

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Date of Meeting: February 13, 2024

Kind of Meeting: Budget Workshop & Regular

Presiding Officer: Ms. Weibel, Vice-President called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Ms. Weibel thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She also reminded them that the meeting is being recorded.

Members Present: Lynn Weibel, Patricia Collins, Ronald Critelli, Cathy Pumilia, and Mike Sacco.

Members Absent: Anthony Nicotera (Late – arrived during executive session) and Judy Kentile.

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 gave an update on the status of the budget planning for 2024-25. Points made included: 1) From the beginning of the budget planning process we understood that we would be losing a significant amount of federal funding that was made available to the district as a result of the pandemic; 2) there is a desire by administration to maintain some of the programs that were initiated with the pandemic funds; 3) maintain those programs would be very difficult if the proposed budget stayed within the tax cap, and 4) a recommendation to seek a tax levy increase of 5.5% was made at the January 16th board meeting in order to allow some programs initiated with the pandemic funds to continue. On January 16 the Governor also released her Executive Proposal for the NYS budget. In her proposal, Sauquoit is receiving a decrease to state aid in 2024-25. At this time there is no change in the Governor's dollar proposal. With the reduced federal funding, the governor's decrease and a tax levy increase of 5.5% there is still a deficit of approximately \$400,000. Estimates of the tax increase by town with a 5.50% tax levy increase were also reviewed. The next budget discussion will continue at the next meeting which is March 5, 2024.

Presentation: There was none.

Sub-Committee Reports –

Mr. Stayton reported:

- Facilities and Transportation met on Tuesday, February 6th. Both supervisors were present. Adam Crossman, Transportation Supervisor, gave an update on his staffing.

Two new drivers are being hired. He also stated that there is funding for electric buses. The grants are being submitted for EV buses. The news stated that the time for full fleet to be electric has been extended. Scott Gillette, Facilities Director, II gave a review on his staffing, capital project and the purchase of a new phone system along with new phones through BOCES to get the state aid back. The school's phones are antiquated. Mr. Gillette informed the sub-committee about the security system and access cards. The system has been updated and included a review of the security for the fitness center and outside agencies entering the buildings.

- The next policy sub-committee meeting is scheduled for March 5 at 5:30 p.m. before the budget and board meeting.

Superintendent's Report –

- Mr. Stayton gave updates on the budget vote which is scheduled for May 21, 2024 from 7am to 8pm. There are three (3) seats for board members. Those who would like to run must submit their petitions to the Board Clerk before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2024.
- The elementary school is conducting a pack the pantry food drive that ends this Thursday. They have collected over 1700 items and hope to hit 2000 by the end.
- Mr. Stayton went on giving a report of the athletes and winter sports:
 - ❖ Boys track - CSC champions and Section C title.
 - ❖ Girls' track - CSC champions; third place in Section C out of 17 teams. State qualifiers tomorrow night.
 - ❖ Boys' basketball - CSC league title, Sauquoit Valley's first in over 20 years; first since playing in Class B. Donovan Nelson scored his 1,000 career point, the first boy in SV history. Sectional playoffs begin in a few days.
 - Girls' basketball player, Alaina Weaver scored her 1,000 career points and set the school record for 3 pointers in one season.
 - Girls' volleyball lost a hard fought sectional playoff game in five sets last week.
 - Boys' volleyball lost their first game of the season last night. They are well positioned for sectionals.
- Spice Up Your Spring cooking class and Pan to Plate and Meatless Monday by FACS teacher Melanie Carangelo is coming in April and May, more details will be forthcoming.
- We invite everyone, even those in the community to come and join us on May 14 for the budget hearing.

Old Business – There was nothing.

New Business: Ms. Weibel stated that action 7.1 to 7.16 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. 52: made by Ms. Collins, and seconded by Mr. Sacco,

- **BE IT RESOLVED**, to approve the retirement of Linda Moore as teacher aide, with regret, effective June 30, 2024.
- **BE IT RESOLVED**, to approve the resignation of Dennis Bojdak as a bus driver, effective February 2, 2024.
- **BE IT RESOLVED**, to approve the retirement of Nancy Zumpano as teacher, with regret, effective June 28, 2024.
- to appoint Sherri Callahan as a per diem substitute bus monitor, effective February 14, 2024.
- **BE IT 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 Richard Albigese to the position of bus driver contingent upon completion of all Article 19A DMV Regulations effective February 14, 2024 for a probationary period of 26 weeks to commence February 14, 2024 and to expire August 14, 2024.
- **BE IT 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 Sean Daley, provisionally to the position of Building Maintenance Mechanic effective February 14, 2024 pending satisfactory clearance of civil service exam and fingerprint clearance.
- to approve the addition of a girls' varsity golf and a girls' JV softball team this 2023-2024 school year contingent upon student athlete participation.
- to approve the revised/reviewed policies listed below:
 - a. Section 00172 ~~Notice Prohibiting Re-disclosure~~ - DELETE
 - b. Section 0020 District as a Drug Free Workplace
 - c. Section 0021 Policy Regarding Alcohol and Substance Abuse
 - d. Section 1015 Participation in Regular Board of Education Meetings be District Residents
 - e. Section 1016 Citizen Advisory Committees
 - f. Section 5202 Meal Modification Policy
 - g. Section 5202.1 Meal Modification Regulation
 - h. Section 8502 Programs for Students with Disabilities Under Section 504
- **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Sauquoit Valley Sports Boosters in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a pitching

machine for the softball programs and also authorizes a budget modification to increase account code A2855.200 in the amount of \$1,000.00 to allow for the purchase of this item.

- that the minutes of the January 30, 2024 meeting be approved.
- that the Treasurer's Reports of Balances be approved as presented.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor.
- 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 1401349, 1400625, 1400621, 1400148, 103303, 1401660, 1401791, and 1401873 and as recommended by the Committee on Special Education and agrees to arrange for appropriate special education programs and services.
- **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve change order GC-005 with National Building & Restoration Corp. for \$10,821.00 (For work required from the General Contract due to installation of Door Stops & Strikes in the middle school).
- **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve change order GC-006 with National Building & Restoration Corp. for \$5,454.00 (Additional costs for elevator upgrades in the high school).
- **BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve change order EC-002 with Patricia Electric for a credit of \$13,522.38 (Credit is for unused allowance with Patricia Electric).

CARRIED: Ayes 5, and Nays 0.

Mr. Stayton commented on how Mrs. Zumpano will be missed as a high school math teacher. This is her second retirement as a teacher. He wished her the best.

Miscellaneous Topics: Mr. Cowen stated that a capital outlay project is recommended as part of the 2024-25 budget proposal. Additionally, there is approximately \$500,000 remaining from the \$10,785,000 authorization approved by the voters in December 2021. A third construction phase is being developed by the architects to expend these funds. The third phase will address HVAC needs at the high school.

Mr. Putnam praised Linda Moore on her work ethic and congratulated her on her retirement.

Ms. Weibel took a moment to inform everyone that volunteers are always needed. Sports Boosters is still in need of officers. She also called for ideas and help for fundraising events.

Public To Be Heard: There was no one.

Ticket was drawn for a winner for attending the meeting.

Resolution No. 53: made by Mr. Critelli, and seconded by Mrs. Pumilia, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 6:41 p.m. to discuss the budget.

Carried: Ayes 5, and Nays 0.

Mr. Nicotera arrived.

The executive session was declared over by the Board President at 8:37 p.m.

Resolution No. 54: made by Ms. Weibel, and seconded by Mr. Sacco, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 6, and Nays 0.

Sincerely submitted,



Marie Goodman
Board Clerk