

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting

May 18, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Approved Minutes:

Name	Role/Term	Town Representing	In Attendance
Pati Beaumont	Board Member	Benson	X
Rebeckah St. Peter	Board Member	Benson	X
Vacant	Board Member	Benson	--
Toni Lobdell	Board Member	Castleton	X
Tim Smith	Board Chair	Castleton	X
Julie Finnegan	Board Member	Castleton	X
Vacant	Board Member	Hubbardton	-
Joshua Hardt	Board Member	Hubbardton	X
Vacant	Board Member	Hubbardton	-
Tanya Tolchin	Board Member	West Haven	X
Angela Charron	Board Member	West Haven	-
Vacant	Board Member	West Haven	-
Tara Buxton	Board Member - Clerk of Board	Fair Haven	X
Mike Bache	Board Member	Fair Haven	X
Rick Wilson	Board Member	Fair Haven	X
Peter Stone	Vice Chair	Orwell	X
Glen Cousineau	Board Member	Orwell	X
John Wurzbacher	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
Kris Benway	Director of Special Services	Slate Valley UUSD	X

Audience Attending: Jen Clement, Kim Prehoda, Jason Rasco, Patrick Walters, Sheri Nichols, Jordyn Howard, Melanie Coombs, Deb Infurna, Pam Arel, Kate Leathe, Margaret Hayward, Amy Roy, Kim Lucci, Nedra Boutwell

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order - 6:30 p.m. Tim Smith called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Glen Cousineau made a motion to approve the agenda with no changes, this was seconded by Toni Lobdell; Motion carried by the Full Board.

Approval of SVUUSD Minutes - May 4, 2020: Glen Cousineau made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 4, 2020 with no changes; this was seconded by Mike Bache; The Motion was carried by the Full Board.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

IDEA Assurances: Julie Finnegan made a motion to certify that the SVUUSD Board is a participating school district and have duly authorized the Superintendent of Schools to accept and administer IDEA-B grants in accordance with federal guidelines. This was seconded by Toni Lobdell. The board chair will sign the assurances and send an electronic copy to Kris. Motion carried by the full Board.

Budget Revote Warning: Julie Finnegan made a motion to approve the budget warning below for a June 9, 2020 Budget re-vote. This was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Motion was carried by the full Board. There was a great deal of discussion about how to get information out to voters to stress that they are only voting on the operational budget for the schools for next year, that it has nothing to do with the Bond vote. The Board strategized about where to advertise and how to inform taxpayers.

W A R N I N G
SPECIAL MEETING
SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
(Towns of Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell, West Haven)
JUNE 8, 2020

The legal voters of the Slate Valley Unified Union School District (SVUUSD) consisting of the towns of Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell and West Haven are hereby warned and notified to meet virtually on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. to transact any of the following business not involving voting by Australian ballot. Please connect virtually by going to meet.google.com/iig-prfw-ngu or by calling (US)+1 856-485-0395 PIN: 415 992 197#.

Upon the conclusion of the business not involving Australian ballot, the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened in the respective polling places for each of the above-referenced towns on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 to transact any business involving voting by Australian ballot.

Article 1: To have the Board of Directors of the School District present the proposed school budget for the ensuing year.

Article 2: To transact any other business that may come before the meeting.

JUNE 9, 2020
BALLOT QUESTION

Article 3: 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 \$16,555.28 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.99% higher than spending for the current year.

Said persons and voters are warned and notified that voter qualifications, registration, absentee voting, and voter procedures shall be in accordance with Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17 Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Informational Hearing:

Said persons and voters are further notified and warned that the virtual meeting on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. also serves as an informational hearing to discuss Article 3 which will be voted on by Australian ballot on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

Dated at Fair Haven, Vermont this _____ day of _____, 2020.

_____ Timothy Smith, Chair

_____ Elisabeth MacKay, Clerk Slate Valley Unified Union School District

Received for record and recorded prior to posting this _____ day of _____, 2020.

_____ Elisabeth MacKay, Clerk Slate Valley Unified Union School District

Next Peter Stone made a motion to allow Board Clerks of each town the latitude to allow for variations to implement the voting procedures, to exclude option #1- Voting by mail only, this motion was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Motion was carried by the full Board.

Non-Union Fringe Benefits:

Julie Finnegan made the motion to approve the revised Fringe Benefit package for Non-Union employees, Tara Buxton seconded. Motion was carried by the full Board.

Letter of Intent - New Hire: Carolyn Zuaro - Art Teacher - \$48,076 and Kristina Knockenhauer at a salary of \$43,520.00 as the Health/PE/Student Support Teacher in Orwell. The motion was made by Glen Cousineau to extend the two letters of intent as read into the minutes by the Superintendent. This was seconded by Mike Bache. The motion was carried by the full Board. Tim Smith, Board Chair Congratulates and welcomes these two candidates to Slate Valley.

Resignations: The following resignations were included in the Board Packet and each of these positions would need to be rehired. Glen Cousineau made a motion to accept the resignations, John Wurzbacher seconded the motion. Peter Stone opposed the resignation of Laura Aprillano and Bailee Desforges. Motion was carried by the Board.

Laura Aprilliano - Elementary Teacher
 Bailee Desforges - Elementary Teacher
 Grace Canfield - CVS School Nurse

COVID -19 Response Update: At the prior Board meeting the Board members asked the Superintendent to provide on-going information regarding the updates on Covid 19.. Brooke noted that she had been sending out information to Board members on the daily ever changing updates. Brooke said there is an absence of guidance at the state level with many specifics, so the information Brooke was able to share so far and this evening paints very broad strokes. Discussion ensued by Board members. Questions were asked about staff professional development, would our buildings be open for any in person in-service opportunities. Kris Benway noted that there was quite a lot of on-going professional development for our support staff and many of the trainings have been about becoming Trauma Informed Schools and how we can support students as they return to school. Josh Hardt said he would like to see a buffet of offerings for families to choose from as we think about reopening schools. Kris Benway and Brooke Olsen Farrell spoke about the stringent requirements being put on child care reopenings. Many ideas were bantered around such as delaying the start of school until September, potentially giving up a vacation week in the winter or spring, Grades attending/working on a rotation basis. Tim Smith asked if this were to be the case would schools be on the hook to provide childcare to families. Brooke said no because we wouldn't have enough staff or physical space to socially distance. If we were to provide daycare we might as well open schools to all students. Other Board members suggested they are really more worried about not resuming school as a normal course of business. There were even discussions about the change in how we designed classrooms to have tables for group work, and done away with individual desks and it is hard to think now about social distancing the way our classrooms are currently outfitted with tables for collaborative work.

Principal's Report:

Slate Valley Principals' Report

May 18, 2020

The Slate Valley Principals believe in the importance of honoring all of our graduates during this difficult time. All of our schools are planning graduation ceremonies to commemorate the occasion. Slate Valley Principals are also organizing various end-of-the-year events to honor the hard work and accomplishments of all of our students.

Benson Village School

The 8th-grade ceremony for Benson Village School 8th grade students will occur virtually on June 10th at 7 pm. Principal Amy Roy, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Casey O'Meara, and the middle school teaching team, Elizabeth Schuyler (Math), Bryan Muller (ELA), and Jeff Walker (Science & World Studies) will all be participating in the live event being held on the google meets platform. Packets with certificates of completion, President's Awards, and cards from staff to students will be sent home prior to the event so students will be able to have these during the ceremony. The student memory slideshow will wrap up the ceremony. The 2020 8th-grade class will be invited back next year, 2021, to be honored and recognized at the 8th-grade ceremony.

Castleton Elementary School

Castleton Elementary School annually holds a Fifth Grade Torch Ceremony. This ceremony marks the important transition of our fifth graders to sixth grade and moving on to Castleton Village School. The ceremony this year will be virtual with pre recorded messages of congratulations to our students. Mrs. Clark and Miss Terry, our fifth-grade teachers, are putting this together and many of our staff members will be included in this celebration.

Typically, we bring our fifth graders to visit CVS in the spring as well. This year, we will likely have a virtual tour that our fifth graders can see. This idea is in the development stage, so more to come!

Castleton Village School

Our virtual 8th-grade graduation ceremony will be presented on Monday, June 15th at 7:00 pm. The ceremony will be pre-recorded, compiled, and a link will be presented to graduates and their parents and guardians. We will follow the traditional format for CVS graduation. We will have opening remarks and awards, followed by individual recognition of each graduate, followed by a slideshow.

Fair Haven Grade School

FHGS will be creating a pre-recorded virtual 8th grade graduation ceremony which will be presented on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 7:00 pm. A link will be shared with graduates and their families. We will follow our traditional format for FHGS graduation, which will include opening remarks from administration, a message from our Superintendent and the presentation of the President's award from our Guidance Counselor, Kim Ezzo. We will present our "through the years" student slide show. We will also have a special message from the graduates from Mr. Cooke. We will then close with our 8th grade TA advisors - Michele Poalino, Samantha Shreckengost, Justin Merrill and Chris Stanton providing individual recognition of each graduate.

FHGS is also working on a virtual transition to middle school for our 5th graders. This transition will include a 360 tour of each classroom and a message from each middle school teacher.

Fair Haven Union High School

Fair Haven Union High School's graduation will take place on June 12th as scheduled. The ceremony, as voted on by the senior class, will be a combination that is pre-recorded with an in-person mobile diploma reception in which graduates will walk across a stage to receive their diplomas. Senior graduates will be allowed to decorate their vehicles (one vehicle per graduate), and at the appointed time, proceed through a designated and decorated course through the FHUHS parking lot. A reception stage at the front entrance to the building will be the point where the graduates – and ONLY the graduates – will be allowed to step from their vehicle to collect his or her diploma on stage. While strict physical distancing parameters will be set, we are grateful that the opportunity to make the in-person diploma reception happen has been afforded. I want to thank everyone – from our exceptional students and staff, to administration and our community members who were willing, creative, and who generously offered ideas and resources - to supporting our students.

Orwell Village School

Our virtual graduation ceremony will be pre recorded and follows in the traditional style of former graduations. This year's ceremony will feature an amazing rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner by Holly Savage and guest speakers Superintendent Farrell, Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets Alyson Eastman, Former Spanish Teacher Steve Hudson, and Orwell Free Librarian Kate Hunter. In addition staff at OVS are planning an end-of-the-year even to honor all students, along with a virtual move-up day.

Respectfully submitted,

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| Amy Roy | * | Benson Village School; Amy spoke about 8th grade graduation being all done virtually through a Google Meets classroom, and shared that staff had written cards and letters for all graduates. |
| Kim Prehoda | * | Castleton Elementary |
| Phil Hall | * | Castleton Village School |
| Deb Infurna | * | Fair Haven Grade School |
| Jason Rasco | * | Fair Haven Union High School: Jason had a Senior student, Jordyn Howard speak about being on the HS Graduation committee, Jordyn said about 80% of their graduation would be virtual, 20% would be 1 vehicle per family decorated in a procession with appropriate distancing, a single senior would get out of the car at a time to walk across the stage pick up a diploma from the table; (diploma would be in a plastic bag), there would be a photographer there, all graduates have to wear masks |

Strategic Plan Feedback: Brooke explained that originally the Board was to have examined the District's strategic plan at the Board Retreat in March, which had to be cancelled due to Covid 19. The Strategic Plan is the guiding document for the district for the FY 22 Budget Season, and there is time that needs to be spent on discussion of education reconfigurations and opportunities as we move forward. Brooke hopes to garner feedback from the Board. This is intended to be a living, breathing document. Julie encouraged all Board members to spend time reviewing this document as we have to have some hard discussions going forward, especially given the tough financial place we will find ourselves in light of the excessive costs of Covid 19. The Board decided to hold a July Board meeting on July 20th to spend time , (hopefully in person) to delve into the document and make some significant plans on how we move forward in this district.

Other Business: None

Executive Session - If Needed: Not Needed

Agenda Building:

1. Informational Meeting on Budget
2. Potential New Hires
3. Further updates on Covid 19
4. End of Year Financial Forecast
5. Late Summer and Fall Plans for Opening of Schools, etc.

Adjournment: Peter Stone made a motion to adjourn at 8:11 pm, this was seconded by Glen Cousineau. Motion carried by the full Board.

SVUUSD Board Meeting - June 9, 2020 - Virtual Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
Finance Committee Meeting - June 8, 2020 - Virtual Meeting - 5:30 p.m.