

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Public can able to access the budget meeting live that started at 6:00 p.m. at <https://youtu.be/8v2WOM0ipsY> which was located on the school website at www.svcasd.org. The regular Board of Education meeting followed right after.

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Kind of Meeting: Regular

Presiding Officer: Mrs. Dawn Miller, President

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Miller at 7:07 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.

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

Students to Be Heard - There was none in the chat room.

Presentation(s) – There was none.

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

Superintendent's Report

Budget & Capital Project Update: The District is in the early phases of planning for a Capital Project in the \$10 million dollar range. This limit will be keeping our debt service rolling without an increase burden on the tax payers. The capital project would focus on infrastructure such as roofing, flooring, elevators, turf replacement, track resurfacing, HVAC work, brick repairing on the elementary school and some mechanical and electrical work. Project could start as early as the summer of 2022 with initial roofing work. This project would be starting as the debt from a previous project comes off the books, allowing the District to continue rolling debt without a real increase to taxes. This project is not a solid visual improvement like the auditorium, fitness center and transportation office were, but repairs and updates to make sure the buildings are maintained for years to come is the primary focus. Our projected state aid for this project would be 89 cents on the dollar. A referendum for the project as prepared by our architects could start as soon as this fall.

Questions from the public and board were addressed in regards to the turf and the debt. The turf is almost 15 years old and the state will not give aid on replacement if less than 15 years old. Mr. Nelson suggested to utilize the Board's facility committee consisting of public members, employees, and Board members to review the project.

Old Business

High Risk Sports: Governor has approved that high risk sports may start. Many comments and issues were presented. Some felt that it is a double standard where a classroom is limited to social distancing and mask wearing where the tolerance for both for athletics is much less. In December, the Board voted against going forward with the winter sports season, with the understanding intramurals would be organized to permit "Skills & Drills" following the same safety protocols that are in place during the school day. Another issue is there may be few number of schools to play against. Some may have high number of cases and some may have also declined to hold the sport. With all the unknowns of COVID, winter break and number of cases it is agreed that this be discussed at the next board meeting when number of COVID cases can be looked at along with the process and regulations of supporting the athletic games in a safe positive atmosphere.

New Business

Mrs. Miller stated that action items 9.1 to 9.11 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. 35 made by Mrs. Weber-Mangini, and seconded by Mr. Nicotera

- to provisionally appoint Jacob Florentino as a 10 month part-time laborer effective February 3, 2021, for a probationary period of 26 weeks to commence on February 3, 2021 and to expire on August 18, 2021. Compensation will be \$15.28/hr. (Grade 4, Laborer, at Step 5).
- to appoint Casey Sykes as per diem substitute teacher effective February 3, 2021.

- that Jennifer Siniscarco's probationary position as a laborer be permanent, effective February 2, 2021.
- to establish the standard work day for its employees for the purpose of reporting to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based upon the attached position listing, effective February 1, 2021.
- to approve the agency agreement between Utica College and the Sauquoit Valley Central School District as it relates to field work and student teaching internships commencing on February 11, 2021 and expiring on July 31, 2022.
- to adopt the Roth 403(b) Contributions Plan resolution
- to approve the agreement between Sauquoit Valley Central School District and Ashley McGraw Architect.
- that the Treasurer's Reports of Balances for December 31, 2020 be approved as presented.
- that the minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting be approved.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor (dated Jan. 25, 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 1401073, 102852, and 1401095 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nayes 0.

Miscellaneous Topics

Mr. Nelson commented on getting the budget process and the accessibility for the public to make statements and comments. He suggested to hold three (3) days of informative meetings in the auditorium for the public to attend and be heard. Mr. Jouben agreed that this would better accommodate the public by holding it there and believes that a group gathering of 50 is allowable. Mr. Dever suggested to record and post the meetings. Mr. Wheelock stated it is already being done. Mr. Wheelock will confirm the requirements of group gathers. Mr. Nicotera requested Mr. Wheelock to gather information on what the other school districts are looking to do with their budgets. Are other schools looking to increase their tax rate? Let's see if there is a trend. Mr. Nicotera also suggested that if Sauquoit Valley does proceed with a tax increase, to go 3 or 3.5% increase instead of all at once a 7% increase.

Public to be Heard - Mr. Jouben believes that Mr. Nelson's suggestion of having an in person meeting is better.

Resolution No. 36 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mr. Critelli, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 8:32 p.m. to discuss negotiations.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Before the Board went into executive session Mr. Wheelock again, thanked everyone for getting the children back to school in person and giving input at the meetings as it is good to hear from all sides. Thank you all for joining us tonight.

The executive session was declared over by the Board President at 9:26 p.m.

Resolution 37 made by Mrs. Weber-Mangini, and seconded by Ms. Brennan-Vuocolo that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman
Board Clerk