

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Kind of Meeting: Regular

Presiding Officer: Anthony Nicotera

Members Present: Anthony Nicotera, Dawn Miller, Jim Dever, Mark Evans, Lisa Frost, Steven Shrey and Christine Weber Mangini

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Ronald Wheelock, Superintendent of Schools
Charles Cowen, Business Administrator
Mark R. Putnam, Elementary School Principal
Peter R. Madden, Middle School Principal
Zane W. Mahar, High School Principal

Others Present: Members of the Staff and Community

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Mr. Nicotera.

Pledge of Allegiance - The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Presentation - 2016-17 Budget Discussion - Mr. Cowen reviewed the budget that needs to be adopted this evening or by the end of the week at the latest. He shared where the process started and the budget gap we still face this evening. Several students and parents were present and expressed their concerns for not replacing a music position due to a retirement. Much of the concerns revolved around losing opportunities for students in the music program. Mr. Wheelock noted that such a decision is not optimal, but we have to cover our music requirement the best we can with less staff. Mr. Wheelock further expressed that the district's financial status put us in this difficult situation. Some community members asked that the Board consider going above the tax cap to continue to fund four music teachers, stating, "Let the voters decide." Another suggestion was to seek a part-time music teacher through BOCES. This is a real possibility and one that the Board supports in this budget so long as we do not exceed the tax cap.

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

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

Superintendent's Report - Announce Board of Education Candidates/Draw for Ballot Order - Mr. Wheelock announced that Jim Dever and Todd Nelson were running for the two seats on the Board. One seat is for the unexpired three year term (June 2016) of Kim Overrocker and the other seat is for the three year term of Jim Dever which expires June 2016. Draw for ballot order resulted in Todd Nelson appearing first on the ballot and Jim Dever second.

Superintendent’s Report (Cont’d) - Board Seats - Mr. Wheelock checked with the school attorney to see which candidate gets what seat. The current seat (unexpired term of Kim Overrocker) goes to the person who receives the highest votes on May 17, 2016 and starts their service as a Board member that night. The other seat (term of Jim Dever which expires June 2016) also starts their service as a Board member on May 17. **School Boards Institute Dinner Meeting** - Mr. Wheelock informed the Board of the dinner meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 5:15 (check-in) at Twin Ponds. At this meeting the distinguished service and student achievement awards will be presented.

Resolution No. 66 made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Weber Mangini,

- to upgrade the laborer position held by Jeanette Lewis to custodian and to appoint her from the Civil Service Eligibility List for Custodian effective April 20, 2016 for a probationary period of 26 weeks to commence on April 20, 2016 and to expire on October 19, 2016.
- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. Rate of pay as noted.

Beverly Stefanik, Coordinator	\$200.00
Marilou Loomis, Inspector	\$170.00

- to appoint Anthony Nicotera as chairperson of the annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 to report the results of the vote.
- to approve the district’s Professional Development Plan as per Part 100 of the Regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education.
- to approve Thursday, May 26, 2016 as an unused snow day in lieu of Tuesday, May 31, 2016 providing there is no further need for snow days. This change is due to an algebra 2/trigonometry common core regent’s exam being given on June 1, 2016.
- for approval of the BOCES administrative budget.

WHEREAS, the BOCES tentative administration budget is adopted by public resolution; and

WHEREAS, copies of the tentative administration, capital and program budgets were received on March 21, 2016 and an information meeting was presented at Oneida BOCES on April 6, 2016.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education **APPROVES** the tentative administration budget of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Sole Supervisory District of Oneida, Herkimer and Madison Counties, in the amount of \$3,537,982.00 for 2016-2017.

Resolution No. 66 (Cont'd)

- approval for the Board of Cooperative Educational Services election.

WHEREAS, the election of Cooperative Board members is to occur by resolution;
and

WHEREAS, notification was received on March 23rd of the slate of candidates, and
an information meeting was presented at Oneida BOCES on April 6th,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education casts its vote(s)
in the annual election of members of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services,
Sole Supervisory District of Oneida, Herkimer and Madison Counties, for the person
or persons indicated as follows:

- to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of Mr. Michael Moore
(Clinton Central School District), please cast one vote for a three-year term
as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Sole
Supervisory District of Oneida, Herkimer and Madison Counties:

Mr. Michael Moore
7540 Foote Road
Clinton, NY 13323

- to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of Mr. Gary P. Nelson
(Holland Patent Central School District), please cast one vote for a three-year
term as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Sole
Supervisory District of Oneida, Herkimer and Madison Counties:

Mr. Gary P. Nelson
9384 Coates Road
Holland Patent, NY 13354

- to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of Dr. Gary W. Porcelli
(New York Mills Union Free School District), please cast one vote for a three-year
term as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Sole
Supervisory District of Oneida, Herkimer and Madison Counties:

Mr. Gary W. Porcelli
29 West Drive
New York Mills, NY 13417

- to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of Mr. Russell Stewart
(Waterville Central School District), please cast one vote for a three-year term
as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Sole Supervisory
District of Oneida, Herkimer and Madison Counties:

Mr. Russell Stewart
1993 State Road 12B
Deansboro, NY 13328

Resolution No. 66 (Cont'd)

- that the minutes of the April 5, 2016 meeting be approved.
- that the Treasurer's Reports of Balances be approved as presented.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor.
- that the quarterly extra-classroom activity report be approved as presented.
- 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 1400769, 102756, 1400710, 102875, 102624 and 102674 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education and agrees to arrange for appropriate special education programs and services for student numbered 1400766 as recommended by the Committee on Pre-School Special Education.

Carried: Ayes 7.

Resolution No. 67 made by Mrs. Frost, seconded by Mrs. Miller, resolve to approve the retirement of David Shove as a music teacher, with regret, effective June 30, 2016.

Carried: Ayes 6 (J. Dever was absent for the vote).

Mr. Shrey acknowledged Mr. Shove's service to the district and said he is a superb music teacher. He will be missed. Mr. Wheelock stated he cannot say enough about Mr. Shove. He has been a joy to work with and has led a very distinguished career. Mr. Nicotera added he has spent a lot of time supporting schools and education and has lobbied for the district. Mrs. Weber Mangini said he will be really missed.

Resolution No. 68 made by Mrs. Frost, seconded by Mrs. Miller, to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. Rate of pay as noted.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------|
| • Winifred Canarelli | \$65.00 |
| • Clarissa Hoyland | \$65.00 |
| • Joan Lallier | \$65.00 |
| • Susan Lusby | \$65.00 |

Carried: Ayes 6 (J. Dever was absent for the vote).

Miscellaneous Topics - Budget Discussion - Mr. Wheelock re-engaged the Board in budget discussions to determine where the Board wants to go with the adoption of a budget. Mr. Nicotera acknowledged some of the public in attendance desire to go above the tax cap and let the voters decide, but shared reservations that despite a lot of promotion of the capital project on his part and others, that vote passed by only 19 votes. He worries that a 60% approval to go above the tax cap would be difficult to attain. Mr. Shrey expressed his support of four music teachers and going above the tax cap to accomplish this. Mr. Evans supported this as well and also asked to include modified wrestling in this budget. Mrs. Frost was concerned with going above the tax cap, stating we should try having three music teachers and that we have made other cuts in this budget that are not easy either.

Miscellaneous Topics (Cont'd) - Budget Discussion (Cont'd) - Mrs. Miller expressed her support of putting a budget above the tax cap out to the voters or if needed, look to make the music position part-time. Mrs. Weber Mangini said she too could support letting the voters decide to go above the tax cap. She further responded that she has not heard from the music department and that she sees music staff out every weekend at one event or another. Mr. Dever suggested asking Mr. Shove if he would be interested in working part-time and fund this by staying within the tax cap and tighten the budget in other non-instructional areas. Mr. Cowen was asked his thoughts on going above the tax cap and responded that he strongly recommends not going above the tax cap. He further stated that if we did this to support maintaining four music teachers this year, we would be in the same scenario again next year. Mr. Cowen added that if we did not have such a significant increase in our special education budget, we would not be in this situation at least for this year. We do need to have greater discussion regarding the long-term fiscal solvency of the district. The Board is in favor of convening a long range planning committee to analyze what the district has to offer and how we afford maintaining what we have for the future. Mrs. Frost asked the two music department staff members present their thoughts. Mrs. Paine shared that they did have three teachers in the department eight years ago and they ran themselves into the ground and that she appreciated being asked on how she felt of the current proposal. Mr. Lotyczewski noted that when they had three music teachers they were not in full compliance with state regulations. Some students in 6th grade went a year without any music instruction. The building principals shared that they could meet with the music staff to come up with a schedule that could meet the mandates and continue to provide as many opportunities as possible in music. They also shared their support to securing at least a part-time replacement for Mr. Shove. Mr. Houck was asked for his insight and he stated that he would not want to see any program cut, but he too is concerned about going above the tax cap. He also shared his concern that while he respects the music program, very little support from the community comes out when other instructional areas have been or are proposed to be cut from the budget. Mr. Wheelock echoed Mr. Houck's sentiments and asked the Board what direction do they want to take given all that they have heard from those in attendance? The Board felt they can support a budget within the tax cap and allowing for a part-time music teacher to support the music department as much as they can. The Board asked the administration to work with the music department to sort out the schedule with three full-time teachers and one part-time teacher. Mrs. Frost suggested that we re-consider replacing a BOCES employed ESL teacher with our own hire that would provide an approximately \$18,000 savings and that could be used to support a part-time music position.

Public to Be Heard - Mr. Nicotera asked if anyone wished to address the Board and two people did so. **Mr. Putnam** echoed everyone else's sentiments regarding David Shove and commended him for his 37 years of quality service. He will be missed. **Mr. Madden** stated he has a lot of respect for Mr. Shove and he will be missed.

Resolution No. 69 made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mrs. Frost, to put before the voters on May 17, 2016 the budget for the Sauquoit Valley Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017 as presented by the Board of Education in the amount of \$20,711,400.00 and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in said district to be levied and collected as required by law. Carried: Ayes 7.

Resolution No. 70 made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Dever,

WHEREAS, Education Law Section 1608(7) requires that each year the Board of Education prepare and approve a property tax report card;

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature adopted a 2016-2017 state budget that includes state aid to school districts. Therefore, this report to the state is completed with the Board of Education’s best information as of today.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopts the following property tax report card as presented to the Board by the Business Administrator.

2016-17 Property Tax Report Card			
Sauquoit Valley Central School			
Contact Person:	Charles Cowen		
Telephone Number	(315) 839-6313		
	Budgeted 2015-16 (A)	Proposed Budget 2016-17 (B)	Percent Change (C)
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	20,041,201	20,711,400	3.34%
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount ¹	7,177,518	7,366,320	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable ²	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C+D)	7,177,518	7,366,320	2.63%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	85,361	242,664	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions ³	7,092,173	7,123,663	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F)	7,092,157	7,123,656	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval) ²	16	7	
Public School Enrollment	1,012	1,020	0.79%
Consumer Price Index			0.12%

¹Exclude any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

²Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the school tax levy limit and may affect voter approval requirements.

³For 2016-17, includes any carryover from 2015-16 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

Resolution No. 70 (Cont'd)

	Actual 2015-16 (D)	Estimated 2016-17 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	32,139	35,000
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	727,683	727,080
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	378,675	275,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	1.89%	1.33%

Carried: Ayes 7.

Resolution No. 71 made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Dever, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 p.m. Carried: Ayes 7.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie M. Kloster, Clerk
Board of Education