

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Kind of Meeting: Regular – Meeting took place remotely via Google Meet

Presiding Officer: Dawn Miller, President

Ronald Wheelock, Superintendent took roll call:

Members Present: Dawn Miller, Anthony Nicotera, Michele Brennan-Vuocolo,
Ronald Critelli, James Dever, Todd Nelson, and
Christine Weber Mangini

Administrators Present: Ronald Wheelock, Superintendent of Schools
Kimberly Hibbard, District Treasurer

Others Present: None as the meeting took place remotely via Google Meet due
to COVID-19.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Mrs. Miller.

Presentation – There was none.

Public to Be Heard – There was none.

Students to Be Heard – There was none.

Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports – Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Wheelock shared with the Board two teachers that are being recommended for tenure. Christa Stephens, Kindergarten teacher, is being recommended for tenure in the elementary education tenure area; and Noelle Arcuri, High School Resource teacher, is being recommended for tenure in the special education tenure area.

Old Business – There was none.

Resolution No. 45 made by Mrs. Weber-Mangini, seconded by Ms. Brennan-Vuocolo.

- to appoint election coordinator and inspector from the Board of Elections as election officials for the annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Rate of pay as noted.
 - Beverly Stefanik, Coordinator \$225.00
 - Marilou Loomis, Inspector \$200.00

- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Rate of pay as noted.
 - To Be Determined \$75
 - Clarissa Hoyland \$75
 - Joan Lallier \$75
 - Susan Lusby \$75
- to appoint, in the event the approved election officials are unable to fulfill their duties, alternates will be available as election officials for the annual election and budget vote scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2020.
- to appoint Marie Goodman as chairperson of the annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 to report the results of the vote.
- that the annual election and budget vote be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the high school auditorium, and the public hearing regarding the budget be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Petitions nominating candidates for office of member of the Board of Education must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020.
- to accept a donation from HMI of \$160.70 from a bottle drive.
- that the minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting be approved.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor dated March 15, 2020.
- 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 1400359, 1400437, 1400695, 1400269, 1400397, 1400155, 1400640, 1400621, 1400148, 1401251, 1400148, 1401250, 1400774, 1400646, 1400654, 1400569, 1401060, 1400834, and 1400622 as recommended by the Committee on Pre-School Special Education.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Resolution 46 (Closing of Schools):

At a regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, New York, held at the District Offices, Sauquoit, New York, on the 24th day of March, 2020:

PRESENT: Dawn Miller, Anthony Nicotera, Michele Brennan-Vuocolo,
Ronald Critelli, James Dever, Todd Nelson, and Christine Weber Mangini.

Anthony Nicotera presented the following resolution and duly moved that it be adopted and was seconded by Michelle Brennan-Vuocolo.

BOARD RESOLUTION APPROVING SCHOOL CLOSURE

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has resulted in the Federal, State and County governments declaring a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS the Governor has ordered, pursuant to Executive Order No. 202.4, the closure of schools statewide for a period of two weeks ending April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Executive declared a state of emergency effective March 13, 2020 at 5 p.m. and previously ordered the closure of all school districts in Oneida County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Education resolves as follows:

1. The Board of Education hereby declares the COVID-19 pandemic is an emergency for the School District.

2. The School District is closed for students commencing March 16, 2020 and ending April 1, 2020 pursuant to the Governor's Order and the earlier County Executive Order.

3. During the period of school closure for students, all School District stakeholders shall establish plans to ensure the continuity of learning to the extent feasible and appropriate in accordance with consultation with the State Education Department, Department of Health and the Office of Children and Family Services consistent with Executive Order 202.4.

4. The Board of Education may be required to amend the school calendar to address these extraordinary circumstances and make up instructional days.

5. The Board of Education meetings from March 16, 2020 forward until further notice shall be closed to the public under Governor Executive Order 202.1. The School District shall make the meeting accessible to public participation through video streaming or by conference call at the time of the meeting and the School District will record the Board of Education meeting and post the video, audio or transcript on the district website.

6. The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to follow the Federal, State and County orders and to take such action as necessary and proper to operate the School District during this time of emergency.

7. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

The Resolution was thereupon declared adopted.

Resolution 47 (Approving Paid Leave):

At a regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, New York, held at the District Offices, Sauquoit, New York, on the 24th day of March, 2020:

PRESENT: Dawn Miller, Anthony Nicotera, Michele Brennan-Vuocolo, Ronald Critelli, James Dever, Todd Nelson, and Christine Weber Mangini.

Christine Weber-Mangini presented the following resolution and duly moved that it be adopted and was seconded by Jim Dever.

BOARD RESOLUTION APPROVING PAID LEAVE

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in the Federal, State and County governments declaring a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Executive has ordered schools closed for student attendance beginning from March 16, 2020 to April 14, 2020 due to the threat from the COVID-19 pandemic; and **WHEREAS**, the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 202.4, has closed schools statewide for a period of two weeks ending on April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the School District (“School District”) intends to provide alternate instruction and continue the operation of educational and related programs provided by the School District to the extent reasonable and consistent with direction from the State Education Department, Department of Health, Office of Children and Family Services, and Federal, State and Local officials; and

WHEREAS, the School District desires to pay hourly School District employees during the closure of the traditional School District operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Board of Education hereby declares the COVID-19 pandemic is an emergency for the School District.
2. To the extent not already provided for in a collective bargaining agreement, hourly employees shall receive paid leave for the March 16, 2020 to April 1, 2020 School District closure for students, provided such employees are available for work and report to work when directed to do so. The paid leave is meant to make such employees whole for missed work due to the school closure and shall be consistent with such employees’ regular compensation during normal School District operations.
3. Depending on the length of School District closure, the Superintendent of Schools may extend the length of paid leave to reflect an extended School District closure.
4. This resolution shall apply only for the specific and limited purpose of addressing the unique challenges presented by the outbreak of COVID-19. It shall not set any precedent or practice regarding any aspect of the Resolution.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

The Resolution was thereupon declared adopted.

Miscellaneous Topics –

- Mr. Wheelock provided a brief overview of where we are in the budget process. There has been no new developments in the state budget as the Senate and Assembly have spent little time to the budget development due to the

Coronavirus outbreak. Mr. Wheelock did share that the budget outlook that was not too promising before the outbreak, and it looks worse now. Though nothing has been determined, potential state reaction to this growing crisis could mean delayed state aid payments to schools through the remainder of the year, which could have a cash flow impact on Districts that rely heavily on these state aid payments. As far as the development of Sauquoit Valley's budget, Mr. Wheelock shared that we are factoring in some contingencies should the state budget reduce aid to schools. Those contingencies being discussed are potentially not replacing two of the three teacher retirements, looking at other areas of staffing or program reductions, and the use of the remaining \$300,000 in our Employee Retirement System reserve. Mr. Wheelock will continue to work with building administrators and supervisors to mitigate our budget gap with the least amount of impact on programs as possible.

- Mr. Wheelock informed the Board that all student work put together by our instructional staff was picked up or distributed by Friday, March 20 for students to work on during our mandated school closure. As of Tuesday, March 24, the District has prepared over 180 meals and is making 56 meal deliveries for our District students. Meals are prepared Monday through Friday and can be picked up between 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Each student receiving meals is provided a lunch, a snack, and the next day's breakfast. Mr. Wheelock applauded the efforts of the cafeteria staff in preparing these meals and to the transportation department for distributing them.
- Jim Dever expressed his concern with the budget and its impact on staffing. He asked that administration look at prioritizing our staff from the elementary up to AP level courses in the high school. He asked that we consider what staffing is most critical to our mission in educating our students. Additionally, Mr. Dever expressed his concern in making these difficult staffing decisions should cuts need to be made, that we struggle in this District to someday get these positions back.
- Todd Nelson asked if the BOCES has made any long term plans for instruction should the school closure be extended. Mr. Wheelock replied that area Superintendents are in constant communication discussing this matter and trying to determine how this may transpire while providing equity in instruction to all students. Mr. Nelson also inquired how the closure is impacting the 180 days of instruction that Districts are mandated to provide. Mr. Wheelock stated we are inquiring how this is being handled and at this time the 180 day mandate is waived from March 18 through March 31 which represents the Governor's mandatory shut down of all schools in the state.
- Michelle Brennan-Vuocolo added that the same question is being discussed at the college level as it pertains to mandatory course time for students to receive college credit.
- Todd Nelson expressed his gratitude to the District administration for their efforts in managing this crisis. Mr. Wheelock shared his appreciation for all Sauquoit Valley staff in their efforts to assist with logistics and to support their students in this time of need.

Public to Be Heard – There was no public.

Executive Session - Mrs. Miller asked if there was anything to discuss in executive session. There was none.

Resolution No. 48 – made by Mrs. Weber-Mangini, and seconded by Mr. Nicotera that the meeting be adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Wheelock
Superintendent of Schools

UNAPPROVED