

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

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

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Kind of Meeting: Regular

Presiding Officer: Mrs. Dawn 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.

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

- School Boards Institute's Zoom on "Legislative Forum" is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27 with Senators & Thursday, January 28 with Assembly,

starting at 6 p.m. The registration was sent prior to this meeting for those interested in joining, please register.

- A recap of the 2021-2022 budget will be presented at 6 p.m. and future budget workshop will occur prior to every board meeting up until a budget is adopted. Tonight was the initial budget meeting where Mr. Cowen presented a budget to budget increase of 1.27%. He also shared anticipated revenues for the 2021-22 school year. Other information presented included a review of our fund balance history, the tax cap calculation, and an assessment of what would be needed to arrive at this draft budget. Based on projected expenditures and revenues, and the designation of \$727,080 of fund balance, the District would need to levy a tax increase of 7.58% to make up a \$585,000 budget gap. Our current tax cap calculation allows for a .32% increase in tax levy or nearly \$25,000. The unknown state aid is always a concern. The state has their own financial worries as to how to make up the expenses incurred from the virus that affected the state's economy. This is the first meeting of the budget. Every expenditure and revenue line will be reviewed and discussed with possible cuts on some. There is very little room on the staff line to cut without affecting the educational opportunities for our students. All are welcome to join and if you have any questions or comments feel free to contact Mr. Wheelock.

Mr. Nelson stated that the Sauquoit Valley Central School District is very fortunate to have Charlie Cowen back as the Business Administrator. He is well respected and very knowledgeable to getting the district back to a good financial standing. Mr. Wheelock and all the other board members concurred with this sentiment

Old Business - There was none.

New Business

Mrs. Miller stated that action items 9.1 to 9.7 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. 33 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mrs. Weber-Mangini

- to appoint Sabrina Whitehouse as a child life/child development intern from Utica College effective January 2021 through early June.
- to approve the Extra-Curricular Activities Corrective Action Plan as presented.
- to execute the agreement between Sauquoit Valley Central School and Charlie Cowen, Business Administrator commencing September 2020.
- that the quarterly extra-classroom activity report be approved as presented.
- that the minutes of the January 5, 2021 meeting be approved.

- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor (dated 12-22-2020 to 1-15-2021).
- 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 1401085, 1401383, 1401500, and 1401444 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Miscellaneous Topics

- Mr. Nicotera asked about the status of reopening? Mr. Wheelock is monitoring daily the number of COVID cases, which appear to be decreasing in Oneida County; as well as, monitoring how COVID is impacting the staffing levels in our buildings. The goal is to reopen on February 1. Remote attendance is good. Ms. Brennan-Vuocolo questioned the testing? Sauquoit Valley Central School District is not in the yellow zone so we do not have to test staff or students.

Public to Be Heard -

- Mr. Loy, resident asked about the breakdown in the school taxes? Mr. Wheelock explained the \$180k state aid held from last year affected the finances. Mr. Wheelock shared that with the cancellation of winter sports the District did save money on coaching stipends, transportation, and official expenses, but we also had unbudgeted expenses for PPE and adopted a budget with a deficit of \$115,000 last June.
- Mr. Jouben, resident asked about testing staff and students for COVID as the number of cases in this region is low. Mr. Wheelock explained again about the procedures being in a yellow zone and since we are not in the yellow zone there is no requirement to test.
- Question on the children being able to play together for physical exercise was made. Mr. Jones held meetings to plan out intramural activities for the students. He hopes upon February 1 reopening there will be basketball and volleyball intermural to soon follow.
- Mr. Loy asked if the CARES Act could assist in the costs for the PPE supplies. Mr. Wheelock stated no and that the school has looked into FEMA for possible reimbursement of these expenses. The uncertainty of what the state will take from the schools budget line to offset the state's finances is still not known to the schools.
- Mr. Nicotera acknowledged Mr. Wheelock's dedication, hard work and leadership he has shown through these difficult times. Mrs. Miller, Ms. Brennan-Vuocolo and the other board members agreed.

Executive Session - There was none.

Resolution 34 made by Ms. Brennan-Vuocolo, and seconded by Mrs. Weber-Mangini that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marie Goodman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Marie Goodman
Board Clerk