system.

Cheryl Scarzello clarified that the Bond Bank does not have to be strictly 30 years there is wiggle room depending on the scope of different projects.

Chris Cole pointed out that some items at each building need immediate attention, and those items could not wait to be paid for out of a bond.

Peter reviewed with the Steering Committee SVMUUSD's Educational Mission, Vision plans and how this project had to keep these elements at the forefront of our planning; he also tied in the need to consider furthering the key initiatives of the district such as the Proficiency-Based Systems of Teaching and Learning, Personalized Learning Plans, Flexible Pathways, R.E.A.L - Linked to Life learning opportunities, Student Centered Instruction in the Classrooms. Above all we want buildings and programs that promote student engagement and excitement for learning.

Peter again stressed that the major goals of this project are to make buildings safer, secure, well lit and ventilated, healthy places to work. Places that the community can access and be proud of, places that might attract other students. Overall we want this project to create greater educational opportunities for all students. Peter asks us to think about the following: "What kind of facilities do we need to achieve the educational, programmatic, and instructional goals of this district?"

The Steering Committee of the Innovation Project with the help of Walter Ripley, developed a survey to put out to the general community, staff, students and parents for their input in the project. To date we have received about 250 results. We reviewed these results and the major comments. The survey results were very supportive of the identified goal/scope and design principles which were developed by the three committees.

Brooke Olsen-Farrell shared that the students from the Annex at FHUHS have agreed to record different video snippets to further inform community about the possibilities of the Innovation Project. She was appreciative to the students for this willingness.

**Adjourn:** Josh Hardt made a motion to adjourn at 7:24 p.m., this was seconded by Angela Charron

Next Slate Valley Innovation Committee Mtg - Dec. 19, 2018 - FHUHS ARSU Conf. Room 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bonnie Lenihan