

Slate Valley Unified Union School District
Innovation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
Fair Haven Union High School
ARSU Conference Room
5:30 PM

Approved Minutes

Attending: Peter Clarke, Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Casey O'Meara, Jason Rasco, Chris Cole, Walter Ripley, Linda Peltier, Julie Finnegan, Amy Munger, Angela Charron, Rick Wilson, Mark Grossarth, Tim Smith, Peter Stone, Mike Bache, Cheryl Scarzello and Abby Wald (Minute taker)

Call to Order: Brooke Olsen-Farrell called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Angela Charron, Amy Munger seconded.

Approval of Minutes - March 13, 2019: Motion made by Angela Charron. Amy Munger seconded.
Discussion. Jason Rasco wanted to note that he was present at the meeting. New motion to approve with correction made by Linda Peltier. Amy Munger seconded
Correction: Jason Rasco was in attendance

New Business:

- a. Feedback/Reflection on the Board Presentation (March 25, 2019)
 - Suggestion to add a slide with members of the committee and the timeline (both retroactive and upcoming, preferably separate). Peter Clarke began this while we discussed. Slide after committee members could include committee work to date as retroactive.
 - Suggestion to add point about building community at the middle level and its potential impact on reducing the exodus of students at the high school level (numbers of our students leave for Stafford, early college, and school choice). Perhaps this could be a bullet point on the rationale slide.
 - Angela pointed out that our slide show is laden with educational terminology and may not be very accessible to many in our audience. The presenter will need to make sure the presentation is clear to all. Home mailings, especially, should be reviewed with a careful eye to understandability.
 - Peter Clarke updated the slide show during the meeting
 - Peter Clarke suggested adding more about the instructional goals of the new middle school. This was done.
 - Discussion about definition and explanation of a "pod" and suggestion to add some images to explain what it means. Peter Clarke took the word pod out of the slide, to avoid confusion.
 - Julie asked about the time frame from passing a bond to beginning to actually put a plan in place. If we put the bond out in September, the process won't be able to begin until March at the earliest. Varied completion dates for different parts of the project.
 - Brooke asked that the final slide show be sent to the committee for review
 - Peter Clarke suggested we have a slide show rolling as people coming in that showcases innovative middle schools.
- b. Planning: Community Engagement on Education Specifications
 - Plan for Parent and Citizen Forums
 - Dates: April 10, 2019 at the high school and April 22 at Orwell
 - Updates to slide presentation - see above

- Parent advisory meetings building-based TBA
 - Angela expressed concern that the message might not be the same if multiple meetings are held in a single night, led by different presenters. -Amy strongly encouraged multiple board members attend each one.
 - Question raised by Brooke about doing the meetings on different nights so that the message can be more standardized.
 - Julie shared that Castleton voters didn't understand the Orwell voters during the Act 46 time, and that isolated meetings may continue this misunderstanding. She suggested it would be better to bring all voices together to hear each other's concerns. The more we can integrate communities, the better.
 - Child care and food may be a big pull
 - Maybe do fewer meetings (Such as one at Orwell and one FHUHS)
 - Jason suggested we do a Go to Meeting or other way to have the same information in satellite sites
 - Later discussion led to leaving the principals in charge of adding this issue to their building-based, regular meetings.
- Citizen Outreach/Input
 - Once the architect's plans are set and the cost is more understood, people in the community will come out.
- Presentations to staff and students
 - Brooke spoke with principals and they suggested a synopsis be shared with staff along with a survey about the specifications.
 - Peter cautioned about the community combining the issues of the loss of teachers due to enrollment and the refocusing of staff due to middle school creation.
- Presentations to community service organizations - Rotary, Lions, Community Center, Senior Housing, Booster Club
 - Postpone until drawings are available and costs are more clear
- Segment on cable TV
 - PegTV comes to board meetings, so they can also film during the forum
- Mailing that summarizes talking points from slides
 - Need this prior to the information meetings, in brief
 - Second mailing will happen after the drawings and costs are set
- Survey 2
 - Table this, but if you do it, Peter Clarke suggests adding a question about whether or not the respondent attended a forum. This will allow us to see if our information has been clearly received.
- Student video
 - Skip this

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Rick Wilson, seconded by Peter Stone at 7:17 pm.

Next Slate Valley Innovation Committee Mtg. - April 10, 2019 - 5:30 pm, with community forum to follow at 6:30 p.m. Julie volunteered to present as Board Chair, and suggested Casey could be volunteered to explain the curricular aspects, and Josh Burlette (new Communications Director) could explain how this helps us shape our community. May 1st, 2019 - 5:30 pm.