

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Public was informed to submit comments prior to the meeting (6:00p.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.

**Date of Meeting:** October 12, 2021

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular

**Presiding Officer:** Mrs. Miller, President.

**Members Present:** Dawn Miller, Anthony Nicotera, Jim Dever, Judy Kentile, Todd Nelson, and Mike Sacco.

**Absent:** Ronald Critelli

**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)** - Capital Project

There are three (3) main topics of the capital project:

1. The facility maintenance
2. Maximization of Financial Resources
3. Prudent Fiscal Planning.

There is 89.1% state aid to be reimbursed back to the school through the capital project for all eligible expenses. Some site improvements that will be addressed are: stadium turf replacement along with drainage improvements as needed, paving of roadway from Oneida Street to Sulphur Springs Road, portion of tennis courts resurfaced, access walk to the softball field, select roof replacements at all three school buildings and bus garage, flooring, mechanical ventilation and other key repairs such as mortar, locker room upgrades for gender neutral changing areas and elevator repair work. The project will cost \$10,785,000. The cost of the construction work is \$8,267,523 plus the fees and testing costs which is \$2,517,477. A date for the public to vote on this is scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2021. By conducting the project at this time, the District will be

adding new debt service as the debt service from the 2006 capital project goes away. This will relatively maintain our tax effort as it currently stands. The main purpose of this project is to maintain our buildings and facilities infrastructure for the future.

A question was asked if the lighting replacement is part of this project and it is not. It is a separate project conducted through an energy performance contract. Other questions were presented and answered. Mr. Wheelock did inform everyone that this information will be presented in the next News & Views edition. A flyer or a letter may also be sent out with the capital project information and date of vote. This information is for the voters to be informed so they can come out and vote on December 9, 2021.

Mrs. Miller thanked the architects and financial advisor for coming tonight and giving such an informative presentation.

**Public to Be Heard** - Lisa Mason, a Grandmother spoke on behalf of her grandson's education that he is not receiving. He has a medical condition that requires him to stay home. The virtual educational service that is being provided outside of Sauquoit Valley School is not sufficient and not running at full capacity. Mrs. Mason would like some help. Mr. Wheelock said he will look into this.

**Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports** - There was none.

**Superintendent's Report** - There was none.

**Old Business** - There was none.

**New Business** -

**Resolution No. 21** made by Mr. Sacco, and seconded by Mr. Nelson,

- to appoint Deborah Curriere as a per diem substitute teacher effective October 13, 2021.
- to appoint Mackenzie Citro as a substitute teacher effective October 13, 2021.
- to appoint Pastor David Green as a substitute bus driver effective October 13, 2021.
- to appoint Tammy Lewandrowski as a substitute bus driver effective October 13, 2021.
- to appoint Jenny Johnston as a substitute bus attendant effective October 13, 2021.
- 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 Briana Lewis to the position of custodian effective October 13, 2021 for a probationary period of 26 weeks to commence October 13, 2021 and to expire May 17, 2022.

- to approve the Section III Combining Sports Contract between the Sauquoit Valley Central School District and the New Hartford Central School District to combine the two districts for athletic competition in the sport of modified, junior varsity and varsity wrestling for the 2021-22 school year.
- to approve the Section III Combining Sports Contract between the Sauquoit Valley Central School District and the Utica-Notre Dame to combine the two districts for athletic competition in the sport of ice hockey for the 2021-22 school year.
- that the minutes of the September 28, 2021 meeting be approved.
- the authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor.
- 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, 1401259, 1401600, 10400543, 1401600, 1400040, 1400485, and 1400910 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

**Resolution No. 22** State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Capital Improvement Project made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mr. Sacco,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District (the "Board") has considered the effect upon the environment of proposed work in connection with its Capital Improvement Project, including, but not limited to the following:

Stadium turf replacement, track and District site improvements, tennis court renovations, interior and exterior renovations, improvements and upgrades at the District's High School, Middle School, Elementary School and bus garage buildings, including, but not limited to, roof replacements, HVAC and plumbing upgrades and renovations.

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the scope of the project presented by its architects and has further received and considered the advice of its architects with respect to the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c), now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education as follows:

1. The Proposed Action does not exceed thresholds established under 6 NYCRR Part 617 of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, (SEQRA).
2. The Board hereby determines the Proposed Action as a Type II action in accordance with the SEQRA regulations.
3. No further review of the Proposed Action is required under SEQRA.
4. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

**Resolution No. 23** Capital Project Vote made by Ms. Kentile, and seconded by Mr. Nicotera;

1. A special meeting of the qualified voters of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District shall be held in the Lobby to the High School Auditorium in said District, on Thursday, December 9, 2021, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM, for the purpose of voting on the propositions described in the notice of special meeting hereinafter set forth.

2. Said special meeting shall be called by giving the following notice thereof:

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF  
SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the qualified voters of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District shall be held in the Lobby to the High School Auditorium in said District, on Thursday, December 9, 2021, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM The following propositions will be submitted for voter approval at said meeting:

PROPOSITION #1

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake certain capital improvements consisting of construction and reconstruction of existing school buildings and facilities, site improvements and the acquisition of certain original furnishings, equipment, and apparatus and other incidental improvements required in connection therewith for such construction and school use, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$10,785,000; and that such cost, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments, with such tax to be offset by state aid available therefor; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district

as may be necessary not to exceed such estimated maximum aggregate cost shall be issued.

## PROPOSITION #2

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District is hereby authorized to request additional state aid for energy savings contract improvements under an energy savings performance contract to be separately authorized by the board of education; which energy savings contract requires additional voter approval to be eligible for additional enhanced state building aid.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the text of the aforesaid propositions may appear on the ballot labels in the following abbreviated form:

## PROPOSITION #1

Shall the proposition set forth in the legal notice of this special voter meeting, authorizing construction, reconstruction and equipping of existing school buildings and facilities, site and incidental improvements, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$10,785,000; the issuance of debt obligations of the School District therefor, and the levy of a tax in annual installments therefor, with such tax to be offset by state aid available therefor, all as more fully described in said notice, be approved?

## PROPOSITION #2

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District is hereby authorized to request additional state aid for energy savings contract improvements under an energy savings performance contract to be separately authorized by the board of education; which energy savings contract requires additional voter approval to be eligible for additional enhanced state building aid.

The School District, acting as lead agency to the extent necessary, if any, for this purpose under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder ("SEQRA"), has completed its environmental review and, on October 12, 2021, has duly determined and found the purpose set forth in Proposition #1 to be a type II action under SEQRA which will not have a significant impact on the environment and is not subject to any further environmental review under SEQRA.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots to vote on the proposition may be applied for at the office of the School District Clerk. Any such application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the date of the aforesaid special district meeting if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before such special district meeting if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued shall be available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk during regular office hours on each of the five days prior to the day of the vote (excluding Saturday and Sunday). An absentee

ballot must reach the office of the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of such special district meeting.

3. At such meeting taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed providing for payment of such capital costs and providing for the financing costs therefor. Such taxes shall be levied upon all the taxable property of the District, shall be levied in annual installments and shall be of such amounts and levied in such years as may be determined by the Board of Education.

4. The District Clerk or the Clerk's designee is hereby directed to publish a copy of said notice of special meeting in two newspapers having general circulation within the School District in the manner prescribed by law for publication of notice of the annual meeting of the School District.

5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.  
Duly put to a vote as follows:

AYES 6

NAYS 0

**Miscellaneous Topics** – Mike Sacco spoke on the topic of chain of command. At the September 28 meeting a lady brought forth a question regarding the extra-curricular activity offerings for the students and suggested the possibility of having other options. Mr. Sacco as a parent as well as a Board member went to the school principals and asked that question. He did receive directions. Mr. Sacco would like others to know that they too can call or visit a principal and get answers before coming to the Board. The Board is available but it may be quicker and easier to get an answer from the building principal that your child is attending first.

Mr. Nelson asked Mr. Wheelock about the instructional offering to student medically unable to attend school prior to COVID. Mr. Wheelock stated the secondary level received two hours of instruction per day and the elementary received one hour per day. The remote academy has been slow to take off due to their ability to find qualified staffing to support their program.

**Executive Session** - There was none.

**Resolution No. 24** made by Mr. Nelson, and seconded by Mr. Nicotera, that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman  
District Clerk  
Board of Education