

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Date of Meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2014

Kind of Meeting: Regular

Presiding Officer: Kim Overrocker

Members Present: Kim Overrocker, Anthony Nicotera, Joseph Bottini, Jim Dever, Mark Evans, Lisa Frost and Dawn Miller

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Ronald Wheelock, Superintendent of Schools
Charlie Cowen, Business Administrator
Mark R. Putnam, Elementary School Principal
Peter R. Madden, Middle School Principal

Others Present: Members of the Staff/Community

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mrs. Overrocker.

Pledge of Allegiance - The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Public to Be Heard - Mrs. Overrocker asked if anyone wished to address the Board and no one did so.

Students to Be Heard - Mrs. Overrocker asked if any students wished to address the Board and none did so. No students were present.

Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports - School Boards Institute (SBI) - Mr. Wheelock distributed to the Board SBI's legislative position paper for 2014 and highlighted their priorities for the year.

Superintendent's Report - Architect Interview Update - Mr. Wheelock will email the Board a summary of the responses he received from the reference checks on March Associates and Ashley-McGraw Architects. He also provided the Board with the list of questions that were asked of the references that they checked. Mr. Nicotera asked if the strengths of each architect could be put together for the Board. **SBI General Membership Dinner Meeting** - Mr. Wheelock informed the Board of the SBI dinner meeting being held on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Oneida BOCES. The program will be the assembly and senate educational forum. **Veteran School Tax Exemption** - Mr. Cowen and Mr. Wheelock shared with the Board that veterans are eligible to receive an exemption on their school taxes if the Board passes a resolution indicating their approval which has to be done by March 1. Town and county agencies already permit such exemptions. The Board asked Mr. Cowen to research the impact of approving such an exemption on the school community. **Water and Sewer Costs** - Mr. Cowen shared with the Board a recent article in the Observer-Dispatch regarding an over assessment of water and sewer costs to municipalities. He has contacted the Town of Paris to inquire about the potential over charges to the school district.

Superintendent's Report (Cont'd) - Letter from Commissioner King - Mr. Wheelock shared a letter, "Reflections on the Common Core", that was drafted by Education Commissioner King. The letter essentially reflects on understanding the principles of Common Core, what he has learned from his public forums and where we are going from here. **Substitute Teacher Pay Rates** - Mr. Wheelock informed the Board that we need to fall within a legal mandate regarding minimum wage that went into effect January 1, 2014 as it pertains to substitute teacher pay. Our current pay scale is: uncertified = \$50; Bachelor's = \$60 and certified = \$70. The \$50 rate is below minimum wage. Mrs. Frost asked for a synopsis of what other districts in the area pay. A motion will be placed on the next Board agenda to increase substitute teacher rates. Bruce Gunther commented on the substitute pay and asked that the district come into compliance with the minimum wage requirement immediately and review all teacher substitution rates to better meet the needs of the district.

Resolution No. 50 made by Mr. Bottini, seconded by Mr. Nicotera,

- that the minutes of the December 17, 2013 meeting be approved.
- that the Board of Education upon completion of its review of the IEP in accordance with Section 200.4(d)(2) of the Regulations of the Commissioner agrees to arrange for appropriate special education programs and services for students numbered 1400113, 170021, 180059 and 400942 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education and agrees to arrange for appropriate special education programs and services for student numbered 1400281 as recommended by the Committee on Pre-School Special Education.

Carried: Ayes 7.

Miscellaneous Topics - Mrs. Overrocker had several questions regarding the hiring of a math teacher in the high school. She asked that we take a hard look at adding staff when budget resources may force us to reduce staff. Other questions were: Where does the money come from? Have we advertised and/or held interviews? Are the duties of this position clearly spelled out? Mr. Wheelock responded that we must stay within the community approved budget and that the money will come from areas in the budget that we hope will not otherwise be expended. The position was posted on OLAS (an on-line job search site) and interviews have not taken place as of yet. Mr. Mahar is working with the guidance department and math department to develop a plan for use of this teacher to best meet the needs of the students.

Public to Be Heard - Mrs. Overrocker asked if anyone wished to address the Board and no one did so.

Resolution No. 51 made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Nicotera, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 8:38 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Carried: Ayes 7.

The executive session was declared over by the Board President at 9:52 p.m.

Resolution No. 52 made by Mrs. Frost, seconded by Mrs. Miller, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m. Carried: Ayes 7.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie M. Kloster, Clerk
Board of Education