

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Date of Meeting: March 11, 2025

Kind of Meeting: Budget Workshop & Regular Meeting

Presiding Officer: Mr. Anthony Nicotera, President called the meeting to order at 6:02 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

Budget Presentation: Charlie Cowen, Business Administrator, gave an update of the proposed 2025-2026 budget. After discussion with the administration on estimates of expenditures and revenues, the budget gap is at \$64,867.35. A second grade teacher expressed retiring in February 2026 which will save some money as a substitute will be in place until the fall of 2026. This proposal would maintain all programs currently in place during 2025-26 and provide for one additional Special Education teacher that was eliminated in 2024-25. This special education teacher will be assisting in both the high school and middle school. Mr. Stayton attended several meetings including a visit to Albany whereby he feels that some funding may increase but is still unknown at this time. There was a brief discussion regarding exceeding the tax cap for 2025-2026 to reconcile the current budget gap of \$64, 867.35. Mr. Cowen does not anticipate a need to exceed the tax levy limit of 2.38%, but he stated it is up to the Board to make that decision.

Presentation(s): There was none.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- A. The Board Operations/Relations/Development met on February 26, 2025. Several goals were reviewed:
 - 1. SMART Goal #1 is to increase student opportunities. This is being met with the open gym, Stress Less Day, Boys' Golf, JV Baseball and other activities. Mr. Madden added that the middle school had Career Day and Ms. Cook has a Chess Club of 18 kids attending.

2. SMART Goal #2 is improve recruitment and retention of staff. Individuals hired after September 1, 2025 include Paul Baker, Ashley Morat, Mike Flagg & Laura Flagg.
 3. SMART Goal #3 is to implement cost saving measures including tuition-paying students, maintaining special education services on campus, and participating in an energy performance contract to save money and possibly get funding.
 4. SMART Goal #4 is to enhance safety as is being addressed by an upgrade on phones, the emergency response (blue light) system, and replacing doors with a more security in the elementary school. We will also increase security at the fireworks event.
- B. Facilities and Transportation sub-committees will meet soon.
 - C. School Boards Institute (SBI) has a meeting scheduled on March 27 at OHM BOCES. Mr. Brian Read will have a table on display along with several other tables to present topics on Stress Less Day, Handshakes and STEAM Club.
 - D. Policy Committee met at 5:30 p.m. prior to this meeting. Reviewed/revised policies will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. David Stayton reported the following:

6.1 Staff Development Day Agenda for Friday, March 14, 2025 includes AI training, grading discussions, grade level and team meetings, and TA training.

6.2 Board Candidate Petitions – Due **Monday, April 21, 2025** by 5pm to the Board Clerk. Anyone interested can stop in the Superintendent's office and pick up a packet.

6.3 School Board Institute is offering a "How to Become a School Board of Education Candidate and What to Expect if Elected" zoom meeting for anyone interested in running as school board. It will run on March 18, 2025 at 6 p.m. Call Marie Goodman for instructions on registering.

6.4 Board members of Sauquoit Valley to be determined to serve on the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Cooperative Board for a three (3) year term. Anthony Nicotera is Sauquoit Valley's representative along with Mike Sacco but a vote will occur next month to vote other representatives for other schools.

6.5 Dolly Parton Imagination Library is being supported by the Sauquoit Valley Foundation. The initiative will allow students in the district from ages 0-5 to receive a free book every month.

6.6 Sports updates: Leo Colosimo on the bowling team scored 698 as an 8h grader in the recent bowling shootout. Julia Makuszak participated on the New Hartford gymnastics team that won the Section III State Title. Addison Lazarek placed 7th in state in the triple jump in the indoor track meet; she will now advance to the national competition in Boston. The boys' volleyball team won sectionals and then regionals.

6.7 Staff Recognitions: Doug Jones will be recognized at a conference this fall as the Athletic Director of the year. Joe Corleto has been chosen as Regional Teacher of the Year by his colleagues from the Mohawk Valley Technology and Engineering Educators Association and will be recognized at a conference this week.

6.8 Oneida County Music Educators' Association Festival: The OCMEA junior high all county music festival will be held on Saturday, March 15 at Waterville CSD. We will host the OCMEA elementary all county music festival in our high school gymnasium on Saturday, April 5. There will be up to 1000 attendees.

6.9 District Updates: We want to publicly thank the Fine Arts Boosters, Parent Teacher Organization and SV Foundation for their support. On campus, we recently held the instrumental pops concert and will host the vocal pops concert on March 12. Our Math Counts middle school team competed in Albany last weekend. We placed just outside the top ten (there were over 40 teams). On March 19, we will host members of Integrated Community Alternatives Network (ICAN) who will present to parents regarding cellphone distraction and mental health concerns with our youth. Jeremy Butler will be the presenter and child care is being offered to the parents.

6.10 National Honor Society Induction ceremonies were held on campus and at OHM BOCES on February 26.

6.11 March 13, 2025 in the elementary gym there will be a Science Fair which will start at 5 p.m.

6.12 T-5 Insurance recognizes one teacher every month and in January it was Marisa Cardillo and February it was Sara Hanna.

Mr. Anthony Nicotera took a minute to thank Mr. Stayton for giving a thorough report on the activities and events that go on within the school district. Mr. Stayton then stated that the administration team will be updating their staff weekly as well so everyone is informed.

Old Business

New Business: Mr. Anthony Nicotera stated that action 7.1 to 7.19 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. Stayton took a moment to wish Stephanie Carbone the best on her retirement. She is a great music teacher here since 1991. He also thanked Alison Pirger and Kathy Wakefield for working together on the matter of the SRP agreement. Mr. Anthony Nicotera agreed.

Resolution No. 51: made by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia, and seconded by Mr. Mike Makuszak,

- to appoint Carly Van Alstyne as a long-term substitute guidance counselor in the middle school, effective March 28, 2025 through May 9, 2025 or until counselor returns.
- to appoint Arianna Young as a per diem substitute teacher effective March 12, 2025.
- to appoint Jeffrey Barrett as a per diem substitute bus driver effective March 12, 2025, pending completion of all Article 19A DMV Regulations.
- to ratify the memorandum of agreement between School Related Professionals (SRP) unit and Sauquoit Valley School.
- that the annual election and budget vote be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the high school auditorium lobby, and the public hearing regarding the budget be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library. Petitions nominating candidates for office the Board of Education must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025.

- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. Rate of pay as noted.
 - ❖ Marilou Loomis, Coordinator \$275.00
 - ❖ Beverly Stefanik, Inspector \$250.00
- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. Rate of pay as noted.
 - ❖ Clarissa Hoyland \$105.00
 - ❖ Joan Lallier \$105.00
 - ❖ Elizabeth Mathy \$105.00
- the Board Clerk has the authorization to choose alternate election officials in the event the approved election officials are unable to fulfill their duties at the annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.
- to approve the retirement of Stephanie Carbone, music teacher in the high school, with regret, effective June 30, 2025.
- that the following people be appointed to athletic coaching positions for the spring 2024-25 school year contingent upon student participation in each sport and pending completion of adult basic CPR and approval of coaching certifications.

| NAME | SPORT |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Jason Barker | Modified Softball |
| Alyssa Lewandrowski | Volunteer Varsity Softball |

- that Henry Rieben’s probationary period as part-time teacher-aide become permanent effective March 5, 2025 based upon his successful completion of his probationary period.
- to approve the revised/reviewed policies listed below:
 - a) Policy 7100 Student Health and Dental Exams
 - b) Policy 7101 Immunization Students
 - c) Policy 7101.1 Medical Exemption Form
 - d) Policy 8300 Selection of Textbooks and Resource Materials
- to adopt the 185 day calendar for the 2025-26 school year as recommended by the Superintendents of Oneida, Herkimer and Madison counties.
- BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Sauquoit Valley Fine Arts Boosters in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing risers for the auditorium and that the Board also authorizes a budget modification to increase account code A2110.201-00 in the amount of \$1,000.00 to allow for the purchase of the risers.
- that the Treasurer’s Reports of Balances for January 31, 2025 be approved as presented.
- that the minutes of the February 11, 2025 meeting be approved.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor signed February 18, 2025 and March 3, 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 1401504, 1401543, 1400148, 1400654, 1401950, 1401614, 1401035, 1400621, 1400269, 1401188, 1401082, 1401001, 1400695, 1400315, 1400543, 1400318, 1401188, 1401791, 1402011, and 1401873.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 52: made by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia, and seconded by Mr. Mike Makuszak,

- to appoint Anthony Nicotera as chairperson of the annual election and budget vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 to report the results of the vote.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Abstain 1 (Anthony Nicotera).

Resolution No. 53: made by Mr. Ronald Critelli, and seconded by Mr. Mike Sacco,

Electric School Bus Proposition

PROPOSITION #__

Recommended Motion: BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. The following notice shall be added to the notice of annual meeting and election:

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the following propositions will be submitted for voter approval at such time:

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 acquisition of two (2) diesel school buses, at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$360,000, 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 \$360,000 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.

2. At such meeting taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed for authorized indebtedness providing for payment of the acquisition of school buses at an estimated aggregate maximum cost of not to exceed \$360,000. Such taxes shall be levied upon all the taxable property of the District, shall be levied in annual installments and shall be of such amounts and levied in such years as may be determined by the Board of Education.
3. The District Clerk or the Clerk's designee is hereby directed to add the above to the notice of the annual meeting of the School District.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Duly put to vote as follows:

Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 54: made by Mr. Mike Sacco, and seconded by Mr. Ronald Critelli,

Resolution Regarding State Environmental Quality Review Capital Outlaw Project

Recommended Motion: **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District (the "Board") has considered the effect upon the environment of the proposed 2025-2026 Capital Outlay Project work, including but not limited to the following:

Replacing interior and exterior doors in the Sauquoit Valley Elementary School.

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the scope of the project and has further received and considered the advice of its architects with respect to the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c), now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education as follows:

1. The Proposed Action does not exceed thresholds established under 6 NYCRR Part 617, the State Environmental Quality Review Act, (SEQRA).
2. The Board hereby determines the Proposed Action as a Type II action in accordance with the SEQRA regulations.
3. No further review of the Proposed Action is required under SEQRA.
4. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Miscellaneous Topics:

- ❖ Mr. Mike Sacco praised Coach Paul Baker on his presentation and bowling team. At the sports banquet Mr. Baker did an outstanding job. The students were so engaged and it was nice to see.
- ❖ There was a brief discussion on the shape of the outdoor track and its longevity as it was resurfaced two years ago. This can be reviewed when deciding on a capital project. A suggestion to include a Steeple Chase was also mentioned.
- ❖ Ms. Patricia Collins commented on the OHM Honor Society Induction Ceremony. There were so many students who were recognized for their high honors that they were split into two groups. She then acknowledged the middle school's honor breakfast. She stated that she thinks it is amazing to see the students. It is fast but a great event. Parents love it and you can see by the photos they take and share on Facebook. Thank you to the PTO for supporting this.

Public to Be Heard:

- ❖ Mr. Pete Madden, Middle School Principal praised Mrs. Stephanie Carbone on her years of service at Sauquoit Valley as a music teacher. He also wished her well on her retirement.
- ❖ Mr. Carl Planty asked that the school look into the student size of classes in the third and fourth grade levels. He and others feel that 25 or 26 students in a class is too large for a teacher and for the students to get educational help that they should be receiving. Is it an option to move a teacher from one level to another when a class level has too many students in one grade? Mr. Stayton informed him that he and the principal will look into it and get back to him.

Resolution No. 55: made by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia, and seconded by Mr. Mike Sacco, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 6:46 p.m. to discuss personnel.

Resolution No. 56: made by Mr. Mike Sacco, and seconded by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia,

That the executive session was declared over by the Board President at 8:23 p.m.

Resolution No. 57: made by Mr. Mike Makuszak, and seconded by Ms. Lynn Weibel, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman
District Clerk