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Slate Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) Family and Community Engagement Practice Highlights

The [Slate Valley Unified School District](#) (SVUSD) consists of five schools serving the towns of Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell, and West Haven in western Vermont.

SVUSD exemplifies the family engagement core principle of Building Effective Two-Way Communication by having a variety of ways to receive and discuss information. Initiatives include Newsletters, Facebook, Instagram, a Slate Valley Unified App, recent Open House events, clear directions for PowerSchool, and a Community Advisory Council. The Caselton Elementary School newsletter states, "Slate Valley School District's theme this year is, 'Our School, Your Future!' We know that partnering with our families and our community is critical."

Other engagement strategies to strengthen community belonging and partnership include:



In the Fair Haven Union High School Slater Nation Newsletter, families are welcomed, and information is shared to keep all families "in the loop" with information to "help keep informed of upcoming events, show you how to access certain information, and let you know how school is going in general."

Ongoing active outreach and engagement with the community including Coffee and Conversation to discuss the budget and school year, community events and service projects.

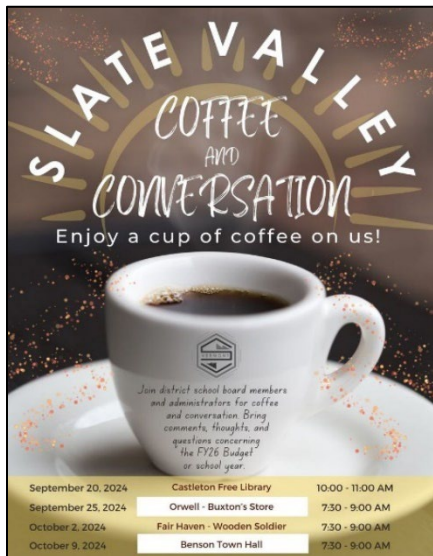
A critical SVUSD initiative to strengthen communication and family engagement is the Slate Valley Community Advisory Council. This council consists of representatives from each town who



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meet monthly with the Superintendent and other district staff. In the stated purpose, some of the goals are to work together to:

- Provide feedback and insight from the community perspective Community Advisory Council.
- Makes recommendations, encourages brainstorming, and provides opportunities for community involvement on committees and task forces.
- Facilitate communication between and among the guardians and SVUSD organizations from different schools and serve as a forum for sharing innovations and best practices from around the district.



Coffee and Conversation



Slate Valley Unified App



Benson Village School's Annual Bike N' Groove and Orwell Village School's Community Folk Dance Night



Family lunches and Students from Foods Class at Fair Haven Union Middle and High School prepare homemade dinners and deliver them to the local food shelf.



Fair Haven Grade School's Monthly Falcon Awards Assembly and Open House.



Castleton Elementary School provides community service during Green Up Day.