

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Public accessed meeting live that started at 7:00 p.m. at <https://youtu.be/hDFDUkKkFps> which was located on the school website at www.svcasd.org. The budget workshop meeting was live at 6:00 p.m.

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Kind of Meeting: Regular

Presiding Officer: Mr. Nicotera, Vice President and joined by Mrs. Miller, President.

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

Mr. Wheelock announced that agenda item 9.8 is to be pulled from the agenda.

Members Present: Anthony Nicotera, Michele Brennan-Vuocolo,
Ronald Critelli, James Dever, Todd Nelson,
Christine Weber-Mangini and Dawn Miller (late).

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) – There was none.

Public to Be Heard – There was none. Mr. Wheelock explained that anyone can place a question or comment in the chat room throughout the meeting. He will be monitoring it. Students are also invited to use the chat room, as well.

Students to Be Heard - There was none.

Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports

- Budget Meeting Summary

Mr. Wheelock gave a brief summary of the budget meeting that was held at 6pm prior to this meeting. Basically there are no changes to the budget since the last report. The only addition was the Capital Outlay Project has been included in the numbers. It is not going to be on the ballot as a separate vote. The expenses of this project will be reimbursed back to the school at 89.5% the following year. However, the school will have to incur the cost at 100% the first year (2021-22). This is similar to the bus propositions, once you are approved, our school can submit another request yearly and receive the 89.5% back in aid the ensuing year. The District is pursuing the Capital Outlay Project to repair an inoperable elevator in the elementary school. This can assist in maintaining, repair or replacement of elevators one building at a time along as all of our elevators will need an overhaul and updating. The tax levy limit for the District is now at 0.19%. The Board is recommending that we go to the voters with a 2% levy this year. This is above the tax cap limit requiring a 60% affirmative vote from the residents. Sauquoit Valley's fund balance is low and the District is making an effort to increase the fund balance to provide the District we better financial stability. An open public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 30th at 6pm in the high school auditorium. A postcard will be mailed out soon to all residents informing them of such. Residents are asked to call and place their name on a list so we can monitor the number in attendance. A second meeting will be scheduled if the number of attendees exceeds our capacity limit in the auditorium due to COVID gathering restrictions.

- Policy Committee (Pandemic Safety Plan)
At the March 9th meeting the Pandemic Safety Plan was presented. It is required that the public has 30 days to review and comment. At the April 13th meeting this will be on the agenda for a vote. If anyone has any comments on the plan which is posted on the school's website, feel free to do so.

Mr. Nicotera thanked Mr. Wheelock for the reports.

Superintendent's Report

There is a lot of talk about full time back to school for all grade levels. The spacing of 6' is being changed to 3'. Discussion of barriers and masks appear to be ongoing with no definite guidance. Information from CDC, County Executive's office and Oneida County Department of Health are suggestions to be reviewed and evaluated by the school. The New York State Department of Health has not adopted the new guidance from the CDC that supports reducing social distancing to 3' in the classroom so long as everyone is wearing a mask. Transportation is of concern as more students will be on the buses when we go back to in-person. Students will be required to wear a mask and face shield should there be a need to put two students (not from same household) in a bus seat together. The goal was to start in-person April 12th right after the spring break. The health concern is many plan on traveling during that time which may be cause concern for a spike in community transmission rates. After discussion and comments made it was determined to extend the full in-person return to April 19th which is the first day of the last quarter of the year. Mr.

Wheelock went on to say that parents have been very patient and understanding during all this and a letter will be sent out to inform them of the date to start full time back to school for all grade levels. The letter will have reminders of proper health etiquette and the 3' spacing. There still may be families who prefer to stay home. Notification of our plan will give them the opportunity to decide if their child will return to school or remain remote. Parents are to notify their principal with their intentions. Strategies to reopen school from the Oneida County Executive and Department of Health regarding transportation gives the interpretation that as long as students wear a facial mask and a shield they can sit two to a seat. The county has even donated enough shields for every student enrolled in Sauquoit Valley with a few extra.

Resolution No. 47 made by Ms. Brennan-Vuocolo, and seconded by Mr. Nelson,

- Be it resolved by the Sauquoit Valley Central School Board of Education to move forward to a full in-person instruction model based on the current guidelines issued by United States Center for Disease Control and the strategies issued by the Oneida County Executive and Health Department. This would also entail the use of the county's strategies to allow more students on the bus as long as a facial mask and face shields are worn by the students.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

Old Business – There was none.

New Business

Mrs. Miller stated that action items 9.1 to 9.21 with except of 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.

Mr. Wheelock requested 9.1 and 9.2 be pulled and voted on separately from the consent motion.

Resolution No. 48 made by Mr. Critelli, and seconded by Mrs. Weber-Mancini,

- 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 Mary Stout to the position of clerk effective March 24, 2021 for a probationary period of 26 weeks to commence on March 24, 2021 and to expire on December 17, 2021.
- to appoint Susan Drake as a per diem substitute teacher aide effective March 24, 2021.
- to appoint Merissa Marthage as a per diem substitute teacher effective March 24, 2021.

- that Joseph Busa's probationary position as bus driver be permanent effective March 15, 2021.
- that Emmett Loori's probationary position as laborer be permanent effective March 24, 2021.
- to appoint Douglas Judd as a long-term substitute teacher for a child care leave to commence on or about April 19, and continue through May 21, 2021, or until such time the regular teacher returns from leave.
- To appoint the additional 6 coaches for the 2020-21 school year as follows:
 - to appoint Fredric Orsino as 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 Scott Smith as boys varsity tennis 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 John Nicotera as girls 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 appoint Scott Prichard as boys 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 appoint Ben Vanderpool as an assistant volunteer football 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 Kory Lewandrowski as an assistant volunteer football 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 accept 10,000 face masks donated by Mask Hub out of Lake Placid, New York.

- to approve the temporary use agreement between the County of Oneida and the Sauquoit Valley Central School District for the use of optical scan voting systems at a total fee of \$750.00. This agreement is for the May 18, 2021 school budget and board candidates' election.
- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 and authorization be granted to the district clerk to amend the list as necessary. Rate of pay as noted.
 - Beverly Stefanik, Coordinator \$200.00
 - Marilou Loomis, Inspector \$170.00
- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 and authorization be granted to the district clerk to amend the list as necessary. Rate of pay as noted.
 - Clarissa Hoyland \$80.00
 - Joan Lallier \$80.00
 - Shannon Rogalski \$80.00
 - Elizabeth Mathy \$80.00
- that the annual election and budget vote be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the high school, auditorium and the public hearing regarding the budget will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Petitions nominating candidates for office of member of the Board of Education must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021.
- to approve the agreement dated March 17, 2021 with Ashley McGraw Architects, D.P.C. to provide professional services related to the 2021-2022 Capital Outlay Project, which consists of elevator repair and modernization at the Elementary School at a fee of \$15,000 plus reimbursable expenses.
- to approve the agreement dated March 16, 2021 with Ashley McGraw Architects, D.P.C. to provide professional services related to the 2021-2022 Smart Schools Bond Act Phase 2 Blue-Light Project at a fee of \$17,000 plus reimbursable expenses.
- that the Treasurer's Reports of Balances for February 28, 2021 be approved as presented.
- that the minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting be approved.

- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor, dated 3/1/2021 to 3/16/2021.
- 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 1400774, 103022, 1401505, 1400155, 1400646, 1400569, 1400911, 1401403, 1401250, 1401251, 102931, 103267, 1401078, 1400148, 1400269, 1400397, 1400603, and 1401452, as recommended by the Committee on Special Education as recommended by the Committee.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 49 made by Ms. Brennan-Vuocolo, and seconded by Mr. Nicotera to reopen motion:

Mr. Wheelock publically recognized Christine Juliano for her dedication and service to the Sauquoit Valley District. She started out as a teacher aide and finished her career as an Office Specialist 1. She is a staple in the middle school. Chris will be missed. Mr. Nicotera agreed.

- resolved, to approve the retirement of Christine Juliano as an Office Specialist 1, with regret, effective June 30, 2021.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 50 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mrs. Weber-Mancini to reopen motion:

Mr. Wheelock recognized Randy Walker as a true gentleman. He worked in the private world and then as a laborer, grounds person and worked up to building mechanic. Randy is very knowledgeable. Randy's expertise and dedication will be missed as well. We benefited from his talent and wish him all the best.

- resolved, to approve the retirement of Randy Walker as Building Maintenance Mechanic, with regret, effective June 17, 2021.

- Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Mr. Wheelock apologized for not acknowledging Diane Keida at the March 9th, 2021 board meeting on her retirement. Diane spent her whole career her in the district. She is the most kindest and respectful person to our students and her coworkers. Diane is the person you want your children to be around. He apologized again for not recognizing her at the last meeting.

Mrs. Miller stated that action items 10.1 to 10.2 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.

Mr. Wheelock took a few minutes to explain the Blue Light Project to those unfamiliar with it. Smart Schools Bond is money funded by the state that was put aside for school security, technology and technology infrastructure. Sauquoit Valley was approved for \$1.2 million dollars. There is about \$700k left that we can spend. We made an amendment to our plan which delayed the State in approving the expending of this money. They replied about a month ago and approved the \$700k to be spent. Part of the monies will be used for a lockdown system district wide. At the push of a button doors will be disabled, immediate notification to 911, an automatic message over the PA system will be sent out and it will trigger blue lights to go on inside and outside the buildings. The blue light will be outside as well notifying the community and any classes or students that are outside the buildings.

Resolution No. 51 made by Ms. Brennan-Vuocolo, and seconded by Mr. Critelli,

- to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District desires to embark upon capital improvements at the Elementary School in connection with a 2021-2022 Capital Outlay Project to upgrade an existing elevator and WHEREAS, said improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and WHEREAS, the replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure of facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes is classified as a Type II Action under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (Section 6 N.Y.C.R.R. 617.5(c)(2); and WHEREAS, the SEQRA Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the project and has determined, based upon the recommendation from Ashley McGraw Architects, D.P.C., in connection with its review and examination of the project, that the 2021-2022 Capital Outlay Project is classified as a Type II Action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(2) of SEQRA Regulations; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares itself as the lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the upgrade of an elevator is a Type II Action, which requires no further review under SEQRA; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department in connection with its request for approval of the project from the New York State Education Department.

Resolution No. 52

- to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District desires to embark upon district-wide capital improvements for the purpose of implementing a Security Notification/Lockdown system to be

funded with SMART SCHOOL BOND ACT funds made available to the district and WHEREAS, said improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and WHEREAS, the replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure of facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes is classified as a Type II Action under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (Section 6 N.Y.C.R.R. 617.5(c)(2)); and WHEREAS, the SEQRA Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the project and has determined, based upon the recommendation from Ashley McGraw Architects, D.P.C., in connection with its review and examination of the project, that the Security Notification/Lockdown project is classified as a Type II Action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(2) of SEQRA Regulations; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares itself as the lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Security Notification/Lockdown project is a Type II Action, which requires no further review under SEQRA; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department in connection with its request for approval of the project from the New York State Education Department.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Miscellaneous Topics – Mr. Wheelock reminded that the chat room is available.

Mr. Nicotera had one comment. He stated that the March issue of the New York State School Board's Journal has a featured article on Mastering multi-tasking. School District clerks rise to the challenge of remote meetings. Mr. Nicotera recognized Mrs. Goodman because she has battled the challenge of this remote atmosphere during this past year and done a remarkable job posting minutes and doing anything asked in a pleasant manner. Members agreed and Mr. Wheelock thanked Mr. Nicotera for sharing.

Public to Be Heard – One from Melissa Weaver. Will there be modified sports for this spring or continue to offer competitive sports in the high school? Mr. Wheelock believes the direction is to offer the modified sports for the spring but due to unknown factors it is subject to change. Mr. Nelson stated that the school is offering sports as of right now. Mr. Wheelock stated that the fall 2 season modified sports is only offered in house. Last year the spring was not held. Mr. Wheelock would like to see the spring sporting events occur and Mr. Nelson agreed.

Mr. Madden spoke on Chris Juliano's years of service. She has been his secretary since 2010. She is considered family. He has worked so closely with her daily and it is going to be hard next year walking in and not having her here. She has made Mr.

Madden's job easier as she would get everything that he needed from others. A professional. Chris was going to leave last year at least the yearbook had her leaving but I talked her into staying another. She handled this year tremendously and I will miss her.

Paused - giving time to the public for comments to be made.

Public to Be Heard – There was none in the chat room.

Resolution No. 53 made by Mrs. Weber-Mancini, and seconded by Mr. Nicotera, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 8:17 p.m. to discuss negotiations.

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 resume only to adjourn the meeting. There will be no other business discussed after executive session. Thank you.

The executive session was declared over by the Board President at 9:03 p.m.

Resolution No. 54 made by Mr. Nelson, and seconded by Mr. Nicotera, that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman,
District Clerk
Board of Education