

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

The meeting was held in-person in the high school library. Public was informed to submit comments prior to the meeting (6:00 p.m.) to the Board Clerk's email: mgoodman@svcsd.org. The public and students who would like to be heard will only be heard when called upon.

Date of Meeting: October 25, 2022

Kind of Meeting: Regular

Presiding Officer: Mrs. Miller, President called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Dawn Miller, Anthony Nicotera, Patricia Collins, Ron Critelli, Judy Kentile, Mike Sacco, and Lynn Weibel.

Members Absent: No one.

Administrators Present: Ronald Wheelock, Superintendent of Schools, and Charles Cowen, Business Administrator.

Others Present: Staff and community members signed-in.

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Presentation(s): Bonadio & Company – Gregg Evans

- Gregg Evans from Bonadio & Company presented the audit report for the 2021-2022 school year. The district received an unmodified opinion meaning the financial information prepared by school staff accurately reflects the financial position of the school district. There were no proposed audit adjustments necessary. Mr. Evans discussed the two different presentations of the financial information in the audit statements. The first, the District-Wide Financial Statements, reflects the financial activity of the school district on an accrual basis. This requires the reporting of capital assets as well as long term liabilities, primarily the Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) liability and outstanding debt of the district. The Net Position of the district at June 30, 2022 under the full accrual method of reporting is -\$31,907,847. The second set of statements, the Governmental Funds Statements, are reported on a modified accrual basis and generally reflect current financial operations of the district without consideration of the long-term assets and liabilities. The General Fund recognized an increase to total fund balance of \$822,597 for the fiscal year and ended the year with a total fund balance in the General Fund of \$2,692,302 and an Unassigned Fund Balance of \$1,332,572, representing approximately 5.51% of the adopted budget for 2022-23. Mr. Evans pointed out that NYS limits Unassigned Fund Balance to 4% of the

subsequent year's budget. Mr. Nicotera asked if the district could transfer funds into a reserve based on the Unassigned Fund Balance level. Mr. Evans agreed that is something the district should explore.

- Mr. Evans summarized the requirements that were necessary this year as a result of the district expending more than \$750,000 in federal funds for the year. Due to the level of federal expenditures separate audit steps were necessary to evaluate the internal controls and financial systems in place to properly safeguard and report the transactions of the school district. Mr. Evans reported that there were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies found during these audit procedures.
- Mr. Evans also reported on the audit of the extra-curricular activity (ECA) fund. An unmodified opinion was received on the ECA fund financial statements. There were no errors or irregularities noted in the ECA fund audit. Minor discrepancies and issues that are generally expected when reviewing these funds due to the number of cash transactions and the involvement of students were noted but nothing that the auditors considered unusual.

Mrs. Miller gave time for other questions and answers and then thanked Gregg Evans for his presentation. Others acknowledged their appreciation as well.

Public to Be Heard: There was none.

Sub-Committee Reports: Mr. Wheelock spoke on the School Boards Institute (SBI).

- There is an informative meeting scheduled for November 10 featuring Chancellor Lester W. Young, Jr. Anyone interested in attending, please let the Board Clerk know by November 4th.
- There was a School Boards Institute meeting held on October 13 for meet the candidates. Assemblywomen Buttenschon, Assemblyman Miller, Candidate Butterman and Candidate Menning were present. During that meeting several topics were discussed such as:
 - Foundation aid – Would like to redesign the formula that has been around since 2008 so that it better reflects a school's demographics in 2023.
 - Electric Buses – By 2027 the state is requiring that all new bus purchase be electric and by 2035 all buses must be electric. The candidates all stated there is much to be figured out by then and currently they do not feel we will be ready for this transition.
 - Tax cap – This too needs to be revisited and some felt school communities should define what their tax levy should be, not the state.
 - School Security – It was discussed that there should be a common standard across the board for all schools to have as a general standard of safety.

Superintendent's Report:

- Capital Project update – Within a week or so the coping strips will be placed on the roof edges to fasten the top of the roof over the edges. Once this is done on all of the roofs that were replaced, that will end Phase I of the capital project.
- Capital Outlay Project – Approval was received by the state for the second elevator upgrade to occur in the elementary school. The capital outlay allows the district to do up

to \$100K of work (specific scope) and receive 88 cents on the dollar in the state in aid. This works the same as our bus purchasing process.

Old Business: Softball Trip – Mr. Wheelock presented the itinerary for the varsity girls' softball trip on behalf of Coach Orsino. The team would like to go to Myrtle Beach, SC during the 2023 spring recess. Parents would provide the transportation of their child to and from Myrtle Beach. Everyone will be at the same hotel and Coach Orsino will plan several games and sites to attend as a group. Fundraising will occur to off-set the cost. Coach Orsino is considering rental vehicles to transport the players to and from softball related venues while in Myrtle Beach.

Mr. Critelli questioned the insurance coverage. He just wanted to make sure everything will be covered for the students' safety as well. Mr. Wheelock will verify with our insurance carrier that rental transportation is a viable option or not. If not, parents will continue to provide all necessary transportation while in Myrtle Beach.

Mr. Nicotera stated Coach Orsino has done this for years and is well organized and looks out for all, even those students that had financial hardships.

Resolution No. 22 made by Mr. Nicotera, and seconded by Mr. Sacco,

- to approve the varsity softball team's trip to Myrtle Beach, during the 2023 spring recess.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

New Business

Mrs. Miller stated that she will read 8.1 to 8.10 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. Mr. Nicotera asked about the transportation to and from New Hartford School for those students participating in wrestling. Mr. Wheelock stated that the parents transport them.

Resolution No. 23 made by Ms. Weibel, and seconded by Ms. Kentile,

- to appoint Grace Clements as a substitute bus attendant, effective October 26, 2022.
- to approve Kristen Boice's request for an unpaid child care leave to commence on or about June 7, 2023 and be continuous through the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- that the following people be appointed to athletic coaching positions for the winter 2022-23 school year contingent upon student athlete participation in each sport and pending completion of adult basic CPR and approval of coaching certifications.

NAME	SPORT	Stipend/Year
Alyssa Orsino – co coach	Modified Volleyball	\$1,130-1
Mike Eisinger – co-coach	Modified Volleyball	\$1,239-7
Brittney Kuhn	Girls' JV Volleyball	\$3,633-1
Frank Curriere	Boys' & Girls' Bowling	\$3,142-1

- to approve the Section III Combining Sports Contract between the Sauquoit Valley Central School District and the New Hartford Central School District to combine the two districts for athletic competition in the sport of modified, junior varsity and varsity wrestling for the 2022-23 school year.
- to accept the 2021-22 audit report submitted by Bonadio & Company.
- that the quarterly extra-classroom activity report from the high school and middle school be approved as presented.
- that the Treasurer's Reports of Balances for September 30, 2022 be approved as presented.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor signed October 20, 2022.
- that the minutes of the October 11, 2022 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; 1401698, 1401637, 1401675, 1401287, 1401077, 1401299, 1401001, and 1401712 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Miscellaneous Topics

- Mrs. Miller asked about the high school sign board. Mr. Wheelock explained that the sign was purchased through donations from the previous senior classes approximated six years ago. It is not being used due to concerns over our ability to control all features of this sign (brightness, special effects, timing schedules, etc.) to be as considerate as possible of our neighbors across the street from the high school. Mr. Nicotera did state that a neighbor met with some members of the Board a year ago to better understand their concern with the sign board. Mr. Wheelock made a call to the company to discuss them coming to look at our ability to better control the sign board so that it operates in the manner in which we should be able to operate it. One of the concerns is the ability to set a schedule for the board's operation during the week and on weekends.
- Mr. Critelli mentioned that he was informed that the homecoming dance ended an hour earlier due to a student injury. Mr. Sacco acknowledged that it is true. The student was dancing and had a knee injury. Mr. Wheelock stated he would look into this and report back to the Board.

Resolution No. 24: made by Ms. Kentile, and seconded by Ms. Collins

- that the Board of Education go into executive session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss negotiations of an item within the instructional contract.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

The executive session was declared over by the Board President at 8:13 p.m.

Resolution No. 25 made by Ms. Kentile, and seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman,
District Clerk
Board of Education