

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 Regular Meeting  
 February 10, 2020  
 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	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	-
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:** Adrienne Raymond, Cortney Allard, Kim Prehoda, Phil Hall, Jason Rasco, Chris\_\_\_\_\_, DCF;

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

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Mike Bache made a motion to approve the agenda with one addition, discussion and acceptance of audits, this was seconded by Toni Lobdell. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes - January 27, 2020:** Mike Bache made a motion to approve the minutes with two corrections, the first being that Angela Charron joined the last meeting on 1/27/20 later and was

marked as not here; the second addition was that Amy Munger asked that we reflect that the Board had discussed having the Community Forum after the informational meeting on 2/24/20 starting at 8p.m, and this community forum would be discussing the Bond Hearing and more information on the Innovation Project. This was seconded by Peter Stone with the corrections noted. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Executive Session - Student Hearing:** Julie said the Student Hearing would be moved after Other Business.

**Committee Reports:**

- Finance Committee - The Finance Committee discussed the audits that were received (3) of them for ARSU, Slate Valley Modified Unified UUSD and Orwell SD. The Finance Committee was recommending to the full Board that we accept the audits.
  - Warrants: Trevor Ezzo made a motion to approve the warrant for total payments in the amount of \$2,148,418.17, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Trevor Ezzo made a motion to approve the warrant for Food Service in the amount of \$20.00, this was seconded by Peter Stone. Motion carried by full Board. Trevor Ezzo made a motion to approve the warrant for Grants in the amount of \$46,487.5, this was seconded by Toni Lobdell. Motion carried by the full Board.
  - Audit Action: Trevor Ezzo made a motion to accept the audits received for year ending June 30, 2019, this was seconded by Peter Stone. Motion carried by full Board.
- Policy Committee
  - A2 Participation by Board Policy - Approve to Warn: Toni Lobdell made a motion to warn Board Policy A2 Participation by Board, this was seconded by Peter Stone. Motion carried by full Board.

**Field Trip Request:** Angela Charron made a motion to approve the field trip to Boston, this was seconded by Peter Stone. Motion carried by the full Board.

**FY 21 School Calendar:** Peter Stone made a motion to approve the FY 21 calendar as proposed. Discussion ensued as to days. Angela Charron seconded the motion to approve FY 21 calendar. Motion carried by the full Board.

**Contracts:** Please reflect in minutes.

2020-2021 School Year Contracts: Glen Cousineau made a motion to approve the contract for Phil Hall as the FHUHS Principal at a rate of \$100,000.00 for the FY 20-21 School Year. Year two of contract to be determined. This was seconded by Toni Lobdell. Motion carried by the full Board.

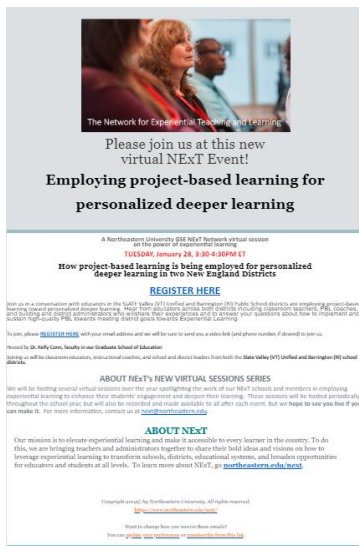
Other Contracts to be discussed in Executive Session #2 (see below)

**Central Office Reports:**

Superintendent's Report

Over this past month we have focused on communication concerning the March 3rd bond and budget votes. We have been working in groups developing materials to send out to taxpayers, giving interviews to the media and recording an informational webinar. In addition, we have had visits from Secretary French and Congressman Welch where we discussed our infrastructure needs, among other items. As a leadership team we continue our focus on instructional leadership development. As I reported to you earlier in the year several of us on the leadership team are taking part in the University of Washington, Center for Educational Leadership Instructional Leadership Academy. On January 29th Fair Haven Grade School hosted teams from Rutland Northeast as well as our district. The goal was to strengthen our skills as leaders in the instructional walkthrough process. We are grateful for Kayla Boudreau, Teann McCrea and Judy Folmsbee for allowing us to use their classrooms to expand our learning. On February 27th Orwell Village School will be hosting us.

## Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment



Myself, Deb Ehler-Hansan library media specialist at FHUHS, Kristen Whitman K-5 Slate Valley Instructional Coach, Abby Wald 6-8 Slate Valley Instructional Coach, Kim St. Phillips K/1 Teacher FHGS, Courtney Robinson 6-8 ELA Teacher OVS, and Julia Adams Slate Valley K-12 Personalized Learning Coach participated in the Webinar listed above. The following link provides more information about NExT. Slate Valley's participation in NExT with Northeastern University supports our Mission and Vision of seeing students meet or exceed standards through rigours, authentic, experiential, individualized learning.

### [Network of Experiential Learning Educators \(NExT\)](#)

[Here](#) is the link to the **ABOUT NExT** full recording (without editing). The webinar will be edited and posted on the [NExT Commons](#) for everyone's access.

## Director of Operations

During the month of January, the final cost estimate was prepared for the upcoming Innovation Project bond vote. Ongoing work was continued in order to address heating system issues at the Fair Haven Union High School. We've been able to make some of the needed repairs with future work planned once the heating season concludes in order to address further issues that require shutting down the heating system in order for techs to access portions of the system for repair. Further work was also completed on the fresh air intake system at the Orwell Village School in order to ensure optimal air conditions in the building. We also completed additional phone system work at the Castleton Elementary School and Castleton Village School to address a connection issue that was discovered during the fall. During the upcoming February break tech staff will be working to replace a number of classroom displays in district schools as part of our planned technology replacement cycle.

## Director of Special Services

On February 12th, the special education department at FHUHS will be hosting a parent information session on Supported Decision Making and Guardianship. This will begin at 6 p.m. and will feature Claudia Pringles, Esq. This is the first in a series of three parent information sessions focused on the transition to life beyond high school.

The Slate Valley Universal Preschool Program will be conducting developmental screenings for children 0-5 years of age living in Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell, and West Haven. The screening involves activities that are both fun for young children and help us learn about a child's motor, cognitive, and language skills. Vision and hearing will also be screened. We encourage all students to be screened. Any child aged 0-5 years that resides in Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell, and West Haven who has not previously been screened should be screened. Slate Valley is offering screenings for children ages 0-5 at Benson Village School on April 3, Castleton Elementary School on April 9 and 10, and Fair Haven Grade School on April 1.

We have also identified the schedule for the Universal Preschool Programming in Slate Valley for the 20-21 school year. The details of the [SV Preschool Schedule for 20-21](#) are outlined in the enclosed memo that was shared with SV administrators last week.

## Director of Finance

At our last board meeting a couple of questions came up about the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA). Below is information on the CLA from the Vermont Department of Taxes website. I hope you find it helpful.

*What is the CLA?*

*CLA stands for "Common Level of Appraisal." It is a method of ensuring that each town is paying its fair share of education property tax to the state's Education Fund.*

*In 1997 the Vermont Legislature passed Act 60 in an effort to equalize education funding across the state. Before Act 60 was passed, the amount a town could raise to fund its schools was limited by the amount*

of property value in the town. Because of that, levels of school funding and therefore educational opportunity varied widely across the state. Act 60 shifted education funding to the state level, creating a statewide education property tax rate and a state "Education Fund " to collect the revenue. This new arrangement of shared education funding responsibility made it necessary to check the accuracy of the town grand lists since they are maintained by town listers, not the state. If the grand list in a town didn't reflect fair market value, then the town would have ended up sending more or less tax revenue than its fair share to the statewide Education Fund. Since towns don't reappraise every year, and real estate markets are constantly changing, a correction factor, or "Common Level of Appraisal," was developed to equalize what is paid in education property taxes across towns. The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for every Vermont town is the primary result of the Equalization Study performed by the Tax Department every year. The equalization study compares the ratio of the grand list listed value to the sale price for all the arms-length sales in the town over the prior three-year period. The study considers sales price as the best measurement of fair market value. If grand list values are generally less than sale prices for the recent sales, the town will end up with a CLA less than one hundred percent. If grand list values are generally more than sale prices for the recent sales, the town will end up with a CLA of more than one hundred percent. Once the CLA is determined, it is used to adjust the homestead and non-homestead education tax rates. The CLA doesn't change taxpayer's property values, only the education tax rate in a town - an example of indirect equalization.

The CLA is also used as one measure to determine whether a town must reappraise. During the 2019 legislative session, the legislature changed the requirements so that municipalities must reappraise if the CLA is below 85% or above 115% (Act 51 of 2019, Section 24). Before 2019, there was only a lower threshold and it was 80%.

*How is the CLA used?*

Suppose the equalization study determined that a town's a CLA should be .9589, indicating that property in the town is generally listed for 95.89% of what it is selling for. If the homestead tax education tax rate in the town is \$1.50 (per \$100 of property value) before the CLA is applied, then the actual (final) tax rate would be  $\$1.50 / .9589 = \$1.5643$  (per \$100 of property value) after the CLA is applied.

*This is the rates that would appear on the property tax bills issued by the town.*

### **Other Business:**

**Non-Union Fringe Benefit Package:** Brooke Olsen Farrell explained that the language on the Non-Union Fringe Package had been utilized before and was specifically listed in contracts. She was seeking approval of the language on the Non-Union Fringe Benefit Contract by the Board to be referenced (please see the Non-Union Fringe Benefit Package) in these member's contracts rather than spelling out each given fringe benefit in each individual non-union contract. Peter Stone made a motion to approve the language of the Non-Union Fringe Benefit Package so that it might be referenced in each non-union member contract, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Motion was carried by the full Board.

**Executive Session#1:** Glen Cousineau made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of a Student Hearing at 7p.m. with Administration. Amy Munger seconded this motion. Peter Stone made a motion to come out of the Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. with the following action taken. Peter Stone made a motion to suspend Student #11188 for the remainder of the academic school year through the last academic day of 2019-2020 school year. Amy Munger seconded the motion and it was carried by the full Board.

**Executive Session #2:** Toni Lobdell made a motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Administrative Contracts with the Superintendent present at 8:40 p.m., this was seconded by Josua Hardt. Peter Stone made a motion to come out of Executive Session @ 9:30 p.m. and made the motion to approve all contracts as presented, and for the Board Chair to sign all of the contracts, this was seconded by Toni Lobdell. Motion carried by the full Board.

The Board approved the following contracts on 2/10/2020.

- Kristin Benway – Director of Special Services - \$115,173.31
- Casey O'Meara – Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment – \$99,237.31
- Christopher Cole – Director of Operations - \$94,237.31
- Cheryl Scarzello – Director of Finance - \$105,057.91
- Patrick Walters – OVS Principal - \$101,533.43
- Deborah Infurna – FHGS Principal - \$106,600
- Amy Roy – BVS Principal - \$79,950
- Kim Prehoda – CES/CVS Principal - \$106,600
- Phil Hall – FHUHS Principal - \$100,000
- Kate Leathe – FHUHS Assistant Principal - \$82,000
- Jennefer Paquette – FHGS Assistant Principal - \$86,100
- Rebecca Armitage – FHGS Building Based Director of Special Education - \$76,858.60
- Bonnie Lenihan – CES/CVS Building Based Director of Special Education - \$98,218.58
- Margaret Hayward – FHUHS Building Based Director of Special Education - \$75,850

**Other Business:**

- Reviewed Board Relations with School Personnel.
- Reviewed Meetings to take place on the 24th; 5:30 meeting on Teacher Negotiations Committee, 7 p.m. Informational Budget meeting and 8 p.m. Bond Hearing, which is to be run by the Board. Julie, Peter and Trevor will complete the presentation. Public Conversation will be welcomed and invited after the presentation.
- CVS Assistant Principal position will be posted on 2/11/2020

**Agenda Building:** Preparation for the meetings on 2/24/2020

**Adjournment:** Patti Beaumont made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m., this was seconded by Peter Stone. Motion carried by the full Board.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bonnie Lenihan

SVUUSD Annual Informational Meeting - February 24, 2020 - FHUHS - 7PM