

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Date of Meeting: February 11, 2025

Kind of Meeting: Budget Workshop & 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, and Cathy Pumilia.

Members Absent: Mike Makuszak and Mike Sacco.

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 a brief overview of an initial proposed 2025-2026 budget. Based on current estimates of expenditures and revenues, there is an initial budget gap of \$391,999. This initial proposal would maintain all programs the district has in place during 2024-25 and provide for one additional Special Education teacher that was eliminated in 2024-25 when Mrs. Arcuri moved to an administrative position. This budget proposal includes an increase to the tax levy of 2.38%, the levy limit for the school district per the tax cap formula. Additionally, the budget provides for another capital outlay project for \$100,000 to continue classroom door replacements in the elementary school to improve building security.

Mr. Cowen explained two possible propositions to present to the voters. The first proposition is to purchase two (2) diesel buses and the second proposition to purchase one diesel and one electric bus. If both propositions are presented to the community and approved, this would give the board the opportunity to make a decision to go forward with the purchase of one diesel and one electric bus or two diesel buses.

At the next Board of education meeting on March 11, 2025, Mr. Cowen hopes to have recommendations as proposed by administration to eliminate the \$391,999 gap.

Presentation(s): There was none.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- The Board Operations/Relations/Development is scheduled to meet this February 26, 2025.
- The Policy Committee just met prior to this meeting and edits will be presented at the next meeting.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. David Stayton stated:

- The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony is on Wednesday, February 26 in the High School Auditorium at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend as spectators.
- Remind of the BOCES annual board meeting April 2, 2025. Please let Marie Goodman know if you plan on attending.
- Updates on sporting events:
 - Girls' varsity volleyball made it to sectionals but out in first round. Overall, they played great.
 - Bowling teams recently made it to sectionals. Leo Colosimo and Kayliana Bumbalo advanced from sectionals to participate in the bowling shootout.
 - Wrestling – Caden Beecher won first place at the Section III Class AA Tournament. He will now wrestle in the upcoming division championship.
 - Girls' indoor track team won first place Class C Sectionals for the first time in school history. Winning athletes included Jamie Allen (3000m), Katie Judway (pole vault and she broke her own school record), Addison Lazarek (triple jump and 55m dash), Alex Keller (1600m and 1000m), Nate Hanna (shot out). These athletes will participate in the Section III State Qualifiers on February 25. The boys' indoor track team placed fifth.
 - March 9th winter banquet.

Old Business: Mr. Stayton gave an updated on the Fireworks in Sauquoit. Kyle Hutchinson, advisor of the Student Council, would like everyone to mark their calendars for the event which is scheduled for May 16, 2025 starting at 6pm until the fireworks. The fireworks will be set off in the park and only those workers will be allowed in the Town Park. Everything will be contained on school property. This year's title will be **Red Hawk Rendezvous**. It will start with a kickball tournament with middle and high school participants. A carnival is also in the planning stages for the younger ages along with food and vendors. Mr. Stayton has already been in contact with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office for extra coverage.

New Business: Mr. Anthony Nicotera stated that action 7.1 to 7.9 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 congratulate Paul Baker on his move from long term sub position to full-time position as Spanish teacher. He is doing a great job in and out of

class. He also informed the Board that motion 7.9 Victoria Miller was hired as a part-time (.6) social worker but September 1, 2024 she was placed as a full-time social worker. In error it was not placed on last year's agenda and Mr. Stayton apologized for that.

Ms. Lynn Weibel questioned motion 7.4 as it was requested to be pulled at the last meeting. Doug Jones, Athletic Director was present and explained the situation. When a coach expresses interest, it is good to approve them so the coach knows we do want them and they can proceed to work with the students. Two coaches have come forward for the boys' baseball: Nathaniel DePerno as varsity baseball and John Longieretta as modified boys' baseball, pending participants. Board requested that they be added to this agenda. Questions and answers were presented. Mr. Jones did state that the girls' softball coaching positions are being advertised and he is working on one now. He will keep the board updated.

Resolution No. 47: made by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia, and seconded by Mrs. Patricia Collins,

- to appoint Paul Baker, to the position of teacher in the foreign language (Spanish) tenure area, for probationary period of four (4) years to commence September 1, 2024, unless able to start sooner, and to expire September 1, 2028 (This expiration date is tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Section 3012 of the Education Law, in order to be granted tenure the teacher must receive composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Section 3012-c and/or 3012-d of the Education Law of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years, and if the teacher receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period the teacher shall not be eligible for tenure at that time).
- to appoint Alissa Reilly-Stewart as a mentor teacher to Paul Baker for the remainder of this year and into the 2025/26 academic year.
- to appoint Cheryl Torruella as a per diem substitute teacher effective February 12, 2025.
- that the following people be appointed to athletic coaching positions for the spring 2024-25 school year contingent upon student athlete participation in each sport and pending completion of adult basic CPR and approval of coaching certifications.

| NAME | SPORT |
|-------------------|---|
| Kory Lewandrowski | Varsity Baseball |
| Doug Jones | Golf |
| Fredric Orsino | Varsity Softball |
| Scott Smith | Boys Varsity Tennis |
| Scott Prichard | Boys Varsity Track |
| John Nicotera | Girls Varsity Track |
| Lyman Christensen | Asst. Varsity Track for both boys & girls |
| Scot Alsante | Modified Boys Track |
| Gianna Giruzzi | Modified Girls Track |
| Chris Hillman | Volunteer Varsity Baseball Coach |

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|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Allan Lallier | Volunteer Varsity Baseball Coach |
| Frank Curriere | Volunteer Varsity Softball |
| Nathaniel DePerno | Boys Junior Varsity Baseball |
| John Longheretta | Boys Modified Baseball |

- that the minutes of the January 28 and January 30, 2025 meeting be approved.
- 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 1401874, 141558, 1401349, 1402009, 1401043, 1401923, and 1401790, as recommended by the Committee on Special Education and agrees to arrange for appropriate special education programs and services.
- to approve a four (4) year temporary use agreement between the County of Oneida Board of Elections and the Sauquoit Valley Central School District for the use of optical scan voting systems.
- to appoint Victoria Miller, to the position of a full-time Social Worker in the high school tenure area, for probationary period of four (4) years to commence September 1, 2022 and to expire August 31, 2026 (The expiration date is tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Section 3012 of the Education Law, in order to be granted tenure the teacher must receive composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Section 3012-c and/or 3012-d of the Education Law of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years, and if the teacher receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period the teacher shall not be eligible for tenure at that time).

Carried: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Miscellaneous Topics:

- Mr. Anthony Nicotera asked about the parent forum that is scheduled for Wednesday evening. The forum is on “Grading on Equity” in the high school library. Mr. Nicotera explained that he was approached on this from outside the school wondering if there is a problem with the school’s grading process. It was explained that is not the case. Mr. Read explained that many schools are just reviewing the process and we want to make sure that Sauquoit Valley has a more accurate and transparent grading system for all to understand. This will also give students the encouragement to do their best. Mr. Nicotera requests that all the Board Members are informed of such events as the members are questioned. The Board Members would like to give the correct information when approached and the district will seek avenues to present information to parents in another way. The word “Equity” in the title of the book may not be fully understood.

- Ms. Patricia Collins gave a shout out to Ms. Jamie Leigh Accordino for advising the Math Club. There were 6 Sauquoit Valley students participating in a math competition on Saturday morning with two other schools. The students did a wonderful job and were so smart. She stated they could answer so quickly and had the right answers. Sauquoit Valley students placed second place and were able to advance. The event was very impressive.

Public to be Heard: There was no one.

Resolution No. 48: motion made by Ms. Patricia Collins, and seconded by Mr. Ronald Critelli, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 6:57 p.m. to discuss negotiations.

Carried: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 49: made by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Collins that the executive session was declared over by the Board President at 7:58 p.m.

Resolution No. 50: made by Mr. Ronald Critelli, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Collins that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 5, and Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman
District Clerk

