

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Sauquoit, NY 13456

**Tuesday, July 6, 2021**

The organizational Board of Education meeting was held in-person in the high school library and on line at 7:00 p.m. at <rtmp://b.rtmp.youtube.com/live2?backup=1> which was accessible on the school website at [www.svcasd.org](http://www.svcasd.org).

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021

**Kind of Meeting:** Organizational

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Wheelock at 7:00 p.m.

**Oath of Office**

Mr. Wheelock thanked the board members for signing the Oath of Office prior to the start of the meeting.

**Appointment of President and Vice President of the Board for 2021-22 School Year**

Nominations were opened for President of the Board for the 2021-22 school year and Mr. Nelson nominated and Mr. Nicotera seconded that Mrs. Dawn Miller be President of the Board of Education for the 2021-22 school year.

**Resolution No. 1** made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Nicotera, to appoint Mrs. Dawn Miller as President of the Board of Education for the Board of Education for the 2021-22 school year.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0 and Abstain 1.

Nominations were opened for Vice President of the Board for the 2021-22 school year Mrs. Miller nominated, and Mr. Dever seconded that Mr. Anthony Nicotera be Vice President of the Board of Education for the 2021-22 school year.

**Resolution No. 2** made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Dever, to appoint Mr. Anthony Nicotera as Vice President of the Board of Education for the 2021-22 school year.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0 and Abstain 1.

**Mr. Wheelock turned the meeting over to the re-elected President for 2021-22 academic year.**

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

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

**Administrators Present:** Ronald Wheelock, Superintendent of Schools

**Others Present:** Michelle Babbie

**Pledge of Allegiance** – The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Presentation** – There was none.

**Public to be Heard** – Mrs. Miller reminded everyone that the chat room is available to place a comment or ask a question now, throughout and even at the end of the meeting. Mr. Wheelock is monitoring it.

There was one in the chat room, asking if the meeting is live. Mr. Wheelock stated yes and that the viewer may have to just hit refresh.

Mrs. Babbie took this time to introduce herself as a staff employee, senior class advisor and the new Sauquoit Valley Teachers' Union President. She is looking forward to working with everyone.

**Students to be Heard** – There was none in the chat room.

### **Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports**

1. Board contact information was handed out prior to the meeting. Mr. Wheelock asked Board members to review the information for accuracy and inform Mrs. Goodman of any changes. She will make the changes and send out a revised sheet.
2. There was also a sub-committee sheet handed out. An explanation of the committees, when or why they meet was given for the new board members to be familiar with. Mr. Wheelock then read each committee and asked the board members to volunteer for the committee they would like to represent.

<b>2021-2022 BOE Sub-Committees</b>	
Board Operations/Relationships/Development	Dawn Miller & Todd Nelson
Facilities & Transportation	Dawn Miller, Anthony Nicotera & Todd Nelson
Technology	Ron Critelli & Jim Dever
Extra-Curricular Activities	Mike Sacco & Judy Kentile
Curriculum & Instruction	Judy Kentile, Mike Sacco & Jim Dever
School Boards Institute (SBI)	Anthony Nicotera (delegate) & Mike Sacco (alternate)
Policy Committee	Ron Critelli & Dawn Miller
Finance	Board of Education as a Whole
Audit	Board of Education as a Whole

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Wheelock discussed the 2021 Saturday graduation that was held outdoors at the stadium. As a whole many praises and comments were made of the organization, attendance, view and acoustics. Mr. Wheelock asked for input on the suggestion to hold the ceremony on a Friday night instead of a Saturday. Some rationale for the change

included: Friday would free up Saturday for planning graduation celebrations, capture a nice sunset over the ceremony, and possibly a little cooler in the evening. Many positive comments were made regarding having the graduation ceremony on Friday. The option to hold it in the auditorium and gymnasium is always available if needed with inclement weather. A few notes to consider next year were:

1. Have someone near the stairs to monitor staff passage for our students'; especially those with high heels.
2. Put up some type of windbreaker around the podium to block the wind.
3. Recognize all the principals, teachers, and other staff in attendance as they too had a role in the students achieving their graduation.
4. When a time is figured in, please consider those family members who work and will be traveling in, to preferably hold it 7 or 7:30pm.

Mrs. Babbie took a moment to let everyone know that Mr. Read, Principal of High School also had a role in the planning of the graduation with her and Mr. Scialdone. He was a great help.

### **Old Business**

Capital Project Updates – July 22 is the next meeting with the architects to further re-fine the scope of the project. At the July 27th board meeting Mr. Wheelock will report more capital project information.

### **New Business**

Mrs. Miller stated that action items 11.1 to 11.38 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.

Before the vote several questions were made to clarify the motions; such as the use of the credit cards; to purchase supplies for technology class; an understanding of substitute rates; and Mr. Nicotera thanked Linda Leuthauser for adjusting her retirement plans to help with the transition within the transportation department.

**Resolution No. 3** made by Mr. Nicotera, seconded by Mr. Nelson

- that the following school district officers be appointed for the 2021-22 school year:

Tax Collector	Kathryn Wakefield
Clerk	Marie Goodman
Treasurer	Charles Cowen
School Attorneys	Timothy R. McGill - Bonding Ferrara Fiorenza PC - Other Matters The Law Firm of Frank W. Miller - Other Matters
School Physician	Dr. Christopher Alinea
Attendance Officer	Mary Stout
School Auditors	Bonadio & Co., LLP
- that Deborah Flack be appointed claims auditor for the 2021-22 school year.

- to authorize Brenda Kuhn as deputy claims auditor for the 2021-22 school year.
- that Key Bank, M&T Bank, J.P. Morgan Chase and NBT Bank be designated as depositories for the 2021-22 school year.
- that the following individuals be authorized to sign checks for the distribution of funds: Charles Cowen, Treasurer; Ronald Wheelock, Superintendent; President of the Board of Education; and Vice President of the Board of Education and that the use of the two signature check for non-payroll checks over \$1,000 (all other checks, one signature required) be continued.
- that Kathryn Wakefield be appointed school purchasing agent for the 2021-22 school year.
- that Charles Cowen be appointed as coordinator of federal funds for the 2021-22 school year.
- that the practice of previous years be continued to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to grant approval of staff members attending professional meetings and conferences held during the 2021-22 school year.
- that the Superintendent of Schools be designated to certify payrolls for the 2021-22 school year.
- that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to approve budget transfers up to a limit of \$5,000.00.
- that the Board of Education meetings will be held generally on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the high school for the 2021-22 school year. The actual meeting schedule was adopted on June 8, 2021.
- that the Utica Observer-Dispatch be designated as the official newspaper for legal notices during the 2021-22 school year.
- that Brian Read and Peter Madden be appointed custodians of the extra-classroom activities fund and that Cheryl Tibbitts and Cheryl Richards be appointed treasurers of the extra-classroom activities fund during the 2021-22 school year.
- that the Treasurer, Charles Cowen be authorized to supervise deposits and investments of the school funds during the 2021-22 school year in accordance with school district policy and General Municipal Law.
- That Mr. Anthony Nicotera be appointed as the Sauquoit Valley Central School Board's representative to the School Boards Institute Executive Committee and that Mr. Mike Sacco be appointed as an alternate to this committee.
- that the General Fund petty cash funds be replenished as follows for the 2021-22 school year:

District Office	\$50
Middle School	\$25

- that the Sauquoit Valley Central School Board of Education designates the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services Advisory Council for Career & Technical Education to serve the Sauquoit Valley Central School as its advisory council for the 2021-22 school year.
- to take all monies that are accumulated in the interest accounts of the high school and middle school student activities funds as of June 30, 2021 and distribute them to student accounts in the following manner: (a) 70% of the interest total to the High School Student Council and (b) 30% of the interest to the Middle School Student Council.
- to authorize the Superintendent to declare items as surplus equipment when needed and to dispose of accordingly for the 2021-22 school year.
- that all policies in effect including the Code of ethics and excluding the Code of Conduct be re-adopted for the 2021-22 school year.
- to approve all credit cards used by the district for the 2021-22 school year as follows:

CARD	AUTHORIZED USER(S)
Mastercard	Ron Wheelock
Home Depot	Joe Corleto, Keith Kempney and Steve Parker

- to appoint the following as Dignity Act Coordinators for the 2021-22 school year per the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) signed into law on September 13, 2010 which took effect on July 1, 2012:

NAME	TITLE
Mark Putnam	Elementary School Principal
Paul Dischiavo	Elementary School Social Worker
Peter Madden	Middle School Principal
Ed Ryan	Middle School Guidance Counselor
Luanne Miner	High School Social Worker
Brian Read	High School Principal
Peter Scialdone	High School Guidance Counselor
Natalie Powers	High School Guidance Counselor

- to appoint Stephen Parker, Director of Facilities III, as the district's asbestos Local Educational Agency (LEA) designee for the 2021-22 school year.
- to establish substitute teacher pay rates as follows for the 2021-22 school year:
  - \$85 for uncertified
  - \$95 for certified

- to establish the substitute teacher pay rate for retired teachers of the district at \$105/day for the 2021-22 school year.
- to establish substitute pay rates, unless otherwise stated per contract, for positions in the school related professionals unit for the 2021-22 school year as follows:

POSITION	RATE
Aide	\$13.00
Nurse	\$17.96
Bus Driver	\$16.00
School Bus Attendant	\$14.38
Laborer	\$13.16
Clerk/Office Specialist I	\$13.98
Payroll Clerk/Account Clerk	\$14.50
Office Specialist II	\$14.03

- that the hourly rate for tutoring for the 2021-22 school year be determined by Step 8 (Bachelor's only) of the teacher's contract; divided by 200 (days/year); divided by 6.5 hours/day).
- to approve the agreement between the Sauquoit Valley Central School District and Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. (Head Start) for the period September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.
- to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, THE Board of Education has been provided evidence that Peter Madden, Brian Read, Mark Putnam, Tracy Facchini, and Ronald Wheelock have completed all three sessions of training which meets the requirements of 8 NYCRR 30-2.9 and the Sauquoit Valley Central School District Annual Professional Performance Review Plan for certification as a Lead Evaluator of teachers, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools, Peter Madden, Brian Read, Mark Putnam, Tracy Facchini, and Ronald Wheelock be certified as a Lead Evaluator of teachers.

- to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, THE Board of Education has been provided evidence that Ronald Wheelock has completed training which meets the requirements of 8 NYCRR 30-2.9 and the Sauquoit Valley Central School District Annual Professional Performance Review Plan for certification as a Lead Evaluator of principals, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools, Ronald Wheelock be certified as a Lead Evaluator of principals.

- to appoint Randy Walker as a per diem substitute building maintenance mechanic effective July 6, 2021.
- that Alison Pirger be granted an annual stipend of \$2,000 to carry out administrative assistant duties related to the Committee on Special Education. Subject to change dependent upon future need for or alternative means to perform this service.
- to appoint Kathleen Courtney as a per diem substitute teacher effective September 1, 2021.
- to approve Sara Williams request for a leave to commence on or about September 1, 2021 and be continuous through the end of 2021-2022 school year.
- to approve the extension of Linda Leuthauser retirement date to September 30, 2021.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor dated June 30, 2021.
- that the minutes of the June 22, 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 1401534, 1400652, 1400709, 103092, 1400625, 103003, 102762, 102901, 1401444, 1401398, and 1401527, as recommended by the Committee on Special Education by the Committee on Pre-School Special Education.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

### **Miscellaneous Topics**

Mr. Nelson commended Mr. Furner, 2021 Class President for presiding over the graduation ceremony. Mr. Nelson suggests that a student be invited to attend the Board of Education meetings and maybe voice a students' point of view on some of the topics discussed.

Mr. Sacco reminded everyone of his comment made several meetings ago about the State's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion initiative. Mr. Wheelock agreed that this is a critical issue that we should be deliberate in our approach to ensure everyone understands what this means and what it does not mean. He went on to state the process is to first raise awareness, be informed, build our capacity of understand, and then take action. The biggest is to build a consistent and clear understanding. There will always be a difference in opinions on various topics but at least be informed so one can respect the other. Our goal is to prepare our students for the world in which they will grow up and live in.

**Public to Be Heard** - Mr. Tylutki asked if the students will be given the power to vote on Board matters if they have a seat on the Board? Mr. Wheelock and Mr. Nelson stated, no.

Mr. Tylutki also asked what Mr. Sacco was trying to get across on the DEI topic? Mr. Sacco reiterated that people should read the NYSED document. It can be found on the internet under NYS Education Regents. He understands it is a 60 page lengthy article but it should be read in order to be informed.

**Executive Session** – There was none.

Mrs. Miller congratulated and welcomed the new members of the board. She went on to say thank you for supporting the district and students.

**Resolution No. 4** made by Mr. Dever, and seconded by Mr. Critelli that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman,  
District Clerk  
Board of Education