

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

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PERMIT NO. 4



School Budget Re-Vote Tuesday, August 11

The proposed budget includes ONLY the expenditures necessary to meet the operational needs of Slate Valley's schools in their current configuration for the 2020–2021 school year. It does not include expenditures for a new bond. The district must continue to vote until it has a voter approved budget and will have to borrow to meet short term cash needs at a rate of 1.75%. Statute allows the district to borrow up 87% of the last approved budget. Frequently Asked Questions and the detailed budget for SVUUSD may be found by going to www.slatevalleyunified.org.

This vote is for the FY 21 (2020-2021 School Year) Operating Budget only and DOES NOT include expenditures for a new bond.

(Virtual) Informational Hearing August 3, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Please connect virtually by going to meet.google.com/xyb-itrv-dgu or by calling (US) +1 234-307-0704 PIN: 698 588 330#.

Article for Budget

Article 3: Shall the voters of the School District approve the school board to expend \$26,402,586, 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 \$16,393.68 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.99% higher than spending for the current year.

Methods of Voting

- Absentee Ballot – A budget ballot will be sent if you have already requested an absentee ballot for the primary. If you have not already requested a ballot, please contact the town clerk.
- In person – following current CDC guidance.

Polling Locations

- **Benson** (10 a.m. – 7 p.m.) Benson Community Hall; 2724 Stage Road
- **Castleton** (8 a.m. – 7 p.m.) Castleton Fire Station; 273 VT Route 30 North
- **Fair Haven** (10 a.m. – 7 p.m.) American Legion Post 49; 72 South Main Street
- **Hubbardton** (10 a.m. – 7 p.m.) Hubbardton Town Hall; 1831 Monument Hill Road
- **Orwell** (10 a.m. – 7 p.m.) Orwell Town Hall; 436 Main Street
- **West Haven** (10 a.m. – 7 p.m.) West Haven Town Hall; 2919 Main Road

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 (2020-2021 School Year) Budget Overview

EXPENDITURE BUDGET: \$26,402,586

This a reduction of \$220,455 from the budget that was proposed in March. The instructional staff was reduced by 2 FTE and student support staff was reduced by .6 FTE. The expenditures budgeted are only to address the operational needs of the school district for the 2020-2021 school year and are a decrease of \$91,052 from the fiscal year 2020 budget.

LOCAL REVENUES: \$4,794,234

Revenues increased \$155,545 from the budget that was presented in March. Most of the increase is attributable to an increase in the use of prior year surplus funds. The increase is \$173,534 when compared to the fiscal year 2020 budget.

EDUCATION SPENDING: \$21,608,352

Education spending is a decrease of \$264,586 compared to fiscal year 2020. Statewide for school budgets that passed the INCREASE in education spending was 4.6%. **Slate Valley is proposing a DECREASE in education spending of 1.2%.**

EQUALIZED PUPILS: 1,318.09

Equalized pupils (EP) has decreased 3%. EP are based on a formula that uses a 2 year average for enrollment and weights students differently based on a number of factors. The district has made reductions in response to the decrease in EP.

EDUCATION SPENDING PER EQUALIZED PUPIL: \$16,393.68

Education spending (ES) per equalized pupil (EP) is an increase of 1.99% compared to fiscal year 2020. This is the percentage that appears in the warning. When comparing ES per EP to other surrounding school districts - Slate Valley's is lower than Mill River and Quarry Valley (Poultney, W. Rutland and Proctor).

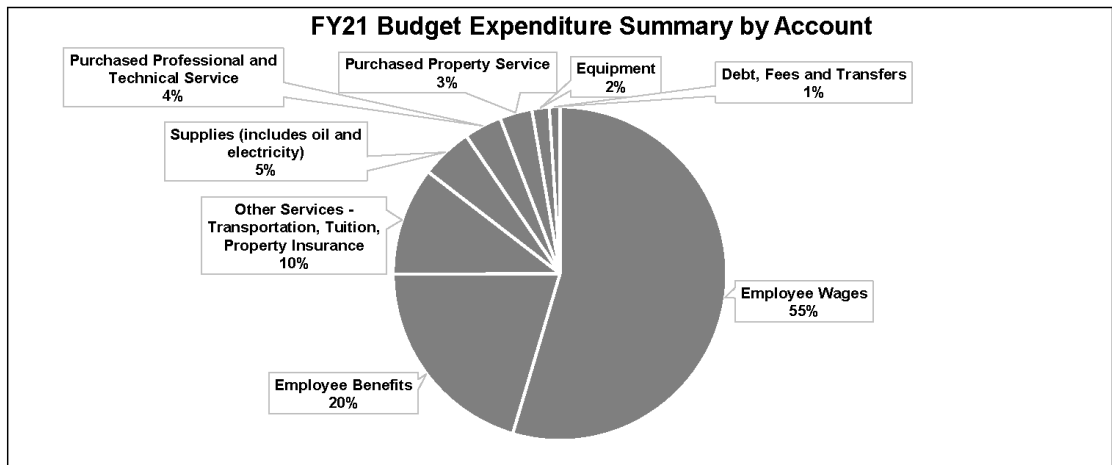
Revenue Summary

	FY20 Budget 7/1/19 thru 6/30/20	FY21 Proposed Budget 7/1/20 thru 6/30/21	Change Increase(Decrease)
OFFSETTING (LOCAL) REVENUES:			
Local			
Gate Receipts	\$ 18,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,000
Elementary Tuition	58,000	45,000	(13,000)
Secondary Tuition	16,000	-	(16,000)
Prior Year Surplus	900,000	1,019,000	119,000
Indirect Fees Charged To Federal Grants	25,000	30,000	5,000
Interest Earned	25,000	30,000	5,000
Other Revenues-Rentals	700	-	(700)
State			
Special Education			
Early Childhood Special Ed Block Grant	100,000	108,362	8,362
Main Block Grant	513,000	507,892	(5,108)
Intensive Reimbursement	2,046,000	2,256,545	210,545
Extraordinary Needs Reimbursement	3,000	-	(3,000)
State Placed Reimbursement	240,000	195,000	(45,000)
Transportation			
State Aid For Transportation	410,000	410,000	-
Vocational Ed Transportation Aid	50,000	50,000	-
Reimbursement For Drivers Ed	6,000	6,000	-
Other			
Merger Support Grant	210,000	116,435	(93,565)
SUBTOTAL OFFSETTING (LOCAL) REVENUES	\$ 4,620,700	\$ 4,794,234	\$ 173,534
State Education Spending Grant	21,557,697	21,312,812	(244,885)
State To Tech Center On Behalf Of The District	315,241	295,540	(19,701)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 26,493,638	\$ 26,402,586	\$ (91,052)

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The detailed budget for SVUUSD may be found by going to www.slatevalleyunified.org.

Expenditure Summary by Functional Area					
Functional Area Code	Functional Area Description	FY20 Budget		FY21 Proposed Budget	Change Increase(Decrease)
		7/1/19 thru 6/30/20		7/1/20 thru 6/30/21	
1100	Regular Instructional Programs	\$ 9,835,086		\$ 9,418,738	\$ (416,348)
1200	Special Education Instructional Programs	4,256,237		4,026,209	(230,028)
1400	Athletic Programs	443,117		471,433	28,316
1500	Co-curricular Programs	109,585		93,065	(16,520)
2120	Guidance Services	675,867		716,868	41,001
2130	School Nurse Services	549,765		541,370	(8,395)
2140	Psychological Services	6,250		36,911	30,661
2150	Speech and Other Therapy Services	316,817		322,951	6,134
2160	Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Vision Services	226,173		222,908	(3,265)
2190	Other Student Services	366,710		519,617	152,907
2210	Improvement of Instruction	155,918		313,841	157,923
2220	Library Services	321,230		287,619	(33,611)
2230	Technology Services	730,330		517,772	(212,558)
2310	School Board	189,905		143,875	(46,030)
2320	Superintendent's Office	323,214		307,075	(16,139)
2410	School Administration	1,771,263		1,849,457	78,194
2490	School Administration - Other Support Services	182,363		93,898	(88,465)
2490	Special Education Administration	400,208		424,381	24,173
2510	Fiscal Services	552,568		575,404	22,836
2500	Other Central Services including IT	374,190		635,916	261,726
2600	Buildings and Grounds	2,963,953		2,423,600	(540,353)
4700	Building Improvements	-		529,500	529,500
2660	Security and Safety	243,684		210,636	(33,048)
2700	Transportation	1,303,000		1,410,800	107,800
3100	Food Services	31,800		156,800	125,000
5000	Debt Services	164,405		151,942	(12,463)
Total Expenses		\$ 26,493,638		\$ 26,402,586	\$ (91,052)

On July 1, 2019 Addison Rutland Supervisory Union and all of the member school districts merged and became the Slate Valley Unified Union School District (SVUUSD). The budget above summarizes all of the expenditures for SVUUSD which was a new entity in FY20. In 2014 the VT Legislature resolved that school districts in the state must follow a uniform chart of accounts (UCOA). The SVUUSD has been moving toward the UCOA over the last 2 years. Some of the increases and decreases above are due to the aligning the FY21 budget with the VT UCOA.



Budget FY2021 Proposed Budget Tax Information

Homestead Tax Rate:

The state-wide homestead yield passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor for fiscal year 2021 is \$10,998 which, based on the state's funding formula, produces a pre-CLA equalized homestead tax rate of \$1.4906 (per \$100 of property value) for SVUUSD. In setting the yield lower than was originally recommended by the Tax Commissioner, the VT legislature wanted to send the message that the issues with the Education Fund due to COVID19 would not be borne by taxpayers. The district will still be eligible for an Act 46 incentive in FY21 of \$.04. When the incentive is applied to the equalized tax rate it becomes \$1.4506. Actual tax rates are further adjusted for each town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA).

Equalized Tax Rate		
FY20	FY21	Change in Equalized Tax Rate
\$1.4480	\$1.4506	\$0.0026

Town	FY21 Equalized Tax Rate	CLA	FY21 Homestead Tax Rate	Change in Tax Rate Compared to FY20
Benson	\$1.4506	103.14%	\$1.4064	\$0.0770
Castleton	\$1.4506	94.78%	\$1.5305	\$0.0419
Hubbardton	\$1.4506	93.21%	\$1.5563	\$0.0713
Fair Haven	\$1.4506	108.59%	\$1.3359	(\$0.0046)
West Haven	\$1.4506	97.20%	\$1.4924	\$0.1628
Orwell	\$1.4506	102.11%	\$1.4206	(\$0.0202)

Cost Per Equalized Pupil		
FY20 Cost per Equalized Pupil	FY21 Cost per Equalized Pupil	Percent Change
\$16,073.94*	\$16,393.68	1.99%
*Amount that appeared in the March 2019 warning. The cost per equalized pupil actually ended up being slightly lower due to adjustments in the number of equalized pupils made after the warning was finalized.		

Income Sensitivity:

Some taxpayers pay their education property taxes based on household income. The FY21 household income cap percentage is 2.42%. In FY20 it was 2.36%. The following are the percent of homestead taxpayers by town that paid their property taxes based on income in tax year 2019.

Town	% Based on Income
Benson	66.08%
Castleton	66.07%
Hubbardton	70.71%
Fair Haven	65.26%
West Haven	80.95%
Orwell	75.25%