

**Slate Valley Unified Union School District**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**October 28, 2019**  
**Orwell Village 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	-
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	-
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	X
Casey O'Meara	Director of Curriculum I&A	Slate Valley UUSD	X

**Audience in Attendance:** Deborah Infurna, Amy Roy, Jason Rasco, Shannon Babbie, Todd Babbie, Angela Allard, Jake Allard, Hannah Allard, Patrick Walters

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Julie Finnegan had the board say the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Call to Order - 6:30 p.m.:** Board Chair Julie Finnegan called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** Mike Bache made a motion to approve the agenda, this was seconded by Josh Hardt.

**Approval of Minutes - October 14, 2019:** Toni Lobdell made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/14/19, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau; motion carried by the full Board.

**Student Presentation - OVS:** Patrick Walters, Principal of OVS introduced the OVS student presentation. The two young ladies presenting were from Mrs. Robinson's ELA Middle School class. The presenters were Riley Babbie and Alaina Allard. The girls presented on Education changes in Vermont from the time VT became a state until present day-Get VT Tech.

**Public Comment:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Committee Reports:**

- Policy Committee: Toni Lobdell made a motion to Warn Policy A2 for next meeting, this was seconded by Peter Stone. Toni Lobdell made a motion to rescind the following policies as they are no longer needed B6, C28, D2 and F31; this was seconded by Peter Stone; Motion carried by full Board.
- Building and Grounds Committee: Peter Stone updated the Board on the Building and Grounds meeting which was held immediately before tonight's Board Meeting. Peter said that there are a number of items which must be looked into Pre-Bond work, such as Urban Soil Investigations, Asbestos Survey, PCB Testing, a Topographic Survey. Chris Cole gave the initial findings of the topographical survey to the Building and Grounds Committee. The Building and Grounds committee also made some preliminary decisions about the scope of the AC project in the HS/MS Renovation, it was determined to go with a partial AC model to the office areas in use in both buildings as well as to the common areas. We also determined Biomass Fuel to be primary with a back-up of Fossil Fuels. We discussed the Gymnasium Specifications for the Middle School and determined it would be two side by side courts only accessed by Middle School Teams and would have on one side a smaller Bleacher section, perhaps 3 rows of bleachers. Upgrades to the LaPlaca Field were discussed and it was determined to use Turf on this field to extend the playing season. The committee also gave approval to the Orwell Plan that was shared as well as the Elevator Replacement at FHGS, and the fact this cost would be included in the Bond. They also approved moving forward with addressing the Stormwater Mitigation at CES.

**Tour of Orwell:** The Board will conduct a Tour of Orwell Facilities in the Town Hall and school at the end of tonight's Board meeting.

**VEHI/VSBT Proxy:** Julie Finnegan explained that the Annual Meeting was being held for VEHI/VISBT and since our SU did not have a Representative signed up to attend this meeting that we needed to have a Proxy vote; which means that we go with the majority. Glen Cousineau made a motion to go with a Proxy Vote for the VSBT Annual Meeting, this was seconded by Peter Stone; motion carried by the full Board. Dave Carpenter made a motion to go with a Proxy Vote for the VEHI Annual Meeting, this deals with Health and Dental factors, this was seconded by Toni Lobdell.

**Timeline Bond Vote:** Julie Finnegan discussed the Timeline that the Board would need to commit to if we were to support a March Bond Vote. Julie indicated this was a pretty lofty goal to pull off by the March vote and would take a huge commitment of all Board Members to actively participate in local community meetings/venues to get information out about the Bond and the correct information about the Innovation Project. Brooke is really seeking direction from the Board. Discussion ensued. The Board opted to move forward with the March deadline for the Bond Vote realizing that if all the Pre-Bond Work cannot be accomplished this date could realistically be pushed back.

**ACT 173:** Kris Benway gave an update on Act 173. There is not much if any new information as the State is at a stalemate on several sections of this Act. Act 173 involves the funding source for the State Special Education Block Grant Funding. Kris asked the Board to stay tuned for more information.

## **Principal's Report:**

### **(BVS)**

The district focus on social-emotional learning through the Second Step program has complemented the PBIS (Positive Behaviors and Interventions Supports) already in place at BVS. Teachers are appreciative of having a program that enhances the conversations already occurring in classrooms. Extending what takes place in the school out to the community continues BVS' commitment to build supportive and successful bridges for our students.

### **(CES/CVS)**

Second Step is our district's social and emotional curriculum which was adopted this year. The implementation at CES and CVS began at the beginning of October. We have taken the opportunity to co-teach many classes during this instruction. It works very well to have a classroom teacher co-teach with a specials teacher or a special educator. Our students benefit greatly from this model. Feedback has been very positive from our teachers.

Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated the week of October 28th at CES and the week of October 21st at CVS. Red Ribbon Week is an annual week where we focus on a drug-free life and living a healthy lifestyle. We celebrate each day of the week with themes like "Dream Big," "Hat Day," "Future Self," "Use your Head," and "Stomp out Drugs" to support a healthy, drug-free life! Red Ribbon Week helps our students think about that healthy lifestyle in fun and engaging ways.

### **(FHGS)**

We have been implementing Second Step social-emotional curriculum PreK - 8 grade at FHGS. Our middle school is implementing this curriculum during Teacher Advisory time. K-5 teachers have time in their weekly schedule for implementation. Our school counselors support classroom teachers with implementation and are currently developing a scope and sequence document of skills that are addressed in Second Step to be shared with all faculty and staff. The intent is to tie this instruction into our PBIS acknowledgment system and provide positive specific praise to students when we see them using strategies taught from Second Step.

October is a busy month with National Bully Prevention, Substance Prevention and Fire Safety Awareness. We work to embed these prevention topics into our instruction with students as part of our health and wellness initiatives.

At FHGS we have worked to increase awareness, prevention and response strategies when faced with unkind behavior from others through classroom instruction, daily announcements, and TA meetings with administration. Middle School students worked with their younger classroom buddies on a poster indicating healthy lifestyle choices. We are ending our month with Red Ribbon Spirit Week, where students will get to participate in the following activities: Wear Red Day, Silly Socks Day, Hat Day, Superhero Day, Favorite Book Character Day, Favorite Jersey/T-shirt Day, and Wear Falcon Blue for FHGS Stomp Out Bullying Day. (Students will be wearing their New Falcon Pride T-shirts purchased by the FHGS PTO. Thank you to our PTO!!).

Our health teacher is also coordinating guest teachers from our local fire department. They will be providing our younger students an opportunity to meet firefighters, see their equipment and learn about fire safety. These embedded learning opportunities are fun and engaging for students, while supporting healthy, safe and kind behaviors.

### **(OVS)**

This month our middle school had a chance to experience a two-day connection with nature they just can't get in a traditional educational setting. Pok-O-MacCready is located on over 400 acres and a beautiful Adirondack lake. The Pok-O philosophy teaches communication, confidence, and leadership, through their four pillars:

- ❖ Team Building
- ❖ Natural Science
- ❖ Living History
- ❖ Wilderness Adventure

Our first day was focused on teambuilding with several ice-breaking team activities on-site and an afternoon visit to the Low Ropes Course. The course builds confidence by challenging individual students to step outside their comfort zones, either by negotiating various obstacles such as the "Elvis Walk" or "Earthquake Bridge." This activity made for a great team-building experience as our students learned to help each other through varied challenges.



That evening our middle school participated in a role-playing activity that takes place at the 1812 Homestead. Our students played the part of run-away slaves, while teachers and chaperones served as their conductors. The Pok-O staff filled in as abolitionists, bounty hunters, court marshals, and more.

The last half-day was spent in the Adirondack Wilderness, the best way to introduce our students to the natural beauty of the Eastern forests. Our students approached the summit on a picturesque old logging road closed to motor vehicles. Along the way, instructors discussed the history of the surrounding land and the impact logging has had on the delicate ecosystem. The last quarter of the hike followed a steep, rocky trail to the top. The view from Rattlesnake is one of the best in the area, encompassing Lake Champlain, the Adirondack High Peaks, Burlington Vermont, and the Green Mountains of Vermont. This panorama provided the backdrop for a geological lesson on the formation of Lake Champlain as well as Long Pond.

### **(FHUHS)**

In the midst of week #9 the high school is very active as we near what would have been the first quarter academically and round out the fall sports season. Having moved to Proficiency-Based Learning we have moved away from quarters to reflect better the continual learning that occurs in our classrooms. We will, however, take quarterly "snapshots" of students' grades to process eligibility. For the 2019-2020 school year those dates are November 4th, January 27th, April 6th, and June 15th.

At the writing of this report the boys soccer team ended their 2019 campaign suffering a tough play-off loss while the girls continue on to the quarter finals Saturday, October 26th. Prior to that the football team will be hosting a play-off game Friday, October 25th under the lights at 7:00. And prior to that the staff versus student field hockey game on Friday afternoon will be a good opportunity for some of us to have fun and look quite silly but more importantly say goodbye to head coach, Jen Clement, as she steps down as head coach. Thank you for all that you have done!

Finally a huge thank you to Tom Smith, our Student Council, and Casey O'Meara who helped bring our three day guest, Werner Reich, into our community. To say that he was our guest speaker would not sufficiently represent what occurred. Werner Reich, a 93 year old holocaust and Auschwitz survivor, arrived on a Wednesday visited a few classes. On Thursday he spoke to the entire student body for 90 minutes and the students continued talking with him and about him after he departed. On Friday he spoke to the district staff to begin our in-service, and we have made arrangements for him to return to us - his adopted home - in May. Part of his message aligned nicely with our social and emotional work, Red Ribbon week, and the ongoing vaping epidemic facing our teenagers. Quoting Martin Luther King, "In the end, we will not remember the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends."

Don't be a silent friend.

**Other Business:** Board asked for an update of the success of the Free Breakfast and Lunch Program. Cheryl said it hasn't even been a complete month yet. She will update the Board with a comparison. Administrator's noted it was really being utilized and as a result, Abby Group is having to increase its food budget. One new family to the community shared how wonderful this was.

**Executive Session - If Needed:** Not needed.

### **Agenda Building:**

1. Bond Process Update
2. Bring Back Community Sharings
3. Budget Report from the Finance Committee
4. Innovation Project - Mtg. minutes on Slate Valley Website is a great way to update ourselves.

**Adjournment:** Peter Stone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and to start the Orwell facilities tour, this was seconded by Dave Carpenter; Motion carried by the full Board.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bonnie Lenihan

SVUUSD Board Meeting - **TUESDAY**, Nov. 12, 2019--FHUHS - 6:30 p.m.  
SV Finance Committee Mtg. - **TUESDAY**, Nov. 12, 2019 --FHUHS-5:30 p.m.