

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Sauquoit, NY 13456

**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

Public accessed meeting live that started at 7:00 p.m. at <https://youtu.be/Qfm-wgZXwxU> which was located on the school website at [www.svcasd.org](http://www.svcasd.org).

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular

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

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Miller at 7:00 p.m.

**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  
Charles Cowen, Business Administrator;  
Brian Read, High School Principal,  
Pete Madden, Middle School Principal, and  
Mark Putnam, Elementary Principal.

**Others Present:** Staff, community members and Derek LaLonde (MORIC).

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

**Presentation(s)** – 2021–2022 Budget Summary

Mr. Cowen gave a recap of the 2021-22 proposed budget that was shared with the community on March 30. There are just a very few changes to the budget. The plan stays intact. Back in February there was a gap of \$585,000. With a better than expected increase in revenue from the state and the propose 2% tax levy increase, we are able balance the budget for 2021-22. There were also some reductions in expenditures, some due to some retirements, and the elimination of the Virtual Academy at BOCES. All the other programs will remain in place. The summer school program and regional program for excellence was added back in. On the contractual line that had a 2% increase now has an additional \$100,000 to fund the Capital Outlay Project that was discussed to repair the elevator in the elementary building. This will

come back as a revenue in the following year. After the state adopted the budget, Sauquoit Valley District will be receiving an additional \$257,000 in Foundation Aid. Foundation Aid as guaranteed money which is a good thing for the school district. Legislature talk is that the state plans on increasing the Foundation Aid in 2022-23 and 2023-24 in order to fund Foundation Aid as required by law. This will all depend on the financial outlook for New York State as a whole. There still are unknowns with possible changes to transportation aid and BOCES' aid. The current revenue figures are based on projections. The CARES package also has \$3 million additional funds that are available to the school. The District is awaiting further information as to how these funds can be expended. Long range plan should be to increase our savings as well as be able to handle any unforeseen problems. Mr. Cowen then showed the items the community will be voting on: Budget of \$24,636,888; 2% tax levy increase which requires an affirmative vote of 60% of the voters; the purchase two (2) new buses; and the approval three (3) candidates for the school board. If the board approves the budget tonight, a budget hearing will be held in the Sauquoit Valley High School Auditorium on May 11 at 7pm.

Mrs. Miller thanked Mr. Cowen.

**Public to Be Heard** – There was none. Mrs. Miller reminded listeners that anyone can place a question or comment in the chat room throughout the meeting. Mr. Wheelock will be monitoring it. Mr. Wheelock stated that there was nothing in the chat room but reiterated, questions can be placed at any time throughout the meeting.

**Students to Be Heard** - There was none.

**Subcommittee Reports** - No reports at this time.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- ❖ BOCES annual virtual meeting is scheduled for tomorrow April 14, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.
- ❖ Mr. Wheelock reminded everyone that is interested in being a board candidate that all petitions are due Monday, April 19, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. at the upper end of the elementary building in his office. The requirement is to be a legal resident of Sauquoit Valley District and to get at least 25 signatures.
- ❖ A brief recap on the forum that was held prior to this meeting on the return to in-person instruction with guidelines from the NYS Health Department and the Center on Disease Control (CDC). The new guidance allows us to have students in the classroom at 3' apart rather than 6' apart with a mask on. The 12' space for gymnasium and singing and instrumental instruments is dropped to 6'. We still need to keep the hand and respiratory etiquette in place. The daily health checks, hand sanitizing, cleaning and disinfecting protocols will still need to be followed the same as we have all year. The main purpose is to get all students back in school. During the community meeting at 6pm the principals spoke on behalf of their buildings and what is planned. There really isn't that much of a change other than the CDC change of 6' to 3'. With the distancing change there are now different thresholds to be concerned with.

Transportation requires a mask and shield especially if there are two to a seat and they are not from the same family. Mr. Nelson asked, if there would be extra face shields on the bus? Mr. Wheelock stated yes.

**Old Business** There was nothing.

**New Business**

Mrs. Miller stated that action items 9.1 to 9.16 with the removal of Kory Lewandowski in motion 9.8, will be read as a consent motion and take one vote. If there are any questions or comment, members can do so prior to vote or pull a motion for further discussion.

**Resolution No. 55** made by Mr. Nelson, and seconded by Ms. Brennan-Vuocolo

- to appoint Joseph Angerosa, Jr. as a substitute laborer effective April 14, 2021.
- to appoint Anne Rieben, RN as a substitute nurse, effective April 14, 2021.
- to appoint Christine Juliano as a substitute Office Specialist effective July 1, 2021.
- to appoint Christine Juliano as a substitute Teacher effective September 7, 2021.
- to approve the creation of a Civil Service position in the title of Building Maintenance Mechanic.
- that David Dow be approved for child care leave to commence on or about April 19, 2021 and be continuous through, on or about May 21, 2021, and to approve any unpaid child care leave needed during this time period.
- to accept the resignation of Jeffrey Sann, secondary science teacher effective June 30, 2021.
- to appoint Additional Athletic Appointment – 2020-2021
  - to appoint Amanda Orsino as modified softball coach for the 2020-21 school year contingent upon student athlete participation in the sport and pending completion of adult basic CPR and approval of coaching certifications.
  - to appoint Gianna Giruzzi as assistant varsity track coach for the 2020-21 school year contingent upon student athlete participation in the sport and pending completion of adult basic CPR and approval of coaching certifications.

- to approve the application of weed control agents to manage the weeds growing throughout the district, per Chapter 85 of the Laws of 2010 enacted by New York State in May 2010. Doing so will prevent any potential safety hazards if this weed growth is not contained.
- that the Sauquoit Valley Central School adopt the Pandemic Safety Plan as presented, effective April 1, 2021.
- Approval of a Resolution on Cooperative Bidding

**WHEREAS**, it is the plan of a number of PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS and the MADISON-ONEIDA BOCES (the “BOCES”) during the 2021-2022 school year to bid jointly for the purchase of various types of computers and technology commodities (the “Commodities”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Sauquoit Valley Central School District (“the School District”) is desirous of participating in the joint bidding of the Commodities, as authorized by General Municipal Law, Article 5-G; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board of Education has received and reviewed the Cooperative Bid Procedures (“the Procedures”) governing its right and responsibilities should it elect to participate in the joint bidding of commodities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in accordance with Cooperative Bid Procedures the Board of Education agrees to award bid purchase item purchases according to the recommendation of the BOCES if such award is in the best interest of the school district.

- that the minutes of the March 23, 2021 meeting be approved.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor (dated March 31, 2021).
- 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 1401107, 1401505, 1400763, 1401049, 1400604, 1401043, 1400893, 1400463, 1400395, 1400628, 1400898, 102979, 1401253, 1400682, 103056, 1401503, 1401515, and 1401301 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.
- Additional Athletic Appointment – 2020-2021
  - to appoint Kory Lewandrowski as varsity baseball coach for the 2020-21 school year contingent upon student athlete

participation in the sport and pending completion of adult basic CPR and approval of coaching certifications.

- to appoint Scot Alsante as modified boys' track coach for the 2020-21 school year contingent upon student athlete participation in the sport and pending completion of adult basic CPR and approval of coaching certifications.
- to appoint Darlene Philpotts as modified girls' track coach for the 2020-21 school year contingent upon student athlete participation in the sport and pending completion of adult basic CPR and approval of coaching certifications.
- to approve the FMLA of Susan Sanderson.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

**Miscellaneous Topics** Mr. Nicotera commended Charlie Cowen for his excellent presentation on the budget. He presented it in a manner we can all understand and follow.

**Public to Be Heard** Mr. Read did take a moment to recognize and thank all the local organizations. As a new employee, he is very impressed with the outreach that these organizations have shown in volunteering and the donations they have given during these trying times with COVID. Mr. Read just wanted to let everyone know he is thankful and appreciative of the organizations support in the Sauquoit Valley community.

**Resolution No. 56** made by Mrs. Weber-Mangini, and seconded by Mr. Critelli,

- to put before the voters on May 18, 2021 the budget for the Sauquoit Valley Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 as presented by the Board of Education in the amount of \$24,636,888 and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in said district to be levied and collected as required by law.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 1.

Mr. Nelson stated that he is not comfortable with voting yes without a fiscal plan in regards to replenishing the fund balance that has been used. Compared to other districts Sauquoit is at 5% and others are 25%. Mr. Wheelock agrees that we need to be wise with the money coming in but there is no plan as of tonight. But yes, a plan should be established. Mr. Dever commented on existing programs and adding new ones. The money should be placed on programs that are needed and not just because the money is here to spend it. That money can be gone in the next few years and we will be in the same situation as to wondering how to sustain them in the future. We need to be conscious of the way the money is dispersed. Mr. Nicotera agrees with Mr.

Nelson and hopes that Mr. Nelson will keep reminding the board of the situation and make a plan for the future that will be best for the school.

**Resolution No. 57** made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Ms. Brennan-Vuocolo,

- Property Tax Report Card

WHEREAS, Education Law Section 1608(7) requires that each year the Board of Education prepare and approve a property tax report card;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopts the following property tax report card as presented to the Board by the District Treasurer.

<b>2021-22 Property Tax Report Card</b>		
411603 - Sauquoit Valley CSD		
Contact Person:	Charles Cowen	
Telephone Number	(315) 839-6313	
	<b>Budgeted 2020-21 (A)</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2021-22 (B)</b>
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	24,401,492	24,636,888
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount 1	8,057,078	8,218,220
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable 2	0	0
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	0	0
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	8,057,078	8,218,220
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	404,968	294,197
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions 3	7,652,110	7,778,040
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	7,652,110	7,924,023
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval) <sup>2</sup>	0	-145,983
Public School Enrollment	921	925
Consumer Price Index		1.23%

<sup>1</sup>Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

<sup>2</sup>Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements.

<sup>3</sup>For 2021-22, include any carryover from 2020-21 and exclude any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

	<b>Actual 2020-21 (D)</b>	<b>Estimated 2021-22 (E)</b>
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	340,910	325,000
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	727,080	727,080
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	367,649	350,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	1.51%	1.42%

<b>Reserve Name</b>	<b>Reserve Description*</b>	<b>3/31/21 Actual Balance</b>	<b>6/30/21 Estimated Ending Balance</b>	<b>Intended Use of the Reserve in the 2021-22 School Year</b>
Unemployment Insurance	To pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund.	4,860	0	0
Retirement Contribution	To fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Employees' Retirement System	300,429	300,429	0

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

**Public to be Heard:** There was none.

**Resolution No. 58** made by Mrs. Weber-Mancini, and seconded by Ms. Brennan-Vuocolo, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 7:47 p.m. to discuss negotiations for the teachers association.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Mr. Wheelock explained that the board will go into executive session. When the board comes out of executive session it will be only to adjourn the meeting. There will be no other business discussed after executive session.

The executive session was declared over by the Board President at 8:21 p.m.

**Resolution No. 59** made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Ms. Brennan-Vuocolo, that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman,  
District Clerk Board of Education