

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Sauquoit, NY 13456

**Date of Meeting:** January 30, 2024

**Kind of Meeting:** Budget Workshop & Regular

**Presiding Officer:** Mr. Nicotera, President called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Mr. Nicotera thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also reminded them that the meeting is being recorded.

**Members Present:** Anthony Nicotera, Lynn Weibel, Patricia Collins, Ronald Critelli, Judy Kentile, Cathy Pumilia, and Mike Sacco.

**Members Absent:** No one.

**Administration Present:** David Stayton, Superintendent  
Charles Cowen, Business Administration

**Others Present:** Staff & community members signed in.

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

**Budget Presentation(s):** Charlie Cowen, Business Administrator reviewed sections of the preliminary budget proposal including debt service, staffing and employee benefits. As has been discussed in previous meetings, federal funding for programs implemented in response to the pandemic will end at the end of the 2023-24 school year. These programs will need to be funded through the general fund budget in 2024-25 in order to continue. Discussions about the need to exceed the tax cap continued in response to a recommendation made at the January 16 board meeting to consider raising the tax levy by as much as 5.50%. Board members indicated their support for such a potential increase but also asked that specific information be provided detailing what programs would be preserved at a levy that exceeded the tax cap. Mr. Cowen also discussed the Executive Budget proposal released by the Governor on January 16th. The Executive proposal called for a decrease to Sauquoit's Foundation Aid. Should the Governor's proposal for Foundation Aid become enacted, Sauquoit would be looking at an additional budget deficit of approximately \$400,000. To reconcile such a gap could prove to be very difficult for the school district and cannot happen without the loss of some programs in Mr. Cowen's opinion. Board members agreed that the public needs to be informed of the impact the Governor's budget proposal may have on the district with specific programs listed rather than discussion of the large budget gap without specific details. Budget presentations and discussions will continue over the next several meetings.

**Presentation:** There was none.

**Sub-Committee Reports –**

Mr. Stayton reported:

- Facilities and Transportation has a February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting scheduled for 5 p.m.
- School Boards Institute (SBI) – Mr. Stayton and Mr. Nicotera attended the Legislators meeting at BOCES last week. The topics covered were the Governor's Foundation Aid and zero emission buses.
- Policy Committee met today to review 6 policies. The edits will be presented at the February 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting for approval.

Mr. Stayton asked the board members if they would like sub-committee meetings that are scheduled on days other than board meetings to be virtual instead of coming into the school. They agreed.

**Superintendent's Report –** Nothing to report.

**Old Business –** The Red Hawk mascot press release along with the new website is scheduled to be launched on February 1, 2024. Administration is able to login as well to Sauquoit Valley's website. Brian Read, Principal can tag the high school's Instagram events and information. A question was presented regarding sports apparel sales from the PTO and Sports Boosters. The Sports Boosters Facebook page displays clothing options. The PTO is still determining a vendor and specific merchandise to sell.

**New Business -** Mr. Nicotera stated that action 7.1 to 7.11 will be read 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.

**Resolution No. 50:** made by Ms. Weibel, and seconded by Mr. Critelli,

- to appoint Brenda Kuhn as a substitute laborer, effective January 24, 2024.
- to appoint Sherri Callahan as a substitute laborer, effective January 31, 2024, pending fingerprint clearance.
- to appoint Emma Fasolo as a per diem substitute teacher effective January 31, 2024.
- to appoint Briana Lewis as a substitute laborer, effective January 24, 2024.
- to appoint Dennis Bojdak as a per diem substitute school bus driver effective January 31, 2024, pending fingerprint clearance.
- to appoint Heather Miner as a substitute teacher aide, effective January 31, 2024.

- to accept the resignation of Laura Hoffman as a technology instructional coach, effective January 23, 2024.
- to approve the agreement between Syracuse University, Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics and Sauquoit Valley Central School District.
- that the minutes of the January 16, 2024 meeting be approved.\
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor signed January 18, 2024.
- 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 1401558, 1401081, 1401720, 1401806, 1401115, 1400908, 1401043, and 1401871 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education and agrees to arrange for appropriate special education programs and services.

Carried: **Ayes 7, and Nays 0.**

**Miscellaneous Topics:** There was none.

**Public To Be Heard:** There was none.

**Executive Session:** There was none.

Ticket was drawn for a winner for attending the meeting.

**Resolution No. 51:** made by Ms. Kentile, and seconded by Ms. Collins, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Carried: **Ayes 7, Nays 0.**

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman  
District Clerk