

# Budget Vote March 3, 2020

## Voting Language

### Article for Transfer to Capital Reserve

#### Fund:

Shall the voters of the School District authorize a transfer from the general fund surplus balance in the amount of \$200,000 to the capital improvements and repairs reserve fund?

### Article for Budget:

Shall the voters of the School District approve the school board to expend \$26,623,041, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,663.02 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.66% higher than spending for the current year.

### Article for Bond:

Shall general obligation bonds or notes of Slate Valley Unified Union School District in an amount not to exceed Fifty-nine Million, Five-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$59,500,000) be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of making certain public school building improvements, namely, (1) Construction of the Slate Valley Middle School adjacent to the Fair Haven Union High School, (2) Renovation and repairs to the Fair Haven Union High School building and grounds, (3) Construction, renovation and repairs to Orwell Village School, and (4) an elevator system for Fair Haven Grade School, the aggregate cost of such improvements estimated to be Fifty-nine Million, Five-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$59,500,000)?

State funds may not be available at the time these projects are otherwise eligible to receive state school construction aid. The District is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing done in anticipation of the receipt of school construction aid.



Slate Valley Unified Union School District  
33 Mechanic Street  
Fair Haven, VT 05743

POSTAL PATRON

SLATE VALLEY  
UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT



Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven,  
Hubbardton, West Haven, Orwell

## School Budget Vote March 3, 2020 2020-2021 Information

Hard copies of the SVUUSD Annual Report and Proposed Budget will be made available at the Superintendent's Office, 33 Mechanic Street, Fair Haven, VT, the Town Clerk Offices, and the local schools. For a digital copy you may visit our website:

[www.SlateValleyUnified.org](http://www.SlateValleyUnified.org)

## We Believe

- In providing for the social, emotional, and academic needs of every child so that they feel connected, safe, and respected in order to ensure student achievement.
- In providing a challenging and engaging atmosphere in which all members of the school community can learn and grow.
- In providing opportunities for inquiry, research, global collaboration, and communication.
- In providing varied, rich, and personalized opportunities for learning.
- In providing experiences to develop critical thinking skills that allow students to become engaged participants in their school communities and beyond.



## Budget Objectives

- Social Emotional Learning
- Professional Development to Support Personalized/Proficiency Based Learning
- Maintenance
- Equity in Opportunity for All Students
- Efficiencies Throughout the System
- Value for Taxpayers

## Additional Considerations

- Significant increase in percentages of students with social emotional needs
  - Decrease in mental health services across the state, increase in burden on schools
  - Local school programs are serving students with complex needs in greater numbers with fewer options for specialized placements
  - Creation of in-district alternative programming to support intensive social/emotional/behavioral needs of students at all ages and developmental levels
- Increased cost of health insurance premiums: 13%
- Expenses due to deferred maintenance across buildings, specifically at the high school
- Going out to bid on Transportation and Food Service Contracts
- Decrease in revenues
- Universal Breakfast and Lunch
- Decrease in equalized pupils of 3.06%

## Projected Staffing Changes

- FY21 Changes:
  - Reduction of 3.5 FTE
  - Addition of 1.4 FTE
- Total Reductions: 2.1 FTE
- Total Reductions in Staffing over last 3 years: 13.15 FTE

## Tax Rate Considerations

- FY21 Property Tax Yield Announced by the Tax Commissioner is \$10,883
  - The State Yield assumes Statewide Education Spending increases of 5.01% and Statewide Spending per Equalized Pupil increases of 5.53%
  - The Tax Commissioner's estimate of the average Spending per Equalized Pupil is \$17,133
  - **SVUUSD current estimate of Spending per Equalized Pupil is \$16,663.02 (\$469.98 below the Estimated State Average)**
  - The Legislature sets the final yield amount
- Merger Incentives
  - SVUUSD FY21 merger incentive is \$.04
  - All taxpayers will benefit from the merger incentive
  - In FY21 it is projected that all towns except for West Haven will reach the equalized tax rate for SVUUSD
- Tax Rate Estimate  
(SVUUSD Estimated Equalized Tax Rate After Act 46 Incentive before town's CLA is applied)
  - FY21: \$1.4911
  - FY20: \$1.4480

Change in Equalized Tax Rate: \$0.0431

## SVUUSD FY21 Budget

- Expenditure Budget: \$26,623,041
- Local Revenues: \$4,638,689
- Education Spending: \$21,984,352
- Equalized Pupils: 1,319.35
- **Preliminary Education Spending per Equalized Pupil: \$16,663.02**  
**(Estimated State Average of \$17,133)**