

**Slate Valley Unified Union School District  
Regular Meeting  
September 30, 2019  
Benson Village School  
6:30 p.m.**

**Approved Minutes:**

Name	Role/Term	Town Representing	In Attendance
Kris Benway	Director of Special Services	Slate Valley UUSD	-
Pati Beaumont	Board Member	Benson	X
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	X
Vacant	Board Member	Hubbardton	-
Tanya Tolchin	Board Member	West Haven 9/30/19 1st meeting	X
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	X
Glen Cousineau	Board Vice Chair	Orwell - Vice Chair	X
Dave Carpenter	Board Member	Orwell	X
Brooke Olsen Farrell	Superintendent	Slate Valley UUSD	X
Cheryl Scarzello	Director of Finance	Slate Valley UUSD	X
Chris Cole	Director of Operations	Slate Valley UUSD	-
Casey O'Meara	Director of Curriculum I&A	Slate Valley UUSD	X

**Audience Attending:** Amy Roy, Kim Prehoda, Patrick Walters, Jason Rasco, Pamela Arel, Bryan Muller, Deborah Infurna

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Julie Finnegan led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance

**Call to Order - 6:30 p.m.:** Julie Finnegan, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** Toni Lobdell made a motion to approve the addition with two additional Others: Retirement, Information Regarding Superintendent's Evaluation. This was seconded by Mike Bache. Motion carried by full Board.

**Approval of SVUUSD Minutes - September 16, 2019:** Toni Lobdell made a motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 2019 with two corrections, new Board Member Spelling Tanya Tolchin and Patti Beaumont mentioned a sentence needed correcting on page 2, sentence above Child Find; Casey O'Meara will be contacted to see what the intent was as he took the Questions down regarding the Innovation report. With the noted corrections, these minutes were seconded for approval by Rebeckah St. Peter. Motion carried by the full Board.

**Public Comment:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Committee Reports:**

- **Policy Committee:** Toni Lobdell made a motion to warn Policy A1 - Board Member Conflict of Interest with no changes. She recommended tabling A2 and A21 until the next policy meeting as there were a few wording changes. Toni made the motion to Warn C35 –In-District Transfer Program with one slight change, including residency as a consideration for the request. Both of these warnings were seconded by Glen Cousineau. Motion carried by full Board.

**Extra-Curricular Application Request:** There were two applications for the Board to consider under Extra-Curricular Request. Request #1 had to do with Mountain Bike Club at CVS and FHGS, and a second application was for Primary Practice at CES for grades 1 & 2. Discussion ensued. Dave Carpenter made a motion to approve both requests subject to available funding. This was seconded by Peter Stone. Further discussion ensued. David Carpenter withdrew his original motion. He then amended the motion to vote on one club requisition at a time. Dave Carpenter made a motion to approve the Mountain Bike Club request; this was seconded by Mike Bache; motion carried by the full Board. Next Dave Carpenter made a motion to approve the CES Primary Practice Club request, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau; further discussion ensued; the majority of the board voted yes though there were 3 negative votes, (Patti Beaumont, Toni Lobdell, Mike Bache). Motion carried by board majority.

**Transfer Request:** Toni Lobdell read into the record two separate transfer requests.

#1. Student ID 209227 was requesting to stay at FHGS; Patti Beaumont made motion to approve this request and it was seconded by Toni Lobdell.

#2 Two siblings were requesting to stay at CVS, ID #'s 401765 & 401518. Toni made a motion to approve the students to stay at CVS, this was seconded by Peter Stone. Motion was carried by full Board.

**Innovation Report - Discussion:** Julie asked the Board if they needed other clarifying information regarding the Innovation Report. Tim Smith asked several additional questions. He asked for clarification that if there were to be a separate Middle School would there need to be two separate kitchens and cafeterias. The answer was yes. Tim asked for further information on the proposed Castleton University (CU). Julie read a letter from the President of CU indicating that they are still interested in a collaboration and eventual rental of the CVS site. They are opening Phase I of early childhood program in July 2019 in the President's house, but are also planning a Phase 2 at the CVS site to hold older children in need of day care options as well as extra academic opportunities and co-curricular activities. Tim asked if this would be a revenue producing venture for Slate Valley and the answer was yes and would help defray some of the building costs. Peter Stone said we can't pursue discussions with CU until we determine if we are going to have a district middle school or not.

The Board Chair thought this might be a good time to take a poll of the interest in the 5 Options presented in the Innovation report for High School and Middle School + the Orwell Project and it's 3 options. (Based on the information presented to date, and without considering additional options). These are not binding and are subject to change based on additional plans, if introduced.

Board Member	HS/MS Preferred Options	Orwell Preferred Options
Peter Stone	Option 2, \$16,000,000	Option 3, 6.5 million
Toni Lobdell	Option 3, \$28,000,000	Option 3, 6.5 million
Mike Bache	Option 4-5, 54,000,00-58,000,000	Defer to Orwell members
Joshua Hardt	Option 3, \$28,000,000	Defer to Orwell members
Dave Carpenter	Option 3, \$28,000,000	Option 3, 6.5 million
Angela Charron	Option 5, \$58,000,000	Option 3, 6.5 million
Patti Beaumont	Option 4, \$54,000,000	Defer to Orwell
Rebeckah St. Peter	Option 5, \$58,000,000	Option 3, 6.5 million
Rick Wilson	Option 5, \$58,000,000	Option 3, 6.5 million
Glen Cousineau	Option 5, \$58,000,000	Option 3, 6.5 million
Tara Buxton	Option 3, \$28,000,000	Option 3, 6.5 million
Tanya Tolchin	Option 5, \$58,000,000	Option 3, 6.5 million
Amy Munger	Option 5, \$58,000,000	Option 3, 6.5 million
Tim Smith	Option 2, \$16,000,000	Option 3, 6.5 million
Julie Finnegan (not a voting member but encouraged by other Board members to share her thinking	Option 5, \$58,000,000	Option 3, 6.5 million

### **Slate Valley Principals' Report:**

#### **PBIS**

Vermont Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (VTPBIS) is a state-wide effort designed to help school teams form a proactive, school-wide, systems approach to improving social and academic competence for all students. All schools in Slate Valley have implemented PBIS this year.

BVS will be awarded Exemplar Status on 10/10

CES will be awarded Merit Status on 10/10

CVS will be awarded Merit Status on 10/10

FHGS will be awarded Merit Status on 10/10

OVS is moving from the Universal Level to the Targeted Level of implementation.

FHUHS teachers are defining classroom behavior matrices.

The following SV Staff were recognized by the VTPBIS organization for their leadership as coordinators and supporting Slate Valley's implementation of PBIS Practices:

Amy Jackson from CVS was recognized for having a high percentage of the School Coordinator role in place at CVS and will receive access to a free professional development opportunity offered by VTPBIS.

Deb Infurna from FHGS was recognized for having a high percentage of the SU/SD Coordinator roles in place for Slate Valley and will receive a year subscription to the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS).

Slate Valley Schools will be sharing the PBIS School Climate Survey

(<https://www.pbisapps.org/Resources/SWIS%20Publications/School%20Climate%20Survey%20Suite%20Manual.pdf>) with families, students, and staff this month to gain more information on the perceptions of school climate. This is a voluntary survey that is brief, reliable, and valid for collecting Likert-scale responses.

## Open House

BVS: Thank you to all the families and staff that participated in the BVS Open House on 9/18! We had a 96% attendance rate! The Scholastic Book Fair did a great business and our fundraisers for the 8th grade DC trip (Yankee Candle and School Calendars) were well received! Thank you to the wonderful custodial team that had the school in such a beautiful condition to receive everyone!

CES: Almost 300 people attended our Open House on 9/18! Students were able to visit the book fair and the lemonade stand, which raises money for cancer research, as well as get their passport stamped at the PBIS table, the CSO table, the Art room, the Music room, and many other spots! Folks commented on how clean our school was and how inviting and friendly it looked. Thanks to all who attended!

FHGS: Our Open House on 9/19 was a huge success. We had an amazing turn out with over 350 parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles visiting our school in addition to their children. Families were able to visit classrooms, meet teachers, learn about our telemedicine program, sensory walk hallway, social-emotional curriculum, PBIS initiative, how to access the grade book, and the list goes on. Students had a passport to be stamped while visiting a variety of stations throughout the building. Passports were entered into a raffle to win prizes sponsored by our PTO. Our families also had the opportunity to visit a community fair in the gymnasium to learn about our food service program, Boys and Girls Club, PTO, Mentor Connector, Fair Haven Recreation Program and Fair Haven Concerned. Thank you to all families, community members, faculty and staff who participated in this wonderful event!

OVS: Our back-to-school bbq and open house was a resounding success with chef Sam and her staff serving up her amazing hot dogs and hamburgers. OVS folks were lined up in front of Chef Sams pit well before we even began, waiting for a taste from the most traditional 'cue in the region. Parents and students then visited classrooms for a wonderful start to this school year.

FHUHS: Our Open House is scheduled for Thursday, September 26th at 6:30. The evening will begin with a meet & greet in the iMedia Center after which parents/guardians will then follow their daughter/son's abbreviated academic daily schedule. At the conclusion of the night freshmen & sophomore will attend their Inquiries while juniors & seniors will meet in the cafeteria for an informational meeting about the Valley Commons Project for juniors and Senior Presentations all new this year.

## Sports

The K - 8 Principals met with Kim Alexander MS AD and discussed the upcoming basketball season. It was decided to order new uniforms for the 7th/8th-grade players that would be Slate Valley uniforms. They will be blue & white and reversible for playing against one another. They will be housed in one area so Kim can make certain every player has a size that fits and that she has continuous access to them. The current school-specific uniforms will be passed down to the 5th/6th teams. Basketball sign-up will open soon and the Principals will meet with Kim to discuss the make-up of teams based on student numbers and coaches.

## Soccer/Padded Football/ Padded Flag Football/ CC Track

Students across the Slate Valley are participating in Middle School sports this fall! Students have access to padded flag football, cross country, and soccer.

At the Varsity level students are competing in bass fishing, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, and girls & boys soccer.

## Clubs/Activities:

We are working on expanding clubs and activities based on student interest in all of our buildings. As these become established we will report out on them.

## Other Business:

- Cheryl Scarzello Presented a document for the Board to consider entitled Declaration of Official Intent of Slate Valley Unified Union School District to Reimburse Certain Expenditures From Proceeds of Indebtedness. Angela Charron made a motion to accept this declaration and it was seconded by Rebeckah St. Peter; motion was carried by majority of the Board, there was one opposed-Tim Smith.

- Retirement: Julie Finnegan read into the record a retirement letter effective June 30, 2020 from long time teacher Bonnie Condit who has decided to retire. Bonnie was hired in 1986 and has taught her whole career in Castleton. Tara Buxton made a motion to accept the retirement, this was seconded by Josh Hardt; motion carried by the full Board. Julie Finnegan Thanked Bonnie Condit for her service.
- Tim Smith shared that he had heard back from Sue Ceglowski on the next steps for the Superintendent's Evaluation. Sue would like to meet with the Executive Committee for one hour and then bring the Superintendent in to meet with the committee and at that point they would share results of her evaluation and work with her to set her goals for the year.

**Executive Session - If Needed:** None needed

**Agenda Building:** Prepare for the vote of the Innovation Committee Report and how to proceed on October 14, 2019; Student Presentation, Finance Committee Report as well as the Building and Grounds Report.

**Adjournment:** Tara Buxton made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm this was seconded by Rick Wilson and carried by the full Board.

SVUUSD Board Meeting - October 14, 2019 - FHUHS - 6:30 p.m.  
SV Finance Committee Mtg. - Oct. 14, 2019 - FHUHS - 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Lenihan