

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Date of Meeting: October 15, 2024

Kind of Meeting: Regular Meeting

Presiding Officer: Mr. Anthony Nicotera, President called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m. in the high school library.

Members Present: Anthony Nicotera, Lynn Weibel, Patricia Collins, Ronald Critelli, and Mike Sacco.

Members Absent: Mike Makuszak and Cathy Pumilia.

Administration Present: David Stayton, Superintendent
Charles Cowen, Business Administration (via zoom)

Others Present: Staff & community members signed in.

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Presentation(s):

- Ryan Decker presented information on the music trip for the students to New York City. The music department gave the students two options; Boston or New York City and the voting outcome was New York City. The trip will commence on Friday, May 23, 2025 and return on May 24, 2025. It is the weekend of Memorial Day giving students time to return and relax. Fourwinds Tour Company has made all the arrangements tours, sites including the purchase of tickets to a Broadway show "Wicked". The cost per student is approximately \$649 but some of the cost is aidable and many students have fundraised a majority or all of their cost as of today.
- Mr. Stayton welcomed Gregg Evans from Bonadio Company. Mr. Evans gave a report on the 2023-2024 audit. An unmodified opinion was given on the audit which means a "clean report". There were no proposed audit adjustments. No journal entries or disagreements with management. There are two financial statements included in the audit; the District-Wide financial statements and the Governmental Funds statements. The District-Wide statements report all assets and liabilities of the school district including fixed assets and long-term debt while the Governmental statements report the current operations of the district. With respect to the District-Wide statements, Mr. Evans pointed out the Other Post-Employment Benefits liability of \$52.8 million as the single largest item on the Government-Wide statements. This item represents future estimated retiree health insurance costs paid by the district. This is a long-term liability common for most school districts and Mr. Evans stated that the more relevant number to look at is the annual costs of retiree health insurance to the district. Mr. Evans also noted that positions in the retirement systems (ERS and TRS) have decreased and stated that these are volatile items driven by market conditions. He

cautioned that prolonged deficits of the retirement systems could result in increased contribution rates to the systems by employers. With regard to the Page 2 of 9 Governmental financial statements, the district experienced a net gain for the year and was able to add to its fund balance. Mr. Evans reviewed the other parts of the audit including the required communications and the Extra-classroom Activity fund audit. Overall, things were in good order in all areas for the school district. Questions were asked if the school would be considered susceptible to fiscal stress at this time. Currently, based on operating results and fund balance position the district will not be categorized as a district under fiscal stress. Future operating results will determine if the district does fall into fiscal stress categories as defined by the NYS Comptroller in future years. Other questions were asked and answered. Everyone thanked Mr. Evans for coming out and giving the report. He thanked everyone as well.

Committee Report:

Extra-Curricular: Mr. Stayton stated that the extracurricular activities subcommittee met on October 8, 2024. Colleen Luczak attended and is looking at potentially expanding the art club to all grade levels in the future years. Elementary school students are working on a project for Veterans' Day. They are also designing reusable bags for use at the upcoming PTO Craft Fair. Ryan Decker joined to discuss the trip, and the Adams Family musical where 400 tickets have been sold already. In April the elementary All County will be hosted here. Get your tickets. There is a Christmas show in Clinton, the RFA show choir festival will be in January or February. Districts from all over take part in a musical and it was great to see. Auditorium touch screen has an issue and we are looking into updating the software to that. Doug Jones, AD also joined. Discussion on all the various senior nights and looking to return back to one senior night. Looking into the cleaning and inventory of uniforms. If not returned what will be the procedure to get it. The group discussed the potential need of a new PA system on the turf along with a scoreboard on the soccer field. Discussion of the coaches using ParentSquare or Final Forms to communicate to parents and students. It appears that some parents and viewers are using other sites. We are focusing on limiting this to two for better navigation. We have linked High School Sports Stats website onto our district webpage so that individuals can access varsity level scores and statistics of the games immediately after the games for others to review.

School Boards Institute: Attended a meeting on September 30th at BOCES where Katherine Gavett from Ferrara Law Firm spoke on some legal issues, IED topics, and student cell phone policies and updates. The Board would like Mr. Stayton to share the information. He stated he would. Mr. Nicotera stated that Albany had a meeting where the cell phones was a major topic and very well presented. It was titled "Disconnected". If a video is available the Board would also like to view that as well. Staff here are in discussion but the governor may place something in place, but until then we are looking into this.

Policy Committee: Meeting was supposed to be held today but was postponed. Mr. Stayton will send out an email and reschedule.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Stayton discussed:

- ❖ 2024 EPA Clean Bus Rebate: There are incentive programs to start the process to purchase electric buses. The time frame is still set for buses to be replaced with electric ones by 2027. Board members asked, if any local schools have started to

turn over their diesel buses? Answer was no that Mr. Stayton is aware of. The board members also stated that there are still too many uncertainties. Mr. Cowen asked that the board review the purchasing of the electric buses as it is a state required. Please have an open mind. More discussion will occur when looking at the 2025-26 budget.

❖ Upcoming Events reminder:

- October 17 Freedom Writers will be visiting grades 6, 7, and 8 during the day. The evening event is open to all. Ms. Collins went on to state, she and her daughter attended and it is a very enjoyable and interesting show. They loved it and wished more are able to attend. It was suggested to publicize it more, it is on ParentSquare. Ms. Collins suggested to place it on Facebook.
- October 18 PTO will be hosting Trick or Treat Street in the elementary building at 5:30 until 6:30pm.
- PTO is also hosting Harlem Wizards. They will be here October 28 during the day for an assembly for the elementary and middle school students to talk about healthy life style habits. Tickets are online for sale to watch the basketball game at 6:30pm.
- Mr. Read is holding an all school assembly on October 29 hosted by Scott Fitch "Pause Before You Post". Mr. Fitch coached a USA basketball team, he has delivered a speech to over 500 schools on kindness and respect. He stresses the importance of once you post something, it is there forever. You cannot delete it. He stresses to be careful of what you post.

❖ Campus Signage: You are all aware that we are looking to post banners with the red hawk all over campus. There are approximately 37 light posts. Looking at purchasing 24 banners for the 24 high profile posts. An updated sign in regards of pets were placed outside the fields.

Mr. Nicotera thanked the Clayville Fire Department for their lead on fire prevention week. The students loved it. Mr. Stayton also acknowledged the other fire departments that took part including Sauquoit for doing such a great job during fire prevention week. The students loved it.

Old Business

❖ Spirit Wear: PTO Spirit wear is open for sale again. The holidays are coming for those who would like to purchase some as gifts. Music department also will be open soon. Discussion on the various different locations and sellers of similar products occurred. The idea to have possible one site to click on and view the product and price.

New Business: Mr. Anthony Nicotera stated that action 7.1 to 7.26 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. 23: made by Mr. Mike Sacco, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Collins,

- to accept the 2023-24 audit report submitted by Bonadio & Company.
- to approve maternity leave for Tatum Zumpano to commence on October 7, 2024 to be continuous using sick and personal days from actual commencement date and to approve an unpaid child care leave that is otherwise not covered by approved sick leave time for the remainder of 2024-25 school year.

- to appoint Makenna Sheppard, RN as a long-term substitute school nurse to commence on October 16, 2024 to be continuous for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year or until nurse returns.
- that Richard Albigese's probationary position as a bus driver be permanent, effective August 21, 2024.
- that Anthony Robertelli's, Matthew Larkin's, and Steven Stressel's probationary position as a custodian be permanent, effective October 16, 2024.
- to appoint Steven Brown as a per diem substitute teacher effective October 16, 2024.
- to appoint Andrew Ford as a per diem substitute teacher effective October 16, 2024.
- **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, does hereby appoint Mary Ellen Busa to the position of school bus attendant effective October 16, 2024 for a probationary period of 26 weeks to commence October 16, 2024 and to expire April 16, 2025.
- to appoint Tonya Sullivan and Suzanne McKeon-Pauley as assistants to cover CSE meetings when needed.
- to accept the resignation of Noelle Arcuri and Suzanne McKeon-Pauley as handshakes advisor for the 2024-25 school year effective September 1, 2024.
- that Michael Flagg be appointed custodian of the extra-classroom activities fund in the high school and Katie Buckingham be appointed treasurer of the extra-classroom activities fund in the middle school during the 2024-2025 school year.
- to appoint Michael Flagg as Dignity Act Coordinator for the 2024-2025 school year per the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) signed into law on September 13, 2010 which took effect on July 1, 2012.
- to adopt the following resolution:
WHEREAS, The Board of Education has been provided evidence that Michael Flagg have completed all three sessions of training which meets the requirements of 8 NYCRR 30-2.9 and the Sauquoit Valley Central School District Annual Professional Performance Review Plan for certification as a Lead Evaluator of teachers, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools, Michael Flagg be certified as a Lead Evaluator of teachers.

- to approve the immunization (flu clinic) agreement between Upstate Family Drugs and Sauquoit Valley CSD.
- that Paul Baker be appointed as bowling coach for the 2024-25 school year contingent upon student athlete participation in the sport and pending completion of adult basic CPR, First Aid, and approval of coaching certifications.
- to approve combination between Sauquoit Valley Central School and New Hartford Central School in the sport of wrestling for the winter 2024 sport season.
- to approve combination between Sauquoit Valley Central School and Notre Dame in the sport of boys' varsity ice hockey for the winter 2024 sport season.
- to approve the revised/reviewed policies listed below:
 - a) **Policy 2020 Board Policy Development** (Delete)
 - b) **Policy 2020.1 to 2103.1 Staff Suggestions for Improving Administrative Regulations** (rescind)
 - c) **Policy 2500 Evaluation of the Superintendent**
 - d) **Policy 7014 Admission of Non-Resident Students**
 - e) **Policy 7041.1 Medication Authorization form** (Delete – replace by 7201.1)
 - f) **Policy 7041.2 Self Medication Release Form** (Delete – replaced by 7201.1)
 - g) **Policy 7201 Student Medications Allergies and Anaphylaxis**
 - h) **Policy 7201.1 SVCSD Authorization for Administering Medication**

- Resolution to Participate in OMNIA Cooperative Purchasing

WHEREAS; the Sauquoit Valley Central School District pursuant to the authority granted in GML Section 103(16) desires to participate in the OMNIA Cooperative Purchasing Alliance. Said Alliance is sponsored by the Association of School Business Officials International; the National Association of Counties; the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing; the National League of Cities; the United States Conference of Mayors;

WHEREAS; the Sauquoit Valley Central School District desires to participate for the purpose of fulfilling and executing its respective public governmental purposes, goals, objectives, programs and functions;

WHEREAS; the Sauquoit Valley Central School District has reviewed the benefits of participating in this program and based on this review has concluded the program will provide the best value to taxpayers of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District through the anticipated savings to be realized;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District is authorized to participate in the OMNIA Cooperative Purchasing Alliance and that the Superintendent of Schools or designee is authorized to register for the OMNIA program on behalf of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District.

- that the Board of Education approve the disposal of the following vehicles to be sold by Auctions International:

Vehicle #161 – 2013 International School Bus; VIN 4DRBUAAN8DB303854

Vehicle #168 – 2015 International School Bus; VIN 4DRBUSKN7FB609130

- that the minutes of the September 10, 2024 meeting be approved.
- 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 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, 1401107, 1401382, 1401841, 1401287, 1401484, 1401807, 1401521, 1401543, 141999, 1400316, 1400040, 1401049, 1400625, 1401266, 1401177, 1401092, 1401400, 1400943, 1401923, 1400962, 1400962, 1401721, 1400299, 1400040, 1400364, 1401791, 1401816, and 1401484 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Mr. Stayton commented on some of the motions. He was glad to hear the audit report was so favorable. Best wishes to Tatum Zumpano on her maternity leave. Excited about new hires and those laborers who are now custodians and became permanent along with Rich Albigese who is a permanent bus driver. Michael Flagg being appointed to several new positions. Mr. Stayton also thanked Tonya Sullivan and Sue McKeon-Pauley for the service as handshake advisors. Then he acknowledged Laura Hoffman and Marissa Cardillo for taking over as handshake advisors in their absence.

Mr. Nicotera took a moment to say how great it is to see so many custodians becoming permanent.

Ms. Weibel spoke on behalf of Mr. Paul Baker. She stated that she hears nothing but great things about him and it is nice to see Mr. Baker as a coach. Mr. Sacco agreed.

Carried: Ayes 5, and Nays 0.

Resolution No. 24: made by Mr. Mike Sacco, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Collins,

- to appoint Laura Hoffman and Marissa Cardillo to be extra-curricular advisors of the Handshakes for the 2024-2025 school year.

Carried: Ayes 4, Nays 0 and 1 Abstain. (Mr. Nicotera)

Miscellaneous Topics: Ms. Collins wanted to thank Mr. Stayton, Mr. Sacco and Ms. Weibel for they were in attendance as well for the assistance in hosting the MV Challengers football game. She and her father were so thankful for the fun time and opportunity for this game to put smiles on other people/students faces. One student from the sidelines should be recognized and thanked for staying the whole game and cheering the students on from the sideline. His number on his jersey was 78, his parents should be commendable for his enthusiasm and spirit went along way. She thanked everyone for all those cheering everyone on. Mr. Sacco chimed in with praise even to those from other schools. Mr. Nicotera suggested to let them be aware that Sauquoit Valley is willing to host it again. It was great to see the police force playing with the students.

Public to be Heard – There was no one.

Mr. Stayton introduced Mrs. Viti (6th grade teacher in the middle school). She is working toward her administrative degree and facilitating a district project regarding chronic absenteeism.

Resolution No. 25: made by Mr. Ronald Critelli, and seconded by Mr. Mike Sacco, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss negotiations.

Carried: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 26: made by Ms. Patricia Collins, and seconded by Ms. Lynn Weibel, that the executive session was declared over by the Board President at 7:40 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 27: made by Mr. Mike Sacco, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Collins, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Sincerely submitted,



Marie Goodman
Board Clerk