

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Public was informed to submit comments prior to the meeting (6:00 p.m.) to the Board Clerk's email as the public and students who would like to be heard will only be heard when called upon. The Board meeting was held in the high school auditorium.

Mrs. Miller informed everyone that there is a mechanical issue with the microphones and with the mask wearing it may be hard to hear. If anyone cannot hear or would like anything repeated, please let us know.

Date of Meeting: October 26, 2021

Kind of Meeting: Regular

Presiding Officer: Mrs. Miller, President.

Members Present: Dawn Miller, Anthony Nicotera, Ronald Critelli, Jim Dever, Todd Nelson, and Mike Sacco.

Absent: Judy Kentile.

Administrators Present: Ronald Wheelock, Superintendent of Schools; and Charles Cowen, Business Administrator.

Others Present: Staff & Community members signed in.

Pledge of Allegiance – The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Presentation(s)—(There were 2)

1. Bonadio & Company – Gregg Evans

Presentation was given by Mr. Evans from Bonadio & Co., LLP who gave an audit report on 2020-2021 school year. Bonadio Company's audit reflects their unmodified opinion regarding our District finances. There was no disagreement with management. The work relationship with the Business Department to retrieve and assist with the audit was highly commended. In regards to student activity funds, the audit reflected that some necessary student signatures missing from some transactions. He further stated that this is a common error and one we should continue to improve upon. Mrs. Miller thanked Mr. Evans for coming and reporting on the audit.

2. C & S Companies – Steven Abramski

Mr. Olcott, President of C&S Companies introduced himself and his staff that was present along with their role in the company. They explained what their company has to offer with regards to staffing, knowledge of project and equipment, along with the ability to work with other engineers. If they are awarded the project; the start date would be June 30, 2022 and if product is available and staffing is no issue the end date would be early September 2022. Mr. Critelli suggested to get the names of other schools that have used this company to reference

the companies work. Steve said he would not mind sending some references. Questions from the Board were answered. Mrs. Miller thanked the gentlemen for coming and doing the presentation.

Public to Be Heard: (There were 3)

Logan Houck, student and John Nicotera, track coach were called to the podium. Logan spoke on behalf of other interested students to establish an indoor track team for the winter season. He stated several good reasons and presented a petition in favor of the team. Coach Nicotera spoke on behalf of the students as well and stated that Utica College has a great program on Friday nights for track athletes to experience and compete in. The pandemic of COVID has taken away a lot of interaction and activities for many. This is a great opportunity to get it back.

Robin Sullivan publically apologized for her behavior at the other board meetings. She does understand that Board members and school officials are mandated to follow governmental rules. She just would like the support of board members when an issue arises. Let the public know that you support them, verbally. Mrs. Sullivan's other concern was transparency. The schedule of meetings is on the school calendar but not everyone looks frequently to that. A suggestion to use Parent Square to send a quick text: Board of Education meeting tonight. This would be helpful as everyone looks at their phones. Mrs. Sullivan is happy to hear of the energy project and how it will be beneficial to Sauquoit Valley School. She ended by saying that talk is starting about setting mandates for children to get vaccinated. Listen to parents and their concerns because there may be many more students starting homeschool to avoid it. Mrs. Sullivan thanked everyone for listening and giving her the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Fitzgerald spoke a month ago on contract service of the busing. He came forward and asked if any study or conversation took place. He was informed that the transportation sub-committee met prior to this meeting and the outcome will be discussed under Sub-Committee reports.

Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports – Mr. Wheelock reported that prior to this meeting the transportation sub-committee which consists of Dawn Miller, Anthony Nicotera and Todd Nelson discussed the option of contract services of the busses. Mr. Crossman, Supervisor of Transportation was also present at the sub-committee meeting. The Board were all in agreement that the drivers are doing a great job. The drivers take pride in their jobs in getting to know not only the students but also the families. The comments received and heard about other local schools who have contracted this service out, is not good. There is a driver shortage as well as a shortage in other workforces. Mr. Crossman has done a very good job in the staffing and Mr. Nelson commended him on his excellent leadership, valued his opinion and experience. Mrs. Miller stated there is no financial gain.

Superintendent's Report

A couple of weeks ago Mr. Wheelock meet with Doug Jones, Athletic Director in regards to indoor track. Mr. Jones had a sign-up sheet posted for anyone interested in indoor track. Mrs. Miller thanked Logan Houck for doing such a great presentation. She liked to see students coming forward and would like to see others. She hopes that this will come to fruition. Mr. Nicotera explained his past experience of driving to get to the meets. This would be less of an expense on transportation as the events would be local. Indoor track is an individual competition but it raises self-esteem. Mr. Critelli asked about the expense of it as a coach. Mr. Wheelock gave an estimate of \$3k to \$5k plus the cost of transportation. Mr. Sacco commended Logan as well for doing such a great job in his presentation and presenting the petition. He also reminded everyone

of the chain of command. Mr. Nelson likes the idea but feels there are several things to consider first:

1. Will the practice interfere with other winter sports?
2. If practice is held outside, athlete will be in inclement weather & icy conditions.
3. Field events within the buildings?
4. Should the track students get a break? Some have experienced injuries from over use.

The board members request that Mr. Wheelock meet with Mr. Jones, athletic director and get answers to the cost of having an indoor track team, facility and practice use, and the time frame of the season.

Old Business – There was none.

New Business

Mrs. Miller stated that action items 8.1 to 8.17 will be read as a consent motion and take one vote. If there are any questions or comments, members can do so prior to vote or pull a motion for further discussion. Motion 8.8 was asked to be removed by Mr. Nicotera.

Resolution No. 25 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mr. Sacco,

- to appoint Derek Bowen as a substitute teacher, effective October 27, 2021.
- to appoint Kylie May Burger as a substitute teacher, effective October 27, 2021.
- to appoint Holly Cifonelli as a substitute teacher, effective October 27, 2021, pending fingerprint clearance.
- to appoint Yuliya Sokol as a substitute teacher, effective October 27, 2021.
- to appoint Elizabeth Gabel as a substitute teacher, effective November 1, 2021, pending fingerprint clearance.
- RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, pursuant to all applicable Civil Service rules and regulations, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint Allen Clemons to the 12-month position of laborer effective November 9, 2021 for a probationary period of 26 weeks to commence on November 9, 2021 and to expire on May 31, 2022.
- to appoint Arthur Miller as a substitute bus driver effective October 27, 2021.
- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the capital project and enhance aid on an energy performance contract vote on Thursday, December 9, 2021 and authorization be granted to the district clerk to amend the list as necessary.
 - Beverly Stefanik, Coordinator
 - Marilou Loomis, Inspector
- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the capital project and enhance aid on an energy performance contract vote on Thursday, December 9,

2021 and authorization be granted to the district clerk to amend the list as necessary.

- Clarissa Hoyland
 - Joan Lallier
 - Shannon Rogalski
 - Elizabeth Mathy
- to approve the agreement between Sauquoit Valley Central School District and the Oneida County Sheriff's Office for the provision of Special Detail Law Enforcement Services, as needed.
 - to approve the agency agreement between Utica College and the Sauquoit Valley Central School District as it relates to Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy/Nutrition/Wellness and Adventure Education/Social Work/Nursing/Therapeutic Recreation for internships for a period of two (2) years commencing on January 1, 2022 and expiring on December 31, 2023.
 - that the following people be appointed to athletic coaching positions for the winter 2021-22 school year contingent upon student athlete participation in each sport and pending completion of adult basic CPR and approval of coaching certifications. Stipends are subject to change pending the duration of the season due to COVID-19.

COACH	SPORT		COACH	SPORT
Scot Alsante	Basketball Varsity – Boys		Laura Hoffman	Volleyball Varsity - Girls
Daniel Dygert	Basketball Jr. Varsity - Boys		Gabrielle Duell	Volleyball Jr. Varsity - Girls
Todd Martin	Basketball Varsity - Girls		Darleen Philpotts	Volleyball Modified - Girls
Nicole Wilson	Basketball Jr. Varsity - Girls		Joseph Miller	Volleyball Varsity - Boys
Brett Cardillo	Bowling Boys & Girls		Mike Eisinger	Volleyball Jr. Varsity - Boys

- to accept the 2020-21 audit report submitted by Bonadio & Company.
- that the Treasurer's Reports of Balances for September 30, 2021 be approved as presented.
- that the minutes of the October 12, 2021 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; 1401505, 1401233, 1401077, 1401400, and 1401444 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0

Mr. Nicotera thanked Susan Mayer for her service and dedication to Sauquoit Valley School District as a teacher. Mr. Wheelock joined him in his compliments about Mrs. Mayer as he was blessed to work with her as an Assistant Principal. Mrs. Mayer showed compassion and talent as a teacher. Teachers are noted for making a difference and touching students' lives. She is definitely one that has. We will miss her. Mrs. Miller agreed and stated that Sauquoit Valley is always looking for substitute teachers!!!

Resolution No. 26 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mr. Nelson,

- Resolved to approve the retirement of Susan Mayer as an elementary teacher (Grade 5, Middle School), with regret, effective February 28, 2022.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

Miscellaneous Topics

- Mr. Sacco asked for an update on the grandmother who spoke at the last board meeting in regards to her educational services for her grandson. Mr. Wheelock stated due to HIPAA, information of such cannot not be revealed but the school personnel is continuing to work with the educational needs for the student.
- A few follow-up questions were asked and answered about Parent Square.
- Mr. Nicotera felt the presentation from the staff of C & S Company was excellent. They made it easy to follow with more details. The public will not be voting for the energy project in December. The vote is to go forward with receiving the aid of 89.1 return rate. If not, it will cost the district another 10%. Mr. Nelson stated that it is beneficial to decide on a company prior to the vote and inform the public. The voters will then have a better understanding of what they are voting on.

Executive Session – There was none.

Resolution No. 27 made by Mr. Nelson, and seconded by Mr. Dever, that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman
Board Clerk