

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
 Regular Meeting
 November 25, 2019
 Castleton Elementary 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	-
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	X
Mike Bache	Board Member	Fair Haven (Appointed 4//8/19)	X
Rick Wilson	Board Member	Fair Haven	X
Peter Stone	Board Member	Orwell	-
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: Bonnie Condit, Beth Robertson, Norah Courcelle, Kylor Church, Leigha Kretzer, Max Smith, Avery Ryan, Heidi Ward, Ryan Mulholland, Shawn Mulholland, III, Corey Smith, Andrew Smith, Ben Kretzer, Bill Kretzer, Hollie Kretzer, Sandi Rivers, Michael _____, Bridget Bushey, Zeanne Courcelle, Adam Courcelle, Beth Ann Hughes, Sean Tooley, Amanda Terry, Lynn LaClair, Deborah Infurna, Patrick Walters, Amy Roy, Kim Prehoda, Jason Rasco, Margaret Hayward, Kate Leathe, Dan Redondo

Pledge of Allegiance: Julie Finnegan, Board Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order - 6:30 p.m.: Julie Finnegan called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Dave Carpenter made a motion to approve the agenda, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau.

Approval of SVUUSD Minutes - November 12, 2019: Amy Munger made a motion to approve the minutes of November 12, 2019, this was seconded by Mike Bache; there were 3 abstentions: Trevor Ezzo, Angela Charron and Tim Smith; motion carried.

Student Presentation - CES: Student Presentation on the Blue Cat of Castle Town. Third grade teacher's Bonnie Condit and Beth Robertson gave an overview of the annual Blue Cat Field Trip and the many aspects it covers. They first had their student presenters introduce themselves: Kylor Church, Norah Courcelle, Leigha Kretzer, Ryan Mulholland, Avery Ryan, and Max Smith. Bonnie and Beth gave an overview of the educational tie ins of this field trip, which starts with a guided bus tour through Castleton and then a walking tour with two different origination points: The Higley House and the Cobbler Shop. They made connections to the historical, scientific, mathematical and ELA connections. A common theme discussed, "All that is Worth Doing, Do Well." This trip is based on the book The Blue Cat of Castle Town written in 1949. Each student shared what their favorite part of the field trip was and why. The student presenters did a great job.

Public Comment: Dan Redondo, an Orwell resident came to share his perception, raise some questions which were unanswered after the Innovation Open House and to share his opinions on the project.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

- Policy Committee: Policy Committee did not adopt Tuition Payment C26 policy but will keep the existing A2 in place until the Board reorganizes in March. In March 2020 the Board will look at revising policy A2-Participation of Board members.
- Building and Grounds Committee: FY 21 Budget: Chris Cole handed out a budget worksheet with work needing to be done with in the next budget cycle for each school, see attached. If the bond does not pass we will need to prioritize the work to be done on each school's list. Currently the school projects total about \$900,000.00, and in the carry forward/reserve fund there is approximately \$500,000.00. \$95,000.00 of that is earmarked for the BVS school roof, though it is estimated the project will take between 60,000-120,000.00, dependent upon the materials selected. There seems to be interest in a metal roof for this school.
- Innovation Project: Feedback on the Innovation Project Open House was discussed. Many did not like the format of having to view all aspects as some were only interested in Middle School discussion. There was a good deal of feedback that they did the operational costs of maintaining and staffing over time will cost more. Participants were still happy to consider two separate dining halls. There was some concern that there were no changes considered to the high school gym and it was felt the bleachers there are in tough shape. There were also concerns about the high school science lab. Chris Cole noted that VSBT Ins. has addressed these and Administration must implement the follow through on these concerns.
- Other: Chris Cole said the architect needed feedback on the proposed roofing line for the HS and the MS addition. It was discussed and it seems like most of the Building and Grounds committee was in support of flat roofs. Also discussed were how we wanted the MS addition to look. The committee wants it to match the rest of the building and opted to go with a brick facade. We also discussed the front facade to the Orwell School addition, it was discussed that it be one level, no stairs, possibly a couple of columns with a gradual sloping incline. Lastly the

architect had wanted some feedback on turf and the potential for a turf softball field, discussion ensued. No decision was made tonight.

Feedback from 11/20/19 Open House: Many liked the format, some did not want to tour all of the areas. Some felt there were too many stations and too much walking. Board members thought there was a good turnout with thoughtful questions. Holly Kretzer echoed many of Dan Redondo's comments in regard to the Middle School. A question was raised about how would we implement education of HS students and complete construction. Brooke shared that if the Bond passes there would be a detailed implementation plan. It was suggested that in the future we try to even out the groups more. We need to do a better job about explaining the need for common student's spaces and it is not just to socialize the students, explain why this is educationally relevant. More focus on the curriculum outcomes changes for students in this new proposed model. It was suggested by Angela Charron that Brooke look for more opportunities where things are naturally occurring in buildings to take this opportunity to showcase the Innovation Project materials or to have someone host an informational table at these events. Brooke will work with Principal's to identify upcoming events. There was further discussion about what would happen to Orwell existing town hall. More information needs to be shared about this.

Resignation: Glen Cousineau made a motion to accept the resignation of Sara Canfield, Special Education teacher at CES, this was seconded by David Carpenter, motion carried by the full Board.

Extra Curricular - Rock Climbing Team: Trevor Ezzo made a motion to accept the Rock climbing Team as outlined, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau; motion carried by the full Board.

Principal's Report:

Recently, Slate Valley Administrators have completed reviewing PEP plans with professional teaching staff. These are referred to as Self-Directed Professional Effective Plans because the responsibility for a teacher's improvement lies primarily with each teacher and allows for annual self-directed growth. Each teacher engages in self-assessment and reflection utilizing the ***Standards and Indicators of Effective Teaching Practice***, creating smart goals while incorporating district and school goals. Administrators review and approve teacher's goals each fall within three categories, Professional Practice & Growth, Student Learning Outcomes, and Professional Responsibility & Contributions. Teacher Goal Setting is an important component of a teacher's development and continued growth. Goal setting is designed to focus our teachers on developing and mastering discrete skills that will impact their overall performance, and in turn, student achievement. By setting targeted smart goals at the beginning of the school year and tracking progress toward those goals, our teachers can focus on improving a few specific, high-impact skills rather than trying to improve everything at once. Our teachers' growth and development serve as the most important lever our schools can invest in to improve student achievement. Teachers and coaches will use the goal-setting process as one strategy to improve teacher practice. Our effective use of teacher goals is complemented by continuous feedback, open and honest dialogue, and additional opportunities for our teachers to learn and grow through large and small group professional development. All of these pieces work together in order to help our teachers develop and grow.

In late spring, administrators review the results with each teacher through the examination of evidence and artifacts. We then guide each teacher through a reflective phase including self-assessment. Teachers can use various techniques to document their work in a particular domain. They may include work products such as lessons, units of instruction, curriculum maps, reports from department or PLC meetings, family engagement program materials and/or evaluations. Principals may also collect various artifacts through observations, classroom walkthroughs or student progress reviews.¹

¹ This Principal's Report was adapted from the Addison Rutland Supervisory Union Supervision, Evaluation, and Professional Effectiveness Plan 2012, and the TNTP, Process for Teacher Goal Setting, January 17, 2013

Amy Roy * Benson Village School
Kim Prehoda * Castleton Elementary & Castleton Village School
Deb Infurna * Fair Haven Grade School
Jason Rasco * Fair Haven Union High School
Patrick Walters * Orwell Village School

Significant discussion took place between Board and Principal's in attendance about their participation at meetings. It was decided they will attend monthly if their school is hosting it. Brooke is free to share their concerns, celebrations etc with the Board.

Other Business: It was determined that we will not have a board meeting on December 16, since we are having one a week earlier on December 10, this time will be utilized to have an extended Building and Grounds meeting on 12/16/19 starting at 5:30 p.m. David Carpenter made a motion to cancel the 12/16/19 regular board meeting, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau; motion carried by the full Board. It was also determined that a policy meeting would not be needed on this evening and will reconvene in January.

We will need to finalize Innovation Project plans.

Executive Session:

- Student Hearing: Glen Cousineau made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:14 p.m. with High School Administration and Attorney, this was seconded by David Carpenter. At 8:03 p.m., there was a motion made by Patti Beaumont to come out of Executive Session on student matter with the following action. Patti Beaumont made a motion to accept the Administrations Recommendation on Student 11153 to issue a letter with requirements of re-entry spelled out. This was seconded by David Carpenter; motion carried by the full Board.
- Personnel Matter: Trevor Ezzo made a motion to go into Executive Session #2 at 9:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Matter, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Patti Beaumont made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:38 p.m. and made a motion to authorize Brooke Olsen Farrell to send a letter to the staff member regarding a personnel matter on behalf of the Board. Mike Bache seconded; motion carried by the full Board.

Agenda Building:

Adjournment: Mike Bache made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. this was seconded by Glen Cousineau; motion carried by the full Board.

SVUUSD Special Board Meeting -TUESDAY, December 10, 2019 -FHUHS- 6:30 p.m.
SV Finance Committee Mtg. - TUESDAY, December 10, 2019 - FHUHS - 5:30 p.m.

Comments on Proposed Innovation Plan – Dan Redondo (Orwell)

As a member of the public, I offer my comments tonight on the Report of the Innovation Committee. The comments come in two flavors: one in the form of questions seeking answers/clarifications, and two, opinions on the plan in general. For the former, I am looking for answers, either tonight, or in follow up meetings or reports, or directions to where the answer can be found. For the latter, I expect no comment. I am a parent of three kids in the district, one in Orwell, and two at the high school. My concerns are born entirely of the quality of the education first and foremost, and no parent's concerns deserve to be attacked in the form of 'what have you got against changes that benefit the students.' I do not care if my comments 'frustrate you'. Your job is to listen, and do so respectfully.

Questions

- 1) School enrollment projections – how is this predicted? Please provide documentation.
- 2) Attracting new students – when does the board predict student population growth?
- 3) Middle school facility site – what criteria were used? Where can this be reviewed?
- 4) What does the board consider as 'too small' to provide effective education?
- 5) What happens to Benson with a projected student population of 42? How is this student population in line with concerns about shrinking enrollment?
- 6) The board is stating that the schools "no longer fully support either the existing or future educational programs that this community desires for its children." Can you provide supporting documentation for this statement?
- 7) Test scores, like it or not, are considered the evaluative mark of a school's success. How will a new middle school be evaluated for improvements on test scores?
- 8) One of the proposed benefits of consolidation was that teachers can move from school to school to offer classes that are currently unavailable. Where is this discussed as an option?

Opinions

- 1) The sports program does not need an artificial turf surface.
- 2) The arts are short-changed. Consider adding an auditorium for concerts, plays, and art shows.
- 3) Slate Valley has two critical needs: FHUHS repairs and improvements and OVS Town Hall (Gym and cafeteria) replacement. A new middle school is a DESIRE and does not need to be completed now. There is a substantial body of research that shows that middle school students do better academically and socially in the K-8 setting. Because middle school is a DESIRE, that affords you the luxury of acting in the future to build a middle school should the public fully support it. Once you've built the middle school, you're never going back to the K-8 model. Proceed cautiously.
- 4) Should you proceed with the middle school, please consider using Benson as a middle school. It would save a lot of money compared with building a new school? Plus, it would represent a firm commitment to keeping a school in Benson, as that projected population of 42 students is very low.