

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

The public was able to attend the regular Board of Education meeting in the high school library in-person or on-line by visiting the Sauquoit Valley Central School District's website at www.svcsd.org and clicking the link to the meeting.

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Kind of Meeting: Regular

Presiding Officer: Mrs. Miller, President.

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Miller at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present: Dawn Miller, Anthony Nicotera, Ronald Critelli, Judy Kentile, and Mike Sacco.

Members Absent: Jim Dever and Todd Nelson

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

Others Present: Parents and Community members

Pledge of Allegiance – The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Presentation(s) - Mr. Wheelock presented the District Safety Plan which is available to review on the Sauquoit Valley Central School District website for 30 days for the public to have the opportunity to comment on. The Board will review the comments and take action during the September 14 meeting.

Public to Be Heard – Mrs. Miller reminded viewers to access the chat room with any questions throughout the meeting. There were none in the chat room but several parents were presented.

Raymond Judway spoke first inquiring the opportunity for students to attend school without wearing a mask if they choose to. His second topic was about the DEI article that he hopes schools will not incorporate into the curriculum. Schools should be teaching the basics; reading, math, English, science, and trades. He feels that it is one sided and has nothing to do with education.

Courtney DeCarr also spoke on students having the option to attend school without facial

masks. Karl Planty asked, how the decision is made as to the health and safety mandates proposed and made in a school setting. We are one year out with COVID and many are vaccinated. Melissa Cherillo spoke on the research that was gathered that showed low number of students have contracted or transmitted to other students in a school setting. Those low numbers show students should not be mandated to wear a facial mask. Students are uncomfortable and distracted when they wear these masks. Other reasons and comments were made to let the board and superintendent know that many people in the Sauquoit Valley community would like the option to have a choice.

Nathan Hanna agreed with the concern with CR-SE. First and foremost, it is not mandatory. This 64 page or so document's theory is to push for social change. The topics do not have anything to do with education. The purpose of schools is to teach and educate students with the basics. He is highly opposed to infiltrating this into the curriculum. Sauquoit has great teachers and a great system let them work.

Dave Cherillo asked, if people have a say as to what is taught in a class?

Mr. Nicotera explained that boards from various schools do get together and discuss the concerns and educational matters. The bottom line is the elected officials and state set standards.

Mr. Wheelock clarified the process of opening school is still uncertain as the health department has not issued re-opening guidance at this time. No decision has been made as to wearing or not wearing masks as of yet. Once any guidelines are set, he will inform everyone.

Robin Sullivan asked about the Pre-K enrollment process as she just received a letter as to what number on the list her child is. Mr. Wheelock stated that Pre-K is an agency outside of the school.

Ms. Kentile stated that this is her second time at a meeting as a board member and wanted those in attendance to know it is nice that they are here. She thanked all of them for coming and informing them of their concerns and opinions.

Students to Be Heard – There was none.

Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports – Nothing to report

Superintendent's Report

- Tax Collection – Last year the collection of taxes was limited due to COVID whereby a drop box was provided for those wishing to drop off taxes in person. The box worked very well and this will be the procedure for this year and future tax collections. If there is a circumstance where in-person is requested, a call to the tax collector should be made and arrangements will be made to accommodate the request.
- Capital Project Update – This project is focused on improvements to our infrastructure that has reached the end of its useful life. Project items include but are

not limited to: flooring, roofing, elevators, brick walls, heating/ventilation and turf on the stadium. These are things that need repair and upkeep before they get worse and then costs the district more money to replace without the ability to generate building aid.

- Energy Performance Contract – Charles Cowen explained the opportunity to save money on electricity through lighting by converting the lights to LED. The Day Inc. is willing to present the project at a board meeting to answer any questions. Board members agreed to have the presentation. Arrangements will be made.

Old Business – There was none.

New Business - Mrs. Miller stated that she will read motion 9.1 to 9.19 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.

Mr. Nicotera asked to have motion 9.4 pulled.

Mrs. Miller read motions 9.1 to 9.19 excluding 9.4.

Resolution No. 5 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mr. Critelli

- that Cassandra Brooks' probationary position as a laborer be permanent, effective July 28, 2021.
- that Rebecca Evans' probationary position as nurse be permanent, effective June 3, 2021.
- to appoint Mary Stout as a per diem substitute bus monitor effective July 6, 2021.
- to appoint Walter Kaminski as a per diem substitute bus driver effective September 1, 2021.
- to appoint Gabrielle Duell to the position of School Counselor in the School Counseling & Guidance tenure area for a probationary period of four years to commence September 1, 2021 and to expire September 1, 2025.
- to appoint Laura Tartaglia, reading teacher in the middle school, for probationary period of three (3) years to commence September 1, 2021 and to expire September 1, 2024 (This expiration date is tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Section 3012 of the Education Law, in order to be granted tenure the teacher must receive composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Section 3012-c and/or 3012-d of the Education Law of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years, and if the teacher receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final

year of the probationary period the teacher shall not be eligible for tenure at that time).

- that the Board of Education approve the disposal of the following vehicles to be sold by Auctions International.

Vehicle #144 – 2005 Chevrolet Suburban: VIN 3GNGK26U35G118097

Vehicle #150 – 2008 International School Bus: VIN 4DRAPAFK38A500444

Vehicle #156 – 2011 International School Bus: VIN 4DRBUAAN6BB264100

Vehicle #157 – 2012 International School Bus: VIN 4DRBUAAN1CB395498

Vehicle #159 – 2013 International School Bus: VIN 4DRNZSKK1DB193593

Vehicle #160 – 2013 International School Bus: VIN 4DRBUAAN6DB303853

Vehicle #164 – 2014 International School Bus: VIN 4DRNZSKK8EB778950

- that the Code of Conduct be re-adopted for the 2021-2022 school year.
- to approve the immunization (flu clinic) agreement between Walgreens and Sauquoit Valley Central School District.
- to approve the agreement between BOCES and Sauquoit Valley Central School for the cooperative bidding agreement for the 2021-22 academic school year.
- to execute the contract between Sauquoit Valley Central School and BOCES for annual services for the 2021-2022 school year.
- to approve the agreement between Sauquoit Valley Central School District and Upstate Cerebral Palsy to provide certain educational services for students with disabilities in the 2021-22 school year.
- to approve the agreement between the County of Oneida by and through the Oneida County Sheriff's Office and the Sauquoit Valley Central School District for the School Special Patrol Officer Initiative effective September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022.
- to approve the lease agreement between the Sauquoit Valley Central School District and Upstate Cerebral Palsy to commence on August 23, 2021 and to expire on June 30, 2022 for the lease of three classrooms at the elementary school for the 2021-22 school year.
- that the Treasurer's Reports of Balances for June 30, 2021 be approved as presented.
- that the minutes of the July 6, 2021 meeting be approved.
- that 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 1400522, 102989, 1400997, 102770, 1401253, 103116, and 1401529 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Carried: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 6 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Ms. Kentile

Mr. Nicotera commended Wallie for his great personality, friendly and love he has shown toward the students and community. The students will miss him. Mr. Nicotera also is glad to hear that Mr. Kaminski will be on the substitute list. Mr. Wheelock added that Mr. Kaminski was a dependable and committed employee. With his retirement, Sauquoit Valley School is looking for bus drivers if anyone is interested in employment.

- resolve, to approve the retirement of Walter Kaminski as a bus driver, with regret, effective August 31, 2021.

Carried: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 7 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mr. Sacco

- Emergency Project Resolution

WHEREAS, on or about June 10, 2021, the chimney flue pipe at the Sauquoit Valley High School was discovered to have become damaged; and

WHEREAS, the damage to the chimney flue pipe has created a situation where the boilers to the Sauquoit Valley High School cannot be safely operated, and

WHEREAS, the inability to operate the boilers at the Sauquoit Valley High School has created a local emergency, effecting the property of the District and the ability of the District to provide safe and reliable facilities for its students and staff, constituting a public emergency within the meaning of General Municipal Law Section 103(4), requiring immediate action which cannot wait for public bidding; and

WHEREAS, the District has engaged Ashley McGraw Architects, D.P.C. to design and administer the acquisition, construction and installation of a replacement chimney system; and

WHEREAS, the Project is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"); and

WHEREAS, the District, as a local agency pursuant to SEQRA, ECL Section 8-0101, *et seq.*, and implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (the "Regulations"), having reviewed the environmental impact of the Project upon the environment has determined that such work constitutes a "Type II Action" under the Regulations and is not subject to review under SEQRA;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ON JULY 27, 2021, BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF

THE DISTRICT, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Project does not exceed thresholds established under 6 NYCRR Part 617, State Environmental Quality Review Act, (SEQRA). The regulatory bases are Section 617.5(c)(1): "maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility", Section 617.5(c)(2): replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site..." and Section 717.5(c)(8): "routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area..."
2. The Board of Education hereby determines the Project is a Type II action in accordance with the SEQRA regulations.
3. No further review of the Project is required under SEQRA.
4. The inability to operate the boilers at the Sauquoit Valley High School has a deleterious effect on the ability of the District to provide safe and reliable facilities for its staff and students.
5. The Project is an emergency within the meaning of General Municipal Law Section 103(4) in that the inability to operate the boilers at the high school does not allow for a safe and appropriate environment for staff and students.
6. The cost of the Project authorized herein is determined to be an emergency ordinary contingent expense within the meaning of the Education Law and shall be paid from any and all existing sources of revenue.
7. The district is hereby authorized to replace the damaged chimney flue system at the Sauquoit Valley High School and expend such monies as is reasonable up to a maximum amount of TWO HUNDRED and SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND dollars (\$275,000.00) for the Project in accordance with the requirements of the New York State Education Department.
8. The Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to all such action and enter into all such agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the Resolution and complete the Project.
9. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Dawn Miller, President	Voting	Yes/No	
Anthony Nicotera, Vice President	Voting	Yes/No	
Ron Critelli	Voting	Yes/No	
Jim Dever	Voting	Yes/No	Absent
Judy Kentile	Voting	Yes/No	
Todd Nelson	Voting	Yes/No	Absent
Mike Sacco	Voting	Yes/No	

Carried: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Miscellaneous Topics - Mrs. Miller thanked Mr. Doug Jones, Athletic Director for a great job this past academic year with the athletic teams, games and spectators. It was a lot of work to rearrange and schedule the various new requirements due to the COVID virus in the athletic spectrum.

Public to Be Heard – Chat room question, Jennifer Shepard asked, if spectators will be able to attend sporting events this 2021-22 academic year? Mr. Wheelock explained that right now there are no limits but again depending on the health department it is unknown what and if guidelines will be set.

Another question as to the use of the lockers. Mr. Wheelock stated that when guidance as to the spacing from the state is received then a decision will be made.

Resolution No. 8 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mr. Sacco, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations for the Teachers Association.

Carried: Ayes 5, Naves 0.

The executive session was declared over by the Board President at 9:43 p.m.

Resolution No. 9 made by Mr. Sacco, and seconded by Ms. Kentile, that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 5, Naves 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman,
District Clerk
Board of Education