

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Sauquoit, NY 13456

**Date of Meeting:** March 5, 2024

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

**Presiding Officer:** Mr. Nicotera, President called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Mr. Nicotera welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. 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 provided an update on the budget preparation for the district. He stated that there is not any new information as we are now awaiting final revenue numbers from NYS which will not occur until a state budget is adopted. The state budget is supposed to be adopted by April 1, though there are concerns that it will not be adopted on time. Mr. Cowen wanted to clarify that the district's plan at this time is to move ahead with a budget that will require a levy increase of 5.50% and even with that increase, based on current information, there is a significant gap. An initial gap in excess of \$1 million can be reduced to about \$400,000 through the appropriation of additional fund balance and reductions that do not directly impact instructional programs. However, reconciling the remaining \$400,000 budget gap will be more difficult without additional funding from NYS. Included in the budget for 2024-25 are programs that were created with federal grant funds made available as a result of the pandemic. The federal grant funds will end at the end of the 2023-24 school year and funding for the programs will be part of the general fund budget for the first time in 2024-25. The programs include Title I Reading in the middle school, Title I Math in the middle school and elementary school and a school counselor shared between the elementary school and middle school. Mr. Cowen then turned the meeting over to the other administrators to further discuss the programs. Mrs. Tracy Facchini then spoke on the need to keep these positions. She presented the numbers of students that were in need and were given support. Mr. Nicotera asked about the students prior to COVID and if their needs were addressed. Mrs. Facchini explained the staffing was not available to address every student and that some did not receive the necessary services prior to the implementation of the new programs. Mr. Madden and Mr. Putnam voiced their support for the programs and the benefits that have been realized since implementation. Mr. Stayton added that there is an

intense need to help students both academically and emotionally. He then thanked Mrs. Facchini. Mr. Cowen reviewed information from the prior meetings related to the budget gap, steps taken to reduce the gap, expected foundation aid based on the Governor's proposal, fund balance status, per pupil expenditure data compared to other districts, tax levy history, and other budget information including a separate referendum for the purchase of school buses and the plan to include a capital outlay project in the budget for 2024-25.

Mr. Nicotera thanked Mr. Cowen for the update and information.

Doreen Brennan-Moore and Becky Hassett from the Clayville Library Association spoke on behalf of the upcoming proposition vote on April 16<sup>th</sup> located in the Clayville Library from noon until 8 p.m. The tax levy will be for \$89,775. The reason for this is the reduction of funding from Town of Paris, Village of Clayville, state and county. This money if approved will assist in salaries, programs and the maintenance of the Clayville Library building. Ms. Collins asked if the proposition is for one year. Doreen explained that if it is passed, the tax payers will be paying that amount for future years. Mr. Stayton commented on the Clayville Library as a hidden gem. Everyone should visit the historical building to borrow a book or just see the beauty. He supports the proposition as the library offers so much to the community.

#### **Presentation – Technology – Joseph Corleto & Keith Kempney**

Mr. Joseph Corleto introduced himself as a teacher here at Sauquoit Valley for 20 years and Mr. Keith Kempney as a teacher as well. They explained the technology classes and the programs offered to the students from construction to the technology of cleaning, maintaining and formatting programs. There is a lot to offer but with scheduling of all state mandated courses there are limits. They thanked the board for giving them the time to show what the technology department has to offer.

**Committee Reports-** Mr. Stayton informed the board members that the sub-committee schedule will start all over. Zoom meetings will be included for those who may be unavailable to make it in person. The policy meeting will be meeting at 5:30pm before the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Nicotera commented on the SBI committee. There are two meetings scheduled: one at the end of March and one April 3. As everyone stated in the email, they will be attending the annual SBI meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Nicotera will be attending the March one alone.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

- ❖ Staff Development Day Agenda for Friday, March 15, 2024. The elementary level will be focusing on reading. Middle and high school will be addressing horizontal and vertical curriculum alignment.
- ❖ A reminder there are three board seats up for vote this May 21<sup>st</sup> school election. Board petitions are due **Monday, April 22, 2024** by 5pm to the board clerk. Anyone interested can stop in the Superintendent's office and pick up a packet. There is a "How to become a candidate for your local Board of Education" zoom meeting scheduled for March 19, 2024.

- ❖ Adam Crossman, transportation supervisor passed civil service exam.

**Old Business:** Mr. Stayton informed everyone that the boys' volleyball team played great making it to the regionals but lost to Catskill.

Mr. Sacco acknowledged the new placement of signage looks great and thanked everyone for the follow through in getting it done.

**New Business:** Mr. Nicotera stated that action 7.1 to 7.14 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. 55:** made by Mr. Sacco, and seconded by Mr. Critelli,

- that Tatum Zumpano's probationary position as nurse be permanent effective March 8, 2024.
- that Andrea Gagnon's probationary position as teacher-assistant be permanent effective February 26, 2024.
- that the following people be appointed to athletic coaching positions for the spring 2023-24 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
Frank Curriere	JV Girls' Softball	\$3,232
Doug Jones	Modified Baseball	Resigned
Doug Jones	Golf Coach	Per contract
Brad Moore	Asst. Varsity Baseball Coach	Volunteer

- Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to create three (3) positions under the Civil Service title of substitute school bus attendant for the Sauquoit Valley Central School District.
- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the Sauquoit Valley Central School District annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 and authorization be granted to the district clerk to amend the list as necessary. Rate of pay as noted.
  - Beverly Stefanik, Coordinator      \$275.00
  - Marilou Loomis, Inspector      \$250.00
- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the Sauquoit Valley Central School District annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 and authorization be granted to the district clerk to amend the list as necessary. Rate of pay as noted.
  - Clarissa Hoyland      \$100.00
  - Joan Lallier      \$100.00
  - Elizabeth Mathy      \$100.00



- that the annual election and budget vote be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the high school, auditorium lobby and the public hearing regarding the budget will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Petitions nominating candidates for office of member of the Board of Education must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2024.
- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the Clayville Library budget vote on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and authorization be granted to the district clerk to amend the list as necessary. Rate of pay as noted.
  - Joan Lallier           \$120.00
  - Elizabeth Mathy   \$120.00
- to adopt the 185 day calendar for the 2024-25 school year as recommended by the Superintendents of Oneida, Herkimer and Madison counties.
- to approve the agreement dated January 12, 2024 with Ashley McGraw Architects, D.P.C. to provide professional services related to the 2024-2025 Capital Outlay Project, which consists of Elementary School Door Replacements at a fee of \$15,000.00.
- to approve the agreement dated January 12, 2024 with Ashley McGraw Architects, D.P.C. to provide professional services related to the 2024-2025 UV replacements and Roof Top Replacements at the high school at a fee of \$28,000.00 plus reimbursable expenses.
- that the minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting be approved.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor signed February 15, 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 1401807, 1401035, 1400269, and 1401082 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education and Pre-School Special Education.

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

**Resolution No. 56:** made by Ms. Collins, and seconded by Mr. Sacco, to open discussion. Due to the many unanswered questions on the electric bus future mandates, this will be tabled until more information is presented. The board questioned the possibility of hosting someone with information to provide a presentation on electric school buses. Some of the answers needed are:

- ❖ Cost of the electric buses
- ❖ Battery Charging
- ❖ New Storage (Existing garage is too small)
- ❖ Funding on charging mechanism and the garage.

- ❖ Electric bus is unable to transport student on one existing route. How will that be solved and can one or two diesel buses be accessible?
- ❖ Other districts have not planned on purchasing an electric bus yet, why?

- **Electric School Bus Proposition**

PROPOSITION #\_\_

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake (i) the purchase of one zero-emission electric school bus, at an estimated maximum acquisition cost of \$437,000; but with an estimated net maximum cost of \$175,000 after the receipt of grants and less diesel bus trade-in value, if any, and (ii) the purchase of one diesel school bus, at an estimated maximum acquisition cost of \$175,000, less trade-in value, if any; and that such costs, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district not to exceed \$612,000, or so much as may be necessary, shall be issued or the School District may enter into an installment purchase contract if the Board of Education determines that it is in the best interest of the School District to finance the purchase in that method.

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

**Resolution No. 57:** made by Ms. Collins, and seconded by Mr. Sacco,

- **Two Diesel Bus Proposition**

PROPOSITION #\_\_

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake the purchase of two (2) diesel buses, at an estimated maximum acquisition aggregate cost of \$350,000, less trade-in value, if any, and that such cost, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed \$350,000 shall be issued, or the School District may enter into an installment purchase contract if the Board of Education determines that it is in the best interest of the School District to finance the purchase in that method.

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

**Resolution No. 58:** made by Mrs. Pumilia, and seconded by Ms. Kentile,

- **RESOLUTION CALLING SPECIAL MEETING**

At a meeting of the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Anthony Nicotera, President, and upon roll being called, the following were

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Board Member \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption, seconded by Board Member \_\_\_\_\_, to wit:

“Shall the proposition be approved authorizing the Board of Education of Sauquoit Valley Central School District to levy taxes annually in the amount of eighty-nine thousand, seven hundred seventy-five dollars (\$89,775.00) and pay over such monies to the trustees of the Clayville Library Association.”

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, as follows:

Section 1. That a Special Meeting of the qualified voters of the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District shall be held at the polling place hereinafter set forth in the notice of said Special Meeting, on the 16th day of April 2024, between the hours of 12:00 PM and 8:00 PM, Prevailing Time, for the purpose of voting by paper ballot upon the proposition hereinafter set forth in said notice.

Section 2. That the District Clerk of the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District is hereby authorized to amend the notice of the Special Meeting hereinafter set forth from time to time as, in his or her discretion, such amendment may be required, consistent with the intent of the School District as evidenced by this resolution.

Section 3. That the notice of said Special Meeting, including the propositions to be voted upon, shall be in substantially the following form, to wit:

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING  
SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT** a Special School District Meeting of the qualified voters of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, New York, will be held on April 16, 2024 (“the Election Date”) at which the polls will be open between the hours of 12:00 PM and 8:00 PM, Prevailing Time, at the Clayville Library Association building located at 2265 Oneida Street, Clayville, NY 13322 for the purpose of voting by paper ballots upon the following proposition:

“Shall the proposition be approved authorizing the Board of Education of Sauquoit Valley Central School District to levy taxes annually in the amount of eighty-nine thousand, seven hundred seventy-five dollars (\$89,775.00)

and pay over such monies to the trustees of the Clayville Library Association.”

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**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that military ballots may be applied for by qualified voters by requesting an application from the District Clerk at 315-839-6311 or [mgoodman@svcsd.org](mailto:mgoodman@svcsd.org). Completed applications for military ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on March 22, 2024. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission, or electronic mail.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that qualified voters of the District may obtain applications for an absentee ballot from the office of the District Clerk. Completed applications must be received by the Clerk of the District no later than 4 p.m. on April 15, 2024, and must be received no later than 4 p.m. on April 9, 2024, if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Completed applications received after 4 p.m. on April 9, 2024, will require the voter to personally appear at the office of the District Clerk to receive an absentee ballot. A listing of all persons to whom an absentee ballot is issued will be available for inspection by any qualified voter in the office of the District Clerk between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. during each of the 5 days prior to the election, except Sundays, and shall also be posted at the polling place at the election.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that early mail ballots may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk. A list of all persons to whom early mail ballots shall have been issued will be available in the office of the District Clerk on each of the five days prior to the day of the vote except Sundays, and such list will also be posted at the polling place or places for the vote.

Dated: March 5, 2024

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

**Miscellaneous Topics:** Ms. Collins expressed gratitude for the honors breakfast that was held this past week at the middle school. The number of parents and guardians along with the number of students who were recognized was outstanding.

Mr. Sacco agreed and thanked Mr. Madden for the buildings appearance. The cafeteria floors and table set-up was very clean and inviting.

**Public To Be Heard:** There was no one.

**Resolution No. 59:** made by Mr. Critelli, and seconded by Ms. Collins,

- that the Board of Education go into executive session at 7:44 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

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

Ticket was drawn for a winner for attending the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Sacco, and seconded by Ms. Kentile for the Board President to declare the executive session was over at 8:59 p.m.

**Resolution No. 60:** made by Ms. Collins, and seconded by Ms. Kentile, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

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

Sincerely submitted,



Marie Goodman  
District Clerk  
Board of Education