

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Sauquoit, NY 13456

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, October 14, 2025

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular

**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, Cathy Pumilia, and Mike Sacco.

**Members Absent:** No one.

**Administration Present:** David Stayton, Superintendent  
Charles Cowen, Business Administrator  
Brian Read, Director of Instructional Services

**Ex-officio Student Board Member:** Kaylyn Dreidel & Madalyn Fredericks

**Others Present:** Staff and community members signed in.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Presentation(s):** Mr. David Stayton, Superintendent  
The District Wide Safety Plan was approved at the August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting. Due to the loss of a 12-year-old student in Buffalo, the State Education Department wants every school to revise their district safety plan by including information on Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Some updates include the locations of AED, warning signs of a cardiac arrest and how to use an AED. This will be posted on the school website for everyone to review. In 30 days if there are no comments, it will be presented to the board for a vote to accept.

**Board of Education Sub-Committee Reports: Mr. David Stayton**

- Board Operations/Relationships/Development Committee went over the goals of both the Board and the Superintendent.
- During executive session the superintendent will review dates and times that the transportation and facilities supervisors have available. Those on the Facilities and Transportation subcommittee can then set a date that is convenient for everyone.
- Policy Committee met today, October 14 at 5:30 p.m. prior to the board meeting where they reviewed five policies which will be presented at the next board meeting.
- Mr. Nicotera informed everyone that the School Boards Institute is holding a zoom meeting tomorrow for state elected officials to answer questions and speak about important issues that schools are facing such as foundation funding, tax cap and etc.

## **Superintendent's Report: Mr. David Stayton**

- MV Challengers held a football game on October 4. Thank you to Ms. Patricia Collins. It was well received.
- Witch Way is the 5K? hosted by the Foundation had the best year ever.
- Flu shot clinic was October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Many staff received their shot.
- Homecoming week was exciting for every building. They all had various activities for the students and staff. This was well received and enjoyed by many. Madalyn Fredericks said the prep rally, fun upbeat and engaging activities brought the school and community together.
- Bookmobile was sponsored by Mastrovito Hyundai. Several teachers submitted a letter of how the students showed acts of kindness. Sauquoit Valley won. Every student from Pre-K to Grade 4 received a free book.
- In September all buildings were engaged in the Abigail's Athletes project of walking/exercising. It was great and a big thank you to all who participated and sponsored as \$31,000 was raised.

**Old Business:** There was none.

### **New Business**

Mr. Nicotera stated that action 7.1 to 7.23 will be read as a consent motion and take one vote. If there are any questions or comments, members can do so prior to voting or pulling a motion for further discussion.

Mr. Critelli commented on those retiring. It is great to see the commitment they had.

Mr. Stayton took a moment to recognize and congratulate, Tara Durse and Cheryl Tibbitts for their 30 years of service to the school and wished them the best in their retirement.

Mr. Stayton also spoke of Jeffery Barrett who has exceeded expectations on his work as a mechanic and bus driver.

Mr. Stayton also gave a shout out on the Clear Paths Program Agreement. This agreement is giving veterans an opportunity to train to find employment in the educational department.

**Resolution No. 25:** made by Ms. Patricia Collins, and seconded by Mr. Mike Makuszak,

- to accept the retirement of Tara Durse, teacher, effective January 5, 2026.
- to accept the retirement of Cheryl Tibbitts, Office Specialist, I, effective December 26, 2025.
- to accept the resignation of Aleshea Kelly, teacher aide, effective October 17, 2025.
- to approve maternity leave for Kristen Boice to commence on or about January 30, 2026 to be continuous for six weeks from actual commencement date; and to appoint Megan Fiorentino as a long-term substitute teacher in the elementary school, effective January 30, 2026 until the end of the 2025-26 school year, or until the teacher returns.
- to appoint Megan Winget as a long-term substitute teacher in the middle school, effective October 29, 2025 until March 16, 2026, or until the teacher returns.
- to appoint Mark Perrin as a long-term substitute teacher in the middle school, effective October 20, 2025 until December 19, 2025, or until the teacher returns.

- that the following people be appointed to fall athletic coaching positions for the 2025-26 school year contingent upon student athlete participation in each sport and pending completion of adult basic CPR and approval of coaching certifications.

SPORT	LEVEL	BOYS GIRLS	or	COACH NAME
Volleyball	Varsity	Girls		Brittney Kuhn
Bowling		Boys & Girls		Anthony Rocco

- that Jeffery Barrett's probationary position as an auto mechanic/driver be permanent, effective October 31, 2025.
- to approve the Section III Combining Sports Contract between Sauquoit Valley Central School District and the New Hartford Central School District to combine the two districts for athletic competition in the sport of modified, junior varsity and varsity wrestling for the 2025-26 school year.
- to approve the Section III Combining Sports Contract between Sauquoit Valley Central School and Cazenovia Central School District to combine the two districts for athletic competition in the sport of ice hockey for the winter 2025-2026 school year.
- to approve the agreement with Business Administrator and Sauquoit Valley Central School effective October 8, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
- that the capital project vote be held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the high school room 110, and the public hearing regarding the capital project be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library.
- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the capital project vote on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. Rate of pay as noted.
  - Beverly Stefanik, Coordinator \$275.00
  - Marilou Loomis, Inspector \$250.00
- to appoint the following individuals as election officials for the capital project vote on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. Rate of pay as noted.
  - 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 capital project vote on Wednesday, December 17, 2025.
- to appoint Anthony Nicotera as chairperson of the capital project vote on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 to report the results of the vote.
- to approve the agreement between Clear Path for Veterans and Sauquoit Valley Central School District.
- to accept the 2024-25 independent audit report for the Sauquoit Valley Central School District as prepared by Bonadio & Company.
- to accept the 2024-25 Extra-classroom Audit Report as prepared by Bonadio & Company.
- that the minutes of the September 23, 2025 meeting be approved.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor signed September 24, 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,

1401553, 401808, 1401289, 1401107, 1400625, 1401049, 1401535, 1402085, 1400654, 1401236, 1400420, 1401841, 1401250, 1400459, 1400299, 1401418, 1400364, 1402084, and 1402053 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

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

Charlie Cowen, Business Administrator, stated that the partner from the audit firm, Bonadio & Co., was unavailable to attend the meeting due to a conflict with another school district's board meeting. Mr. Cowen gave a brief overview of the audit results stating that there were no findings or issues with the school district's audit report. Results of the general fund operations showed a net surplus of \$59,206. The Unassigned Fund Balance at 6/30/2025 was 4.11% of the 2025-26 budget, slightly over the statutory limit of 4.00%. Mr. Cowen stated that there were some minor findings from the Extra Classroom Activity audit and that the findings along with the required corrective action plan would be presented to the Board at the November meeting for their approval. Mr. Cowen stated that the representative from Bonadio & Co. offered to attend the November board meeting if the Board would like him to. The board members were in agreement that there was not a need for his attendance at the November meeting.

Prior to the vote Mr. Nicotera asked how the school plans on promoting the capital project vote? The main source will be to inform residents in the November issue of News & Views. Mr. Stayton also stated; Facebook, school website and ParentSquare.

**Resolution No. 26:** made by Mr. Mike Sacco, and seconded by Mr. Ron Critelli,

1. A special meeting of the qualified voters of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District shall be held in Room 110 at the Sauquoit Valley High School in said District, on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM, for the purpose of voting on the proposition described in the notice of special meeting hereinafter set forth.
2. Said special meeting shall be called by giving the following notice thereof:

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF  
SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the qualified voters of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District shall be held in Room 110 at the Sauquoit Valley High School in said District, on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. The following proposition will be submitted for voter approval at said meeting:

**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 certain capital improvements consisting of reconstruction of existing school buildings and facilities, including, without limitation, district-wide energy conservation improvements, various site and athletic field improvements, and the acquisition of certain original furnishings, equipment, and apparatus and other incidental improvements required in connection therewith for such

construction and school use, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$15,755,000; and that the costs, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments, with such tax to be offset by state aid available therefor; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed such estimated maximum aggregate cost shall be issued.

The School District, acting as lead agency to the extent necessary, if any, for this purpose under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder ("SEQRA"), has completed its environmental review and, on August 6, 2025, has duly determined and found the purpose to be a type II action under SEQRA which will not have a significant impact on the environment and is not subject to any further environmental review under SEQRA.

AND NOTICE IS GIVEN that qualified military voters may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk at (315) 839-6311 or [mgoodman@svcsd.org](mailto:mgoodman@svcsd.org). For a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the District Clerk must have received a valid ballot application no later than 5:00 PM on November 20, 2025. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or email.

AND NOTICE IS GIVEN, that applications for early mail and absentee ballots shall be obtainable during school business hours from the District Clerk; completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the vote and election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the vote and election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Early mail and absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 PM on December 17, 2025. A list of persons to whom early mail, absentee and military ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the office of the District Clerk on and after December 3, 2025, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM on weekdays prior to the Election; and on December 17, 2025, the day set for the Election, said list will be posted at the polling place.

The District Clerk is authorized to amend or modify this notice to comply with applicable legal requirements.

3. At such meeting taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed providing for payment of such capital costs and providing for the financing costs therefor. 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.

4. The District Clerk or the Clerk's designee is hereby directed to publish a copy of said notice of special meeting in two newspapers having general circulation within the School District in the manner prescribed by law for publication of notice of the annual meeting of the School District.

5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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

**Miscellaneous Topics:**

1. Kaylyn Dreidel announced that the soccer team has a game tonight at 7pm. Various fund raising such as basket sales, 50/50 and concession will be available.
2. Madalyn Fredericks announced that the tickets for "The Sister Act" is on sale now for \$10. You may want to go on the web site as buyer can choose their seat.
3. Mr. Critelli asked if administration can inform them of the attendance rate to see if there is any improvement. Mr. Michael Flagg, Principal of the high school touched on the banning of cell phones. He feels that it has improved along with the social, emotional and behavior issues. This is in part due to the teachers and staff working as a whole to make the students interested and presenting goals and challenges for the students. The students then want to attend and participate.

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

**Resolution No. 27:** made by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia, and seconded by Mr. Mike Makuszak, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 6:28 p.m. to discuss personnel.

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

**Resolution No. 28:** made by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Collins, that executive session was declared over by the Board President at 7:13 p.m.

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

**Resolution No. 29:** made by Mr. Ron Critelli, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Collins, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman  
Board Clerk