

**Slate Valley Unified Union School District  
Regular Meeting  
October 14, 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	Slate Valley UUSD	X
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	X
Tara Buxton	Board Member	Fair Haven	-
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	X
Casey O'Meara	Director of Curriculum I&A	Slate Valley UUSD	X

**Audience Attending:** Jason Rasco, Melissa Hoyer, Kim Lucci

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

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Glen Cousineau made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of one item: #7.5 Discussion of Homestead Declarations Calculation Chart; this was seconded by Mike Bache, carried by the full Board.

**Approval of SVUUSD Minutes - September 30, 2019:** Toni Lobdell made a motion to approve the minutes of September 30, 2019 with no corrections; this was seconded by Peter Stone, there were no abstentions.

**FHUHS Student Presentation:** No students were here to present so Jason Rasco, Principal and Melissa Hoyer, SAP Counselor prepared a presentation for the Board. The topic under discussion was E Cigarette Use among Youth and Young Adults. They had a slide show that had been presented to their faculty and staff by Sarah Cosgrove of Rutland Regional Hospital. Jason and Melissa spoke of how addictive the Vaping is to students. They also described a vaping epidemic at our school but also nationwide. They shared that 1 vape cartridge is equivalent to smoking one pack of cigarettes. Even more alarming was the statistic that most students that vape regularly are going through two-three cartridges a day or the equivalent of 3 packs of cigarettes per day. Vaping is highly addictive, and students start experiencing a withdrawal after about 40 minutes without it. They notice many behaviors starting around the forty minute time frame with students that are addicted to the E Cigarettes. Many students try to escape the situation they are in to go off to vape. Melissa is working with students at FHUHS to start helping peers. They have started a group called OVX or Our Voices Exposed, a group trying to bring awareness and support to those impacted by vaping to help their friends recognize and end their addictions. Sarah Cosgrove from Rutland Regional will be presenting another presentation to the FHUHS student body. She is also willing to host a community forum or a presentation for the Board. Melissa Hoyer and Casey O'Meara have been working to identify grant money to purchase some vapor detectors for the bathrooms at the high school, they are very expensive and set off an alarm when students are vaping in a closed in area. The best hope of combatting this epidemic per Jason and Melissa is to develop healthy relationships with students, educate them about the risks and dangers of vaping and to work on harm reduction. They also shared that this can impact middle school children as well and that we should consider additional education opportunities at the middle school level as well as at the high school level.

**Public Comment:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Committee Reports:**

- **Finance Committee Report:** Glen Cousineau gave an overview of budget priorities for the upcoming budget season, Social Emotional Learning, discussion of Middle School Vote, held off on Bond discussion until we get feedback of Board tonight, Class Sizes were discussed; Julie Finnegan discussed Act 64 and new legislation that all impervious surfaces over 3 acres need to be resurfaced by 2022. This includes parking lots and roofs, for SVUUSD this impacts CES and FHUHS. This will be a very costly venture.
- **Warrants:** Glen Cousineau presented the warrants for approval of \$3,370,995.79 for Total Payments, this was seconded by Toni Lobdell; motion carried by the full Board. Glen Cousineau presented the warrant for approval of Food Service in the amount of \$28,752.68, this was seconded by Angela Charron; motion carried by the full Board. Glen Cousineau presented the warrant for Grants for approval in the amount of \$17,039.70; this was seconded by Toni Lobdell, motion was carried by the full Board.
- **Policy Committee Report:** Toni Lobdell made a motion to adopt the following policies A-21 and C-35, this was seconded by Peter Stone, motion carried by the full Board.  
**Adopt the following Policies:**  
**Policy A21- Public Participation at Board Meetings**  
**Policy C35 - In-District Transfer Program**

**Homestead Declaration: Homestead Calculation Projections:** Cheryl Scarzello prepared a one page handout of the Homestead Calculation projections if we were to move forward with a bond vote. Option # 3 is the only option with a cost savings involved.

**Innovation Project Vote:** Angela Charron read a motion into the record to move forward with the full scope of the program including all of the updates to the HS, Orwell, the Middle School and additional improvements to CES and FHGS. The Board was asked to cast a vote in favor or not of the Middle School, following are the results per member:

Board Member	Yes in favor	No, not in favor
Tim Smith		NO
Amy Munger	YES	
Tanya Tolchin	YES	
Rebeckah St. Peter	YES	
Dave Carpenter	YES	
Peter Stone		NO
Toni Lobdell	YES	
Mike Bache		NO
Josh Hardt	YES	
Angela Charron	YES	
Glen Cousineau	YES	
Julie Finnegan	YES	
Patti Beaumont	YES	
Trevor Ezzo	YES	
Rick Wilson	YES	

## Central Office Reports:

### Central Office Board Report October 2019

#### Superintendent's Report

This year several of the Leadership Team members (Brooke Farrell, Kris Benway, Casey O'Meara, Patrick Walters and Deb Infurna) will be participating will be part of an Instructional Leadership cohort put on by Washington's Center for Instructional Leadership (CEL) and hosted by the Vermont Superintendents Association. These trainings will be hosted in various locations throughout the state of Vermont.

CEL supports a yearlong professional learning experience onsite within a school system or across a region. Aspiring or current school administrators, instructional coaches, teacher leaders, or central office leaders engage in whole group and job-embedded learning. Support from CELL creates a shared vision and language for high-quality instruction, helps participants know what to look for in classrooms and how to look for it, and develops participants' abilities to provide targeted feedback and plan for teachers' professional learning.

Our plan is to bring this learning back to the Leadership Team and use it to inform the revision our Supervision/Evaluation process.

Provision 2 has been implemented in all schools across the district. Below is the letter that went home to families.

*The Slate Valley Unified School District is participating in a Universal Lunch and School Breakfast Program for the current school year (2019-2020). If your children attend any of the schools within the Slate Valley School District, 1 free breakfast and 1 free lunch will be available to them at no charge.*

*In order to make this work for our school, it is very important that all families complete and return the Free & Reduced Price Meal Applications. We will continue to receive State and Federal Reimbursement for meals served to our students, so it is important that we are able to earn and claim the maximum reimbursement allowable for*

our participating students. Without the completed meal applications, we may not be able to continue to offer the school meals at no charge. Your assistance in completing and returning the application for your household is greatly appreciated. Meals will be served to all students at no charge regardless of the eligibility status.

Studies have shown that children who are not hungry perform better in school. By providing lunch to all children at no charge, we are hoping to create a better learning environment for our students.

The school breakfasts and lunches that we serve follow U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for healthy school meals. The School Breakfast and Lunch Programs cannot succeed without your support; please encourage your children to participate in the school meal programs.

The Leadership Team drafted goals for the district for the next 5 years. We would like feedback from the school board at our October 28th meeting. The goals are based on our current data. After the goals are approved we will use the goals to revise our Strategic Plan. The draft goals are as follows:

By 2025 we expect to have 50% scoring as [3 \(proficient\)](#) or higher on ELA and Math (SBAC)

- By 2025 we expect to have 3% growth in all students individual student scaled scores on SBAC ELA, Math.
- By 2025 we expect to have 80% of students being proficient in ELA, Math, Science, Arts, PE/Health, Social Studies as determined by teacher gradebooks.

By 2025 we expect to have 95% of students complete high school in 4 years, 100% high school in 6 years.

By 2025 we expect to have 80% of students take the SATs and report scores

- By 2025 we expect to have 50% of students score a 1100 on the SATs
- By 2025 we expect to have 50% of students score a 1100 on the PSATs
- By 2025 we expect to have 5% growth in all students individual scaled scores for those who qualify for FRL higher on ELA and Math (SBAC)
- By 2025 we expect to have 3% growth in all students individual student scaled scores for students on IEPs and 504s in SBAC ELA, Math
- By 2025 we expect to have 90% of students on IEPs and 504s complete high school in 4 years, 100% high school in 6 years.
- By 2025 we expect to have 90% of students qualifying for FRL complete high school in 4 years, 100% high school in 6 years.

By 2025, the cohort growth for students at each grade level will meet or exceed the expected growth rate on the NWEA MAPs assessments in Reading, Language, and Math.

By 2025, the cohort growth for students on FRL will exceed the expected growth rate on the NWEA MAPs assessments in Reading, Language, and Math.

By 2025, the cohort growth for students on IEPs and 504s at each grade level will meet the expected growth rate on the NWEA MAPs assessments in Reading, Language, and Math.

By 2021 we expect to exceed the percent of Vermont students who report that there is at least one adult in their school that they can talk to if they have a problem according to the Youth Behavior Risk Survey.

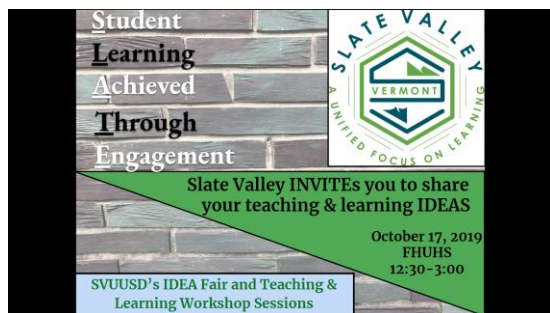
By 2021 we expect to be below the percent of Vermont students who report being bullied according to the Youth Behavior Risk Survey.

By 2021 we expect to increase the percentage of students in SVUUSD who feel like they matter to people in their community according to the Youth Behavior Risk Survey.

By 2021 we expect to reduce the percentage of students in SVUUSD who respond that they went hungry because there was not enough food at their home according to the Youth Behavior Risk Survey.

### **Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment**

On October 17th during an early-release day Slate Valley educators will participate in a **Slate Valley IDEA fair**. The goal and purpose of the Fair is to inspire each educators, as we share and discuss implementation of differentiated instruction through proficiency-based learning (PBL). This is also an opportunity in a relaxed, collegial environment, to highlight best practices associated with PBL identified in [SVU's Unit Planning Tool](#)



(i.e., teacher clarity, descriptive feedback, student self-assessment, classroom environment, differentiated instruction, etc.) and recognize all of the great work that happens in SVUUSD.

The IDEA Fair provides an overview and visual of something great happening in presenters' (SVU educator) classrooms! Your colleagues will walk around, science fair style, and converse with you regarding your experience designing, implementing, and evaluating student learning in our PBL model.

On October 17th SVU educators will also participate in **Slate Valley Teaching & Learning Workshops**. The goal and purpose of Teaching & Learning Workshop Sessions are to engage in an interactive share of differentiated instruction through proficiency-based learning (PBL) providing voice and choice to educators. Again, this is also an opportunity to highlight all of the great Teaching & Learning that happens in SVUUSD. The examples offered below represent many workshops, but does not represent a comprehensive list of all that is great about SVUUSD. Please add offerings you would like to facilitate the “examples offered” list below.

Teaching & Learning Workshop Sessions Presenters will offer 40 minute sessions, which will allow participants to register for their choice of experiences on October 17th ([examples offerings](#)).

On October 16, 2019 in the Fair Haven Union High School Library from 5:00pm to 7:00pm Personalized Learning Plans and Proficiency-Based Learning information will be provided for students and parents/guardians. Topics to be covered during the meeting include: Gradebook and Grade Calculation, Assessments, 11th grade Valley Commons Project and 12th grade Senior Presentation.

### **Director of Operations**

As of this past week we are finally E911 compliant at each of our buildings. From any room with a phone located within it, 911 can be called and the dispatcher will now receive the address from where the call is being made along with the room location. Also part of the process of being E911 compliant is each phone can dial 911 directly without having to connect to an outside line first. The process has been challenging working with different vendors to get the service working properly. In Orwell and Benson, we had to work with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party service provider to bring in the required service over our existing data services as the local service provider does not offer the service required to be E911 compliant.

### **Director of Finance**

PowerSchool has a best practice stipulation that requires at least two Vermont school districts that have implemented eFinancePlus to participate in BETA testing before software upgrades can be applied to any Vermont districts on eFP. Currently, PowerSchool has two upgrades that need testing. Since the software has been modified to accommodate Vermont's chart of account structure, whenever there is a new version of the software Vermont school district's will need to do testing by replicating the work done in their current database on a database that is running with the upgrades. The AOE notified us that if two districts did not volunteer for testing, PowerSchool would be unable to upgrade any districts to the latest version of eFP and the next opportunity to upgrade would not be until spring of 2020. Slate Valley and Springfield have volunteered and will be doing the BETA testing on behalf of Vermont. Once again I wish to recognize the Business Office staff for their hard work and willingness to participate in this project.

I also wish to inform you that I have personally been serving on two committees at the request of the Agency of Education. The first one is called the Handbook II Committee. The committee is charged with working with the

<i>Fair Haven Union High School</i> INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A PROFICIENCY-BASED LEARNING INFORMATIONAL NIGHT		
THURSDAY OCTOBER 16 <sup>th</sup> 2019	<i>Fair Haven Library</i> 33 MECHANIC STREET FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT	5:00 11TH GRADE 6:00 12TH GRADE <i>In the evening</i>

REVIEW OF PLP AT FAIR HAVEN UNION HIGH SCHOOL		
THURSDAY OCTOBER 16 <sup>th</sup> 2019	SENIOR PRESENTATION VALLEY COMMONS PROFICIENCY-BASED LEARNING	5:00 11TH GRADE 6:00 12 GRADE <i>In the evening</i>

AOE to identify and document guidance on how to consistently record various school finance transactions according to the new Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA). The UCOA is a shared system of accounting for supervisory unions and supervisory districts in Vermont. It includes a set of accounts to categorize school finance revenues and expenditures, as well as standardized business practices. The UCOA will provide for more consistent and comparable school finance data across the state. These improvements to Vermont school finance data will improve the quality of the information used by various stakeholders. Under Act 58 of 2015, all districts must adopt the UCOA by July 1, 2019 for the 2020 fiscal year. Slate Valley adopted the new UCOA as of July 1<sup>st</sup> this year with our implementation of eFP. The AOE has contracted with Berry Dunn, a certified public accounting and management consulting firm out of Manchester, NH, to assist with this project.

The second committee is the Shared School District Data Management System (SSDDMS) Governance and Change Advisory Group (GCAB). Initially the focus of the committee has been gathering details on required system reports and additional functionality/enhancement requests. The AOE has also contracted with Berry Dunn to assist the SSDDMS GCAB with the inventory of reports and details related to enhancement requests. It is expected that the scope of involvement and activities will evolve as the SSDDMS matures, with the committee advising the AOE and PowerSchool in other areas related to the SSDDMS

**Other Business:** Trevor Ezzo asked for an update on how the School Breakfast and lunch programs were for going with the fact that these two meals are now free to all. Because this has only been in effect for two weeks, the Board will be given a presentation on this topic at the next meeting. Basically the Board wants to know if lunch and breakfast participation is up at the building level now that it is free for all students.

**Executive Session ~ if needed:** None needed.

**Agenda Building:**

- New Schedules for additional Finance Committee and Building and Grounds Committee Meetings
- Update on how the Free Breakfast and Lunch Programs are going throughout the district
- New Updates or Recommendations from the Architects/will they be attending a future meeting?
- Student Presentation in Orwell
- Tour of Orwell building and discussion of Proposed Needs for Renovation there
- Vote on VEHI/VSBT Proxy votes for November 8, 2019
- Timeline for Decision Points on Bond Vote
- Brief Presentation on Act 173
- Update from Finance Committee on Budget

**Adjournment:** Peter Stone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., this was seconded by Dave Carpenter. Motion carried by full Board.

**SVUUSD Board Meeting - October 28, 2019 - OVS - 6:30 p.m.**  
**SV Building and Grounds Committee/Policy Committee Mtgs. - Oct. 28, 2019 - OVS - 5:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bonnie Lenihan