

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Sauquoit, NY 13456

**Date of Meeting:** January 14, 2025

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular Meeting

**Presiding Officer:** Mr. Anthony Nicotera, President called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in the high school library.

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

**Presentation(s):** EV (Electric Buses) – Christine Goossens representative of Leonard Bus Sales gave details on the electric vehicle grants available and the procedures that are now in effect. If schools do not apply now for funding, there is no guarantee that money will be available in the future. The cost of one electric bus will be the same as a diesel with the funding. Charlie was asked to evaluate the cost of purchasing a diesel bus to that of an electric with all the possible funding that the school can receive. This approval if given tonight will only be for the school to proceed in the funding application. The board can decide in April before the general vote to purchase one diesel and one electric bus or just two diesel buses. Even if the Board approves, the general public must also vote on it. Discussion on the infrastructure of the building to house the taller vehicles and charging stations was also voiced. Questions were raised and answered to the level of information the state has shared on this mandate.

**Committee Report:** Mr. David Stayton touched on a few committees:

- Board Operations/Relations/Development will be meeting in February.
- Curriculum and Instruction is scheduled to meet tomorrow, January 15, 2025.
- School Boards Institute (SBI) – Legislature forum is scheduled for January 30, 2025. Mr. Anthony Nicotera, Mr. Mike Sacco and Mr. Stayton will be attending.
- Policy Committee met today prior to this meeting. There were 18 policies reviewed and some revisions made which will be presented at the next meeting.

**Superintendent's Report:** Mr. David Stayton reported that:

- Purchased a book on the topic of Grading for Equity which staff, administration and some board members have read. Administration and teachers are exploring the grading for equity models to improve learning structures and provide better information to the students, parents, and teachers. Brian Read is creating a slideshow to present in a public forum February 12, 2025. This will be advertised. Many districts across the area are working on this.
- Social media mass tort lawsuit was pursued several months ago which the board approved the district's participation. The nationwide lawsuit against social media companies is being filed for the negative impact they have had on student mental health. Last week, a 50+ page document was completed and submitted on behalf of our district. Last year we participated in one against Juul and did receive some compensation.
- District safety committee met Monday with Mrs. Colangelo from BOCES. Mr. Anthony Nicotera attended as well. A few topics to mention that were reviewed were the emergency plan, security, and AED/CPR certification for coaches and others. Several will need to be updated and the annual safety plan will be presented sometime in the summer. Mr. Anthony Nicotera praised the administration involved. He wanted everyone to know that there is more work behind the scenes that administration and staff do that as Board members and parents, one does not see. Regulations, rules, mandates, policies and procedures must be met and followed. He then thanked them for their work.
- Lynn Weibel suggested to establish a website user guide to help individuals navigate the school's website. Laura Hoffman - thank you for spent time designing the guide. She published it on line and it went live Saturday morning on ParentSquare and Sauquoit Valley School District's Facebook page.
- Spoke with the JC Christian, Supervisor of the Town of Paris, about hosting Fireworks in Sauquoit and they agreed to collaborate. The high school will be forming a team to establish the event to bring it back.
- Sporting events are very active. The gymnastics team will be competing in the state's final March 12 in Buffalo. The volleyball team recently placed second in a tournament in Oneida. On the basketball court, Makayla Land was recently recognized for securing 1,000 rebounds in her basketball career at SV.

**Old Business:** There was none.

**New Business:** Mr. Anthony Nicotera stated that action 7.1 to 7.21 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.

Mr. Anthony Nicotera requested motion 7.2 be excluded from the consent vote as questions were raised by several board members as the cost per person appears to be high. The \$550 cost of trip does not include food and beverage expenses and there is no fund raising.

Mike Sacco was pleased and praised Mrs. Nancy Zumpano for returning as a substitute teacher. She is an outstanding teacher and his daughter loved her.

Mr. David Stayton recognized Novia Lewis who was in attendance with her Aunt Dawn Miller, retired Board Member, as a substitute teacher and student intern. He also recognized Randy and Robert Moore for their help and support as auto mechanics in the bus garage. Brian Callahan was also present and is a bus driver.

**Resolution No. 37:** made by Mr. Mike Sacco, and seconded by Mr. Mike Makuszak,

- to approve the senior class trip for May 29–May 31, 2025 to Philadelphia, per proposed itinerary presented at the December 10, 2024 meeting.
- to appoint Colin O'Connor as a per diem substitute teacher effective January 6, 2025. Fingerprint clearance for employment was received December 17, 2024.
- to appoint Scott Smith as a per diem substitute teacher effective January 15, 2025.
- to appoint Novia Lewis as a per diem substitute teacher effective January 6, 2025. Fingerprint clearance for employment was received January 6, 2025.
- to appoint Nancy Zumpano as a per diem substitute teacher effective January 15, 2025.
- to accept the resignation of Michele Crossman, bus attendant effective January 10, 2025.
- to appoint Michele Crossman as a per diem substitute bus attendant and substitute teacher aide, effective January 15, 2025.
- to accept the resignation of Edward Kurdziolek, bus driver effective December 23, 2024.
- BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Department of Labor to increase substitute teacher aide pay rate to \$15.50/hour effective January 1, 2025.
- to approve sick leave for Anne Rieben to commence on or about January 6, 2025 until February 3, 2025.
- that Jon Bowker's probationary period as custodian become permanent effective January 9, 2025 based upon his successful completion of his probationary period.
- Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the employment of Robert DeCarr as Auto Mechanic/Bus Driver is hereby terminated due to the lack of a Commercial Driver's License as is required to hold the position, effective January 21, 2025.
- to appoint Victoria Miller as yearbook advisor for the high school for the remainder of 2024-2025 school year.
- to approve the Resolution of Data Privacy Agreement between ROC and Sauquoit Valley Central School District for 2024-2025.
- to approve the agreement between County of Oneida and the Sauquoit Valley Central School District for extra School Detail Patrol effective January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

- 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 for December 31, 2024 be approved as presented.
- that the minutes of the December 10, 2024 meeting be approved.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the deputy claims auditor signed December 17, 2024 and January 10, 2025.
- 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 1401427, 1401841, 1401810, 1400753, 1400519, 1401128, 1400936, 103239, 1401681, 1402003, 1401869, and 1401980 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education and agrees to arrange for appropriate special education programs and services.

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

Electric vehicle discussion took place. Mr. Charles Cowen reiterated what was presented earlier in the meeting on the credits and grants of the cost of an electric bus. It will be approximately the same cost as one diesel.

**Resolution No. 38:** to keep going forward with applying for available funding for an electric bus:

Patricia Collins: No  
 Mike Makuszak: Yes  
 Ronald Critelli: Yes  
 Anthony Nicotera: Yes  
 Cathy Pumilia: Yes  
 Mike Sacco: Yes  
 Lynn Weibel: Yes

Mr. Charles Cowen then reminded the Board that we will go forward with the funding only. At another board meeting the board will be asked to present a referendum to the public on whether to purchase one diesel and one electric bus or two diesel buses.

**Miscellaneous Topics:** There was nothing.

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

**Resolution No. 39:** made by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia, and seconded by Mr. Ron Critelli, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 7:01 p.m. to discuss negotiations.

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

**Resolution No. 40:** made by Ms. Lynn Weibel, and seconded by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia, that the executive session was declared over and returned to the library to resume the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

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

Mr. Anthony Nicotera asked for a motion to approve the ski trip and no board member presented a motion.

**Resolution No. 41:** made by Mr. Mike Sacco, and seconded by Mr. Mike Makuszak, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

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

Sincerely submitted,



Marie Goodman  
Board Clerk