

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Meeting
September 3, 2019
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	X
Pati Beaumont	Board Member	Benson	-
Rebeckah St. Peter	Board Member	Benson (Appointed 4/8/19)	X
Amy Munger	Board Member	Benson	X
Toni Lobdell	Board Member	Castleton	X
Tim Smith	Board Member	Castleton	X
Julie Finnegan	Board Chair	Castleton--Board Chair	X
Vacant	Board Member	Hubbardton	-
Joshua Hardt	Board Member	Hubbardton	-
Vacant	Board Member	Hubbardton	-
Vacant	Board Member	West Haven 9/11/17	-
Angela Charron	Board Member	West Haven	X
Michael (Trevor) Ezzo	Board Member	West Haven	-
Tara Buxton	Board Member	Fair Haven	X
Mike Bache	Board Member	Fair Haven (Appointed 4//8/19)	X
Rick Wilson	Board Member	Fair Haven	X
Peter Stone	Board Member	Orwell NMD (Non Member District)	X
Glen Cousineau	Board Vice Chair	Orwell NMD -- Vice Chair	X
Dave Carpenter	Board Member	Orwell NMD	-
Brooke Olsen Farrell	Superintendent	Slate Valley UUSD	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

Audience Attending: Amy Roy, Patrick Walters, Jason Rasco, Deborah Infurna, Kim Prehoda

Pledge of Allegiance: Julie Finnegan, Board Chair led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order - 6:30 p.m.: Julie Finnegan, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Toni Lobdel made a motion to approve the agenda with no changes, Angela Charron seconded the motion. Motion carried by all.

Approval of SVUUSD Minutes - August 12, 2019: Toni Lobdel made a motion to approve the minutes of August 12, 2019 with no changes, Angela Charron seconded the motion. Motion carried by all.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

- Building and Grounds Committee: Building and Grounds met this evening prior to the Board meeting. Peter Stone gave an overview of the major work projects that had been completed in each building over the summer. The scope of work included the following, (though is not a complete list); Compressors on the freezers were replaced at FHGS and FHUHS. The entryways at CES, FHGS, FHUHS, and OVS were replaced. BVS will be completed this fall. There were over 6,000 square feet of tile laid at FHUHS on the first floor. There were new lockers installed at FHUHS. There was a new sealing and striking at FHUHS, as well as installation of speed bumps. New driving pattern was implemented at FHUHS, where cars enter from Pine Street and buses enter and exit from Mechanic Street. This has made it a much safer environment. New phone system was installed throughout Slate Valley and this has given all the ability to be 911 compliant. New security upgrades to all buildings were completed. Additional cameras were installed.
- Policy Committee: The Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Peter Stone made a motion to warn the following policies: C40-Transportation to and from Co-Curricular Activities, D30-Field Trips, C44-Animals in Schools; C35-School Threat Assessment, this was seconded by Angela Charron. Motion Carried. The others were reviewed and will be brought back to the next policy meeting with suggested revisions.

Project Vision Survey: Brooke noted that at the last Board Meeting we had a presentation on Project Vision. Brooke and Kris Benway were notified this week that we were accepted into the project for this year. This survey will also be at no cost to our district this year. The survey will need to be completed every two years. The fee was waived for us, which is about \$5,000.00. Kris Benway noted the survey would be done in November, and also mentioned that Nicole Rice, our new Home School Liaison could assist with this. Julie Finnegan mentioned that she attended the recent local training on Project Vision and said that we will receive the data from the survey in November and that in December the team from Project Vision in Iceland would make a trip. Every school would benefit from this. Mike Bache, made a motion to support participation in the Project Vision Survey, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Discussion ensued. Someone asked if we would have to budget for this in future years. Yes we would but there are also grant monies that support this project and they could be applied for to offset the costs. The Board was again reminded that this is a Community based initiative, not a school one. Motion carried by full Board.

Wellness Policy Report: Brooke reminded the Board that we must submit and Annual Wellness Policy Report of our compliance. Brooke mentioned that the report was in our Board packet and that we were found to be in compliance. Two years ago we were not found to be in compliance in all areas. We have made significant progress across the whole SU in terms of the Wellness plan. We now have Elementary Health Schools across all schools.

Principals Reports:

Slate Valley Unified Union School District Principal's Report

August 26, 2019

Benson Village School
Castleton Elementary School
Castleton Village School
Fair Haven Grade School
Fair Haven Union High School
Orwell Village School

The Slate Valley Principals, working closely with the entire administrative team, are focusing on those behaviors and strategies which are correlated to significantly higher levels of student achievement. The rubric below will be used as a guide to these "Best Instructional Practices", which are like vehicles used by our teachers to efficiently move students forward in their learning.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Teach/Model/Demonstrate</u> (Teacher Work)</p> <p>How are you going to present the content/skills so that it meets the needs of all students? Is the information represented in different ways? For example, offering audio and visual options, utilizing guided notes and graphic organizers during a lecture/review, or having several books that represent different reading and understanding levels of all students.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Guided Practice (Student Work)</u> Do it, think about it, talk/write about it</p> <p>How are you going to provide multiple pathways for students to actually learn the material presented? How will you engage all learners? Embracing student interests in the classroom, investigative learning, active/mental/physical engagement by students to make real learning happen. Are choices given to students for how they can do their work? Options may include: working independently, pair learning, small group learning, using technology, working outside the classroom. How will feedback be given to keep students motivated? Some students will need to write, others will need to talk through ideas before they understand, while others may need to physically or graphically represent what they are learning.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Check for Understanding</u> (Formative Assessment)</p> <p>Assessment & Grading Guidelines</p> <p>How will students demonstrate what they have learned? Tests, projects, tiered assignments, oral exams/presentations, creation of models, teaching others, making a film, creating a portfolio, etc.</p>
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Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, all Pre K-8 schools in our district will be implementing Second Step. Second Step is a social and emotional learning curriculum that works on skills such as conflict resolution and other related skills. This is done with each class with 30 minutes of instruction with skill reinforcement throughout each school day.

Number Corner Math is also being implemented this school year for our K-5 schools. Number Corner is a skill-building program that revolves around the classroom calendar. The program features short daily workouts that introduce, reinforce, and extend skills and concepts related to the critical areas of mathematics at each grade level.

Schedule changes include: BVS has added a weekly 45 minutes STEM class for K - 8, with staggered lunchtimes. There are no major schedule changes for CES. Odyssey Block has been shortened this year at CVS and an intervention block has been added. FHGS will see no major schedule changes. At OVS our 6-8 integrated studies will be grade-specific instead of multi-grade. FHUHS has eliminated the rotating schedule to allow our students more flexibility within the day to access educational opportunities outside of the building and we have removed lunch from our Inquiry Block.

School Safety: Brooke shared a new safety memo. She also reported that the Slate Valley Unified School District had received \$82,000.00 in reimbursement monies from all the safety upgrades we have made.

End of Year - Finance Update: Cheryl handed out Financial paperwork with unaudited budget information, please see handouts from Director of Finance. Cheryl explained that she needed a motion to transfer \$10,000.00 from the general fund to the Food Service Line so that the balance can be paid up. Angela Charron made a motion to approve a \$10,000.00. Angela Charron made a motion to support the transfer of \$10,000.00 from the general fund to the Food Service Fund, this was seconded by Toni Lobdell; motion carried by the full Board.

Resignations:

Toni Lobdell read the resignations into the record. They included Kristen Fisher, School Counselor, and Fabio Caetano, PE Teacher. Toni made a motion to accept the resignations as read and this was seconded by Peter Stone. Next Toni Lobdell read into the record a letter of resignation due to take effect on June 30, 2019 from Susan Coombs an Orwell teacher. Toni made a motion to accept the resignation with regret, this was seconded by Peter Stone; motion carried by the full Board. There was discussion and Brooke was asked if there is any recourse for the positions that left the district a few days prior to the start of school. The only recourse is that we can ask them to repay their health care costs for the months of July and August.

Contracts: Toni Lobdell read the following contracts into the record:

- Kaitlin Ellis, Associate Nurse @ \$41,205, prorated from \$43,520.00.
- Deborah Pelkey, School Counselor, @ \$51,142, prorated from \$55,099

- Jared Danyou, Health & PE @ \$18,751, prorated from \$43,520
- Rebecca Towne, Long Term Music Sub, \$250 per diem (two days per week)
- Marguerite Hale, Long Term Music Sub, \$250 per diem (3 days per week)

Toni Lobdell made a motion to approve the contracts as read into the record, this was seconded by Peter Stone; Motion carried by the full Board.

Other Business:

- Cheryl's request to transfer \$10,000.00 from general fund (See above)
- Re-Bidding Transportation; since the contract is coming up for renewal, Brooke wants to have an efficiency study to look at current bus routes, etc. Brooke has spoken with an efficiency company out of NY state. The costs of such a contract with them could run between \$13,000-\$15,000.00. Brooke cautioned the Board that this year's contract for transportation would cost more as the buses are aging and some are going to need to be replaced.
- Sick Bank Representatives Needed: Since Shannon Baldwin has resigned there is a vacant spot on the Sick Bank Committee. Rebeckah St. Peter volunteered to fill this position.
- Julie Finnegan wanted to share some positive news from the opening day in-service. She reviewed the District Awards. They were the following:

ARSU Executive Awards

Benson -The entire Pre-K-8th grade Team of Teachers

Orwell- The PBis Team

UVM Outstanding Teacher Award

Orwell_ Cathy Darley

FHUHS- Joel Beste

ARSU Outstanding Teacher Awards

Benson-Elizabeth Moyer

Castleton Elementary-Krista Doyle

Castleton Village - Dale Coombs

Fair Haven Grade School- Kimberly Alexander

Instructional Assistant Awards

Benson-Carrieann Wolcott

Castleton Elementary-Pat Diercksen

Castleton Village-Laura Zsido

FHGS-Tammy Abbey

FHUHS-Kelly O'Neill

ARSU Special Service Award Letter

District Building and Grounds Employees

- Communication Director - New Position filled by Josh Burlette; Brooke and Chris Cole discussed some of the jobs of the new Communication Director. They include keeping the district web sites up to date, controlling and contributing to social media, updating and or creating forms, handling press releases, sitting in on certain committees so he has an understanding and can help link the information to the larger community; he takes pictures at many school events
- Angela Charron offered some ideas on how we might engage students in hands on projects Innovation Committee Update whereby they could inform the larger community about the Innovation Project by possibly building 3D models, or other student led projects, or stem cell projects.
- Innovation Committee Update- The Innovation committee met last week for the last time. Consultant Peter Clark is finalizing his report for the Board. This report will be sent out to all Board members prior to the 9/16 Board Meeting. Board Members were instructed to read the report in its entirety prior to the 9/16 meeting so that the Board can take questions or learn what more information the Board feels they need in order to make a decision as to the direction of the Innovation Project. Questions will be taken the night of the Board meeting through Wednesday morning the 18th. On 9/30 the Board will receive as many answers to their questions regarding the Innovation Project as possible.
By our Board meeting on 10/14/19 the Board must vote if we are moving forward

- Quorum Issues - must have 10 members minimally to have a legal quorum, attendance has not been that great and with having 3 vacant seats on the Board it is even more important to attend so we are not having to have special Board meetings to complete time sensitive tasks.
- Brooke noted that there had been no interest in any of the three vacant seats (2-Hubbardton & 1-West Haven).
- Julie Finnegan again reminded Board members of the fact there is a fine line between being a member of the Board and also being a parent on the Board. She reviewed Chain of Command and even though we are Board members we cannot skip any level of the Chain of Command.

Executive Session:

- Executive Session #1: Peter Stone made a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel/Transportation Busing Contract at 8:00 and this was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Glen Cousineau made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:28 p.m. with no action taken.
- Student Matter - Executive Session #2 -Peter Stone, made a motion to go into Executive Session with Administration at 8:20p.m. for the purpose of discussing student matter, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Motion carried by full Board. Peter Stone made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:28 with the following action. Student # 11125, and Student #401477 are approved to stay at CES and CVS for the remainder of the school year. This was seconded by Toni Lobdell; Motion carried by Full Board.
- Executive Session #2 - Student Matter #3- Angela Charron made a motion to go into Executive session for the purpose of a Student Matter; Toni Lobdell seconded the motion. Angela made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:28 p.m., this was seconded by Tara Buxton with the following action taken. Student # 1232995 was granted permission to attend Orwell Village School

Agenda Building:

1. Review of Innovation Project
2. How did student's end the school year last June, Review the Annual Snapshot
3. Finance Committee Update
4. Teacher Negotiations are starting September 17, 2019
T 8:35 p.m. this was seconded by Peter Stone; Motion carried by the full Board.

Adjournment: Tim Smith made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m., this was seconded by Amy Munger; Motion carried by the Full Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie J. Lenihan

SVUUSD Board Meeting - Sept. 16, 2019 - FHUHS - 6:30 p.m.
SV Finance Committee Mtg. - Sept. 16, 2019 _ FHUHS - 5:30 p.m.
SV Building and Grounds Committee/Policy Committee Mtgs. - Sept. 30, 2019 - BVS - 5:30 p.m.