

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Date of Meeting: December 10, 2024

Kind of Meeting: Regular Meeting

Presiding Officer: Mr. Anthony Nicotera, President called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library.

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

Members Absent: Cathy Pumilia.

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.

Presentation(s):

1. Michelle Babbie presented the senior class' Philadelphia trip schedule and itinerary for May 29-May 31, 2025. The students chose this location over the other choices due to traveling time. Cost per student will be \$749 with a deposit of \$200 due in January. There is one more fundraising event the seniors will be conducting to off-set the out of pocket cost. So, far there are 72 seniors interested. Students will be attending educational sites and will also be enjoying personal time on the beach with their classmates.

2. Sara Call spoke about a 2 night stay at Smugglers' Notch in Vermont for a group of high school students to go skiing. The package deal will cost \$553 per student plus food expenses. Thirty-one students have expressed interest in attending. Students will have the opportunity to purchase meals or make their own at the condominium lodge. Mr. Anthony Nicotera suggested that the time schedule be reviewed as he visited that resort and knows the roads and weather may hinder travel time. Mr. Mike Makuszak agreed as he also visited that ski resort.

Committee Report:

- Mr. Stayton stated gave a list of the topics at the School Boards Institute (SBI) meeting held on Nov. 19, 2024. Some were: EV buses, Foundation Aid, and what is coming down from the state.
- Policy Committee is presenting several policies to be approved at tonight's meeting. The meeting scheduled for tonight was cancelled and is rescheduled for January 14, 2025, prior to the start of the board's next meeting at 5:30 p.m.

- Curriculum and Instruction is being scheduled so the principals are able to attend.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Stayton turned it over to Mr. Charlie Cowen, Business Administrator, who briefly touched on the 2025-2026 budget planning process and scheduled meetings. He explained what would be covered at each meeting but like prior budgets, everything depends on the state informing the school districts as to the amount of aid one will receive. Mr. Cowen stated that if anyone has any questions or would like to contact him throughout the process, feel free to do so.

Old Business

Mr. Stayton spoke on the EV bus rebate and incentive programs. Schools can initiate the process of purchasing electric buses now with several financial incentives. January 9, 2025 is the deadline to proceed and receive such benefits or withdraw. Leonard Bus Company has offered to bring an electric bus here to see if it will fit into Sauquoit Valley's bus garage. Many questions and uncertainties are still unclear. Vote was taken on whether to proceed or not and it was tied Ayes 3 and Nays 3.

Mr. Stayton along with several Board members attended the Genesis Awards to celebrate the several Sauquoit Valley teachers who were recognized for their outstanding work: Jamie Leigh Accordino, Kyle Hutchinson and Beth Ann Nora.

Thursday a legislative breakfast will be served to our legislators and other elected officials to thank them for their support. During this time Mr. Ryan Decker will have some students sing and play some holiday music.

Some winter sporting events have started.

New Business: Mr. Anthony 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.

Ms. Lynn Weibel recognized Ms. Jill Flemma for her years of service to Sauquoit Valley School and the students. The students loved her and she wishes her the best.

Mr. Anthony Nicotera questioned the reasoning of paying lead/mentor teachers if candidates are experienced. Mr. Stayton explained that new teachers into the school are assisted with the process and help when needed. Ms. Michelle Babbie was present and stated that it is in the teachers' contract. Mr. Nicotera suggested that this be reviewed when the contract comes up.

Mr. Anthony Nicotera praised Mr. Mike Flagg, High School Principal for recommending Ashley Morat as a School Guidance Counselor. She is very talented and a great counselor. Mr. Flagg also agreed and stated he has good faith in her doing a tremendous job at the middle school.

Resolution No. 33: made by Ms. Patricia Collins, and seconded by Mr. Mike Sacco,

- RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint Ashley Morat to the position of Counselor in the School Counseling & Guidance tenure area for a probationary period of three (3) years to commence upon start date.
- 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 Nita Cobane as a teacher aide in the elementary building, effective December 11, 2024 for a probationary period of 26 weeks to commence on December 11, 2024 and to expire on June 11, 2025 and will be reviewed on an annual basis required by student individual educational planning needs.
- to appoint Lonnie Wodsworth as a per diem substitute teacher effective January 6, 2024.
- to appoint Mary Kelsey as a per diem substitute teacher effective December 11, 2024.
- to appoint Mary Kelsey as a per diem substitute teacher aide effective December 11, 2024.
- to appoint Pete Scialdone as a lead teacher to Laura Flagg for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
- that Henry Heinlein's probationary position as custodian be permanent effective December 15, 2024.
- to accept the resignation of Jill Flemma, Spanish teacher in the high school, effective December 31, 2024.
- to appoint Lauren Paul as a per diem substitute teacher, pending fingerprint clearance.
- to approve the revised/reviewed policies listed below:
 - a. 0013 Title IX Grievance Process
 - b. 0013.1 Title IX Grievance Process Regulation
 - c. 1100 Records Management and Access
 - d. 1100.1 Public Access to Records
 - e. 1100.2 Application for Public Access to Records
 - f. 1100.3 Records Retention and Disposition Schedule
 - g. 8301 Selection of Library Materials
 - h. 8301.1 The Objection of Library Books Materials and Other Media-Form
- that the minutes of the November 12, 2024 board 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, signed November 19 and 20 & December 3, 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 1401651, 1401855, 1401767, 1401594, 1401708, 1401237, 1401698, 1400807, 1400359, 1400786, 1401697, 1401788, 1401868, 1401867, 1401812, and 1401888, as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

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Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

Miscellaneous Topics: Ms. Patricia Collins asked about the substitution process for teachers. Mrs. Alison Pirger was present who answered some of the questions. Mainly it is easier for the secretaries of each building to assist with getting a replacement than using a system. Many substitutes prefer to be notified a head of time. Substitutes needed at the last minute due to teachers who call out do not want to be called at 4 or 5 in the morning. So, the secretaries need to work on it and rearrange some schedules if need be.

Public to be Heard – There was no one.

Resolution No. 34: made by Mr. Mike Makuszak, and seconded by Mr. Ron Critelli, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss negotiations.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 35: made by Ms. Lynn Weibel, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Collins, that the executive session was declared over by the Board President at 8:12 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 36: made by Mr. Ron Critelli, and seconded by Mr. Mike Sacco, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

Sincerely submitted,



Marie Goodman
Board Clerk